22 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers. We have reached the end of term and are well and truly ready to celebrate Christmas and rest!

Our term has been extremely busy. Despite the cost of living crisis, we managed to gather enough donations to provide **50 food hampers for our local families**. We can’t thank you enough for your generosity, especially in these very challenging times. St Gabriel’s has always had a reputation for service and charity and this is something we fully intend to maintain.

This month we also celebrated our advent carol service, supported by the Tottington brass band. Many of the band either attended St Gabriel’s, work here or have family who attend our school.

This term we say goodbye to Mr Sutcliffe and Mrs Hansford. Mrs Hansford has taught languages at St Gabriel’s for over 30 years. We thank her for all her commitment to school over these very many years and we thank Mr Sutcliffe for his time with us.

This half term began with **over 1500 rewards being given out in our** **celebration assemblies** and will finish with an end of term celebration assembly with even more rewards being distributed. We have also had our first year-group termly trips that were a great opportunity to strengthen relationships.

Feedback from pupils and staff has led us to reassess our **passports** and how they are used. From January, the new passports will be smaller in size and focus on supporting wellbeing, with directions and contacts of where to access further support. The passports will still include space to record homework, messages and parent / carer / tutor signatures each week. The passports will also have space for mission points to be recorded and a page for you to complete if your child needs to be absent or picked up early for an appointment.

We have opened up the school hall at lunch time as an **extra space** for pupils to have their packed lunch or socialise with friends out of the cold.

**Please can you remind your child the use of mobile phones in school is not permitted.** We have seen a rise in the number of pupils phoning home themselves if they are poorly. Pupils should come to the office to be assessed by the 1st aider if they feel unwell and if they are too poorly to stay in school we will ring home for a parent to come and pick their child up.

We have recently dealt with an increased number of **issues in school relating to** **social media** use in the evenings. We appreciate this is difficult to monitor, however this website does offer some tips on keeping children safe on social media. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

If you need any support as a family regarding mental health over the holiday, the following websites may be able to help you.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/websites>

[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

Other points of contact are on the following page.

We finish our term by **renaming the Rosla Block the ‘Dr Mark Hargreaves Block’**, or as we will affectionately know it, ‘Doc’s block’. As we do, we keep in mind all those we have lost in 2022 and pray that they will rest eternally in the arms of Our Blessed Lord.

***'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. His Kingdom will have no end’.*** St Gabriel. The annunciation.



