



# The Messenger

St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School, Well Lane, Alsager, ST7 2PG  
01270 875770 email: [admin@stgabriels.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stgabriels.cheshire.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We approach Holy Week next week as we prepare for Easter. Fr Tony has been instrumental in delivering Lenten assemblies to us over the past few weeks in readiness for the joy that the Easter season brings. He has been brilliant in supporting us. It was this week last year we experienced the first week of lockdown last year, a year that has made us change our ways, our thinking, our behaviours and created history. A challenging year to say the very least has seen us all tested in so many ways, I recognise it has not been easy. It has brought a wealth of differing emotions that will take time to heal, but as the community begins to heal with the scheduled lockdown easing, hopefully we too can start that process of finding something that bears a resemblance to life from over 12 months ago. Easter will make us reflect again with the new light forth coming.

☺Wishing you all a great weekend (with 1hr less sleep ☹...don't forget clocks go forward this weekend!)

*E J Byrne*

## Our approach in returning and to the curriculum ...

Our children have come back eager to learn with great enthusiasm. We have been able to focus on their wellbeing first and foremost whilst also assessing their learning needs. They have played, they have laughed, they have seen their friends, they have shared stories of their experiences and mostly they all seem to be really glad to be back. As we are too.

The work the children have continued with this term will allow us to plan accordingly our approach for the summer term in terms of how we can prioritise the content and objectives to enhance the experience and learning for the children. We will certainly look forward to the summer term!

We have set aside dates in May for us to hold parent consultation meets as we did in November, via Microsoft Teams to share with you how your child has settled back into school and their next steps.



**Keeping Everyone Safe: Please can all adults wear a mask upon entering the school site. If you are exempt (and you haven't informed us) then please let us know.**

We will be inviting children to use their reading/school bags after the Easter break. Hopefully this will start to make life a little easier for all. #smallsteps



## Forthcoming Dates

Monday 19 April	School reopens
Wednesday 28 April	Pupil photographs (outside)
Week of 10 May	Parent Consultations Details to follow next term
Friday 28 May	School closes for half-term
Monday 7 June	School opens
Wednesday 23 June	Y6 Transition visit to Alsager School
Friday 16 July	School closes for Summer

### Star and Kindness Award Winners

**Stars of the week 19 March:** Sebastian Hare, Taylor Jones-Bourn, Finn McCann, Heidi Schauer, Nancy Machin, Rosie-Mae Smith, Maxi-Betley Ledger, James Hastilow, Lily Bradbury.

**Stars of the week 26 March:** Bobby Dixon, Harper Roberson, Cillian Byrne, Jake Fenton, Nancy Maxwell, Oscar Gilford, Felicity Atkinson, James Woby, Fran Cooper,

**Kindness Award Winners 19 March:** Mya-Rae Molloy, Georgia Skellam, Fearn Jones, Rafe Tucker, Ocean Nekoei, Darcie Turner, Celine Eze, Beau Ankers.

**Kindness Award Winners 26 March:** Amelia Fox, Ella Hunt, Logan Oxtan, Dollie Ankers, Rafie Gray, Sam Ferneyhough, Reuben Davies, George Markham

Congratulations to everyone. Well done.



**SCHOOL BUILDING FUND** Each year all parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution to the Schools Building Fund. Thank you to those who have already donated to the Building Fund this year. We currently have a shortfall of £2555 to raise. If you wish to contribute, please find attached a form to complete for this year's suggested voluntary contribution of £15 per child.



Please send your completed form with cash/cheque into the school office in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name and class.

This fund will go towards our ongoing roof replacement.



ASM will be providing holiday clubs here over Easter. Go to <https://asmsports.co.uk/holiday-clubs/> for further detail.



A great day was had by all last Friday as we dressed up for Red Nose Day. We raised £239.24 for comic relief. Well done everyone.

### Pope Francis



Pope Francis has declared that 2021 will be devoted to the **Year of the Family**. At Christmas, in light of the worldwide pandemic and the huge difficulties it brings, he spoke about what it means to be a true neighbour by helping families. They need compassion, solidarity and support. We will reflect on the Holy family, and our own, in our RE work over the year.

### “Prayer for Protection”

The Light of God surrounds me.  
The Love of God enfolds me.  
The Power of God protects me.  
The Presence of God watches over me.  
The Mind of God guides me.  
The Life of God flows through me.  
The Laws of God direct me.  
The Power of God abides within me.  
The Joy of God uplifts me.  
The Strength of God renews me.  
The Beauty of God inspires me.  
Wherever I am, God is!

\*This prayer was written by James Freeman for all soldiers during World War II. It is as powerful today as it was then.



## Funding of Our Catholic Schools

Our Catholic schools are Voluntary Aided or Academies and most income is derived from public funds. However, in return for the right to promote the Catholic Faith in our schools, 10% of the cost of building works and major repairs in our Voluntary Aided schools and the costs of managing repairs and improvements to all our school buildings must be met by the Diocese.

## Why was the Schools Building Fund set up?

The 10% cost of building schools and other major building repairs and improvements used to be met from the regular giving made at Mass by parishioners of the Parish (or Parishes) connected to the school. This was often giving by those who could least afford it.

Today building works are still needed as we strive to continually improve our schools to provide the best teaching and learning environment for your children. However, Mass attendance has fallen in recent times, and the burden of the 10% cost could no longer be met by Parishes. In response to this the Schools Building Fund was set up by the Diocese in 2000, in order to meet the 10% cost of building works and the development of building programmes in our schools.

## How can you help?

All parents with Children attending a school in the Diocese are asked to make a voluntary contribution to the Schools Building Fund. See inside this leaflet for more details.

The suggested contribution is £15 per child (as little as 29p per child per week). However, you are free to give more or less than this figure – your child will not be treated any differently.

# Help Your Child's School

Please give generously for your children's future



*My dear Parents,*

*It is of great importance that the school buildings in the Diocese that children are educated in provide an environment that reflects the teachings of Christ in the Gospels, and I am very grateful to those parents and guardians who support the Schools Building Fund at a time when there are many calls on your generosity.*

*There is a continual need to repair and improve school buildings to meet the requirements of the many varied educational activities that take place within them so that the very best Catholic education can be provided. With your help, I am confident that this can be achieved. How you can make a voluntary contribution to the Schools Building Fund is described in this leaflet.*

*With every good wish,*

*Yours sincerely in Christ*

*+ Man*

*Bishop of Shrewsbury*

**Donate Online**  
*See inside for details*



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND

Finance Office, Curial Offices, 2 Park Road South, Prenton CH43 4UX

Phone: 0151 652 9855 Fax: 0870 094 0341 Email: [ann.holmes@dioceseshrewsbury.org](mailto:ann.holmes@dioceseshrewsbury.org)

Registered Charity No. 234025



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND



## How you can make your voluntary contribution

The appeal for contributions is made each year. The suggested contribution is £15 per child but you are free to give more or less than this.

### Direct to School

Complete the **Direct Donations to School Form** (Form A) and send this with your cash/cheque contribution in an envelope direct to your child's school. If your child's school allows you to make payments using ParentPay, ParentMail, Tucasi, etc... you may also be able to make your contribution in this way. You can also Gift Aid your contribution using Form B on the opposite page.

### Online

Make your voluntary contribution online. Go to: [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/schools-building-fund](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/schools-building-fund) where you can donate via PayPal.

You will also find a Direct Debit form to download and complete if you wish to make your voluntary contribution using this method. You can also Gift Aid your donation online.

## DIRECT DONATIONS TO SCHOOL

NAME OF CHILD(REN): \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my voluntary contribution of £ \_\_\_\_\_ paid by cheque / cash for the purposes of the Diocese of Shrewsbury Schools Building Fund.

Cheques should be made out to the name of your school and this form returned to that school

Remember do not send Direct Donations (Form A) to the Curial Offices – return it to your Child's School

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (please delete)

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

School attended by your child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Local Authority \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR OFFICE USE

(to be completed by School)

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

BANK ACCOUNT PAYING IN SLIP NO: \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that the above sum was received on the date indicated

Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees  
Registered Charity No. 234025

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees  
Registered Charity No. 234025

**Please complete this form – even if you have done so in previous years**

### DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (please delete)

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

School attended by your child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Local Authority \_\_\_\_\_

I request that all donations I have made to the above charity since 6 April 2013 and all qualifying gifts of money that I make hereafter shall be treated as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I intend to make my voluntary contribution by:

cash  cheque  online (via ParentPay, Tucasi, SchoolMoney, ParentMail, etc.)

direct to school for: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Date of signature / / 20

**Please send this form to:**

Ann Holmes, Finance Office,  
Diocese of Shrewsbury, Curial Offices,  
2 Park Road South, Prenton CH43 4UX

The information on this Declaration will be used to complete HM Revenue & Customs Returns and to update appropriate internal records, and will be held by the Diocese to provide information for statutory/audit purposes and to communicate with the donor.

**Boost the value of your voluntary contribution by 25% with Gift Aid!**

If you are a UK Tax Payer you can take advantage of Gift Aid for your voluntary contribution. See the opposite page for how you can Gift Aid if giving by Direct Debit or Online via PayPal.

If contributing directly to your school, complete the Gift Aid Declaration (Form B). Gift Aid on your contribution will then be reclaimed for the Schools Building Fund.

