

24th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, we have recently launched the Jubilee year announced by Pope Francis, at St Gabriel's, which is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance. This occurs every 25 years, and the theme for this jubilee year is "Pilgrims of Hope." After the challenges of recent years, including the pandemic, war, and conflict, this theme is particularly poignant.



The logo designed for this Jubilee year holds deep symbolic meaning. The cross takes the shape of a sail at the top and an anchor at the bottom, representing the great symbol of hope that keeps us centred through the storms of life. The cross, of course, remains the ultimate symbol of hope, reminding us of Christ's light in the darkness. The waves in the logo represent the many challenges we face on our journey, while the figures standing together in solidarity and hope symbolise all of humanity from the four corners of the world.

To guide us through this Jubilee year, I share with you a special prayer: "Gracious God, help us to be like the good soil, ready to receive your Word and bear fruit for your Kingdom. May we be 'pilgrims of hope,' steadfast in our faith and committed to growing closer to you each day. Give us the courage to overcome the thorns and rocky soil in our lives, and to joyfully share your message with those around us. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen".

I would also like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of good attendance, as we have noticed a continued dip in attendance over the past three weeks in January. Regular attendance is crucial for our students' academic and personal development, and we appreciate your support in ensuring your child(ren) are in school as much as possible.

Please note bus drivers who collect from school at the end of the school day have raised concerns about the safety of students, as well as their vehicles, due to the number of cars parked in the turning area and on the pavement opposite the bus stops. As a result staff from the bus companies and TFGM have visited school to assess the situation. They have suggested to us that the only alternative is that buses may be forced to pick up from bus stops on Jubilee way, approximately a 10 minute walk away. To avoid this we would appreciate your help in not parking in the turning circle or on pavements close to school. Manchester Road car park on Belle Vue Terrace is only a short walk from school and could be a safer place to park to collect your child.

Yours sincerely



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