

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

## Newsletter No. 2

Dear Parents,

**Governor Elections** – Apologies for error in sending only 1 ballot paper per family. Please discard all ballot papers which are white, including the white return envelope. One ballot paper per parent/guardian on yellow in brown envelopes should be returned. Please ensure you return only yellow election ballot forms by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Many thanks to the seven candidates who have stood for election. Remember each parent/guardian has two votes as we have two vacancies.

**School Sports and PE** – for a second year all primary schools throughout the country have received funding to continue to promote PE and sport. Once again we have invested in experienced and qualified coaches to work alongside teachers to deliver lessons of the highest quality.



Following last year's very successful programme of PE lessons and the provision of additional extra-curricular sporting opportunities and events, I am delighted to inform you that we have received the 'Silver Mark' Sainsbury's School Games Award. This recognises St. Gabriel's commitment to the development of competition, school sport and physical education. This is a fantastic achievement and we are extremely proud! Next, stop gold!

**Keeping Safe Week** – This week has been themed 'Keeping Safe Week'. Your child will have had class based discussions and assemblies regarding all aspects of personal safety – from what to do at the end of the school day if a parent/childminder is late, to E-safety and social networking. Your child's teacher will have referred to the '**Children's Pocket Book Guide to School**' available for you to see in the Parents' section of our website and sent as email. This booklet covers a broad range of issues across school to help, inform and advise children about safety as well as school's staff, church, rewards and opportunities. Please have a look.

**Birthday Treats** – Many parents wish to celebrate their child's birthday by generously sending in birthday cakes or sweets to share around. Unfortunately, this kindly gesture causes complications in classes.



Increasing numbers of children have allergies which exclude them from being able to accept cake and chocolates, other children are not permitted sweets with gelatine. There are also difficulties in cutting up and distributing 30 pieces of cake! As a compromise, we recommend that parents wishing to celebrate birthdays do not supply cakes or sweets, but mini gifts such as pencils or rubbers. One parent recently supplied pots of blowing bubbles! Thank you for your generosity. Nothing is ever simple.

**Breaktime Snacks** – We actively promote the eating of healthy snacks. The school council agreed that all snacks brought Monday to Thursday by junior children, for morning break, should be healthy. Friday would be 'treat' day when crisps or chocolate biscuits may be brought. **Sweets are not permitted to be eaten in school.** Infants are not encouraged to bring additional snacks as they already receive milk and fresh fruit/vegetables each day. Those who wish to do so should also follow The School Council's agreement.



For advice on further policies and procedures in school, please refer to 'Essential Information' on the School Website.

see over/

### **Dates for Diaries:**

Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Friends' Fundraising Activity 2p Race starts today
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Absolute Futbol – Y1-Y6 starts today for 4 weeks
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cross Country Competition after school Reception Class Eye Tests – morning Tudor Day Trip for Y4 Elite Gym Squad – 4 of 11
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	Robinwood and Secondary Admissions Meeting for Y6 – 6.30 p.m. in school hall Parent Governor Ballot closing date Playleader Training Y5 during school hours Tag Rugby Tournament – after school – details to follow
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Governor Elections – Candidates informed of result
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Netball Practice – Y5 and Y6 Girls – 3.30-4.30 p.m. (continues until Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> December)
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jubilee Shield at St. Bede's – 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Shoe Box Collection Book Fair Football Match at home vs Salesbury – after school
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parents' Evening
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parents' Evening Friends' Fundraising Activity 2p Race finishes today
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Friends' Fundraising Activity 2p Race results announced today School closes at 3.30 p.m. for Half Term
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	School re-opens
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Robinwood Trip for Y6
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Service in School for children and Year 6 Parents
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Life Education Van in School Full Governors Meeting – 5.30 p.m. Friends' AGM – 7.00 p.m.
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Absolute Dodgeball – Y2-Y6 – starts today for 5 weeks
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Netball Tournament – 3.30-6.00 p.m.
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	New Parents Meeting 1.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. Governors Finance Meeting – 4.00 p.m.
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum Evening 6.30 p.m. – details to follow
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lancashire Fire and Rescue Carol Service at Blackburn Cathedral – 7.30 p.m.
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Reception and Year 1 Nativity – 2.30 p.m.
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lunchtime Carols – provisional date to be confirmed Reception and Year 1 Nativity – 2.30 p.m.
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	Community Cinema in School – afternoon Junior Carol Service in Church – 7.00 p.m.
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pocket Money Stall in School – afternoon
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch Talent Show in School
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Talent Show in School Crib Service in School for children

Yours sincerely,

**B. Haigh**  
**Headteacher**