

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

PLEASE SEE SECTIONS BELOW FROM THIS WEEKS COVID SCHOOL UPDATE FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 18TH OCTOBER 2021

Testing

Everyone is encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) twice a week. A third of people who have the virus show no symptoms, so regular testing is the best way to identify more people who may unknowingly have Covid-19.

Anyone who has a positive LFT test should book a confirmatory PCR test via the national booking system. People who have one of the main three symptoms, feel generally unwell, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive should also take a PCR test. See our website for [advice on testing and self-isolation](#).

To help tackle the increase of cases in high schools, a Mobile Testing Unit is currently being deployed across the county, offering precautionary PCR tests to students. The PCR tests are more accurate than the LFT and results are sent to the labs for analysis.

Sports Activities

There have been reports that some children have continued to take part in out of school sporting activities, even though they have tested positive for the virus.

Everyone is reminded that people who test positive are legally required to self-isolate at home for 10 days. They should not be taking part or going out to support sports or leisure events. People who have one of the main symptoms should self-isolate and book a PCR test.

Half Term

Cases remain high in Staffordshire - and continue to rise. With half-term approaching we are encouraging everyone to help continue to reduce the risk and to enjoy the break safely.

*****"Squid Game" - SAFEGUARDING WARNING*****

There have been some concerning reports recently about children and young people playing "Squid Game" at schools across the county. It is also being viewed on platforms such as YouTube and Tiktok. This Netflix series is rated at 15.

Children **SHOULD NOT** be watching this. The show is graphic with a lot of violent content. Please talk to your children about why it is not appropriate and/or ensure parental control settings are correctly in place on devices used at home.

Wear It Pink - Non-Uniform Day Friday 22nd October 2021

Wear It Pink is a charity event for breast cancer on October 22nd at Sacred Heart. It is for a cause that has affected countless families and maybe yours too? If you can help then please contact Annette on net72@live.co.uk

Please note that to mark the Wear It Pink event, we will have a non-uniform day in school on Friday 22nd October 2021. All proceeds to this cause. We are asking for **ALL** non-uniform donations to be paid via ParentPay. Unfortunately we can no longer accept cash donations.

Currently 2 members of school staff are battling breast cancer. Breast cancer, in fact all forms of cancer, touch us all through family and friends. Thanks to everyone for making an effort for this worthy cause.

CAFOD Go Green

Thank you for the donations received from the CAFOD Go Green non uniform day on Friday 1st October 2021. We raised an amazing £344.16!!!

Thank you

Many thanks to those parents who have continued to liaise, contact, communicate and follow our advice around Covid requirements.

Mask wearing

Many of us in school are still wearing masks, for the protection of each other and yourselves. We encourage all those coming onto site, to please also wear a mask.

Thank you.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Ignacy
RJC	Maximus
1KG	Flo
1NH	Ruby-Lee
2JH	Mia Rose
2NT	Freddie
3CC	Archie
3LH	Harry C
4HA	Alexander
4HB	Ethan
5AC	Rory
5SG	Callum
6BF	Daniella
6ST	Jamie



Well Done Readers of the Week!






October Half Term Reading Challenge!

This half term holiday we want to challenge the children to be a **Reading Superstar!**

Over the course of the half term we want to see if every child can complete **FIVE READING CHALLENGES!**

Tomorrow the children will come home with a copy of the October Reading Challenge and some suggestions for **READING CHALLENGES!** Each time they complete a **READING CHALLENGE** they can colour in one of the book worms on their Reading Challenge sheet.



October Half Term Reading Challenge!				
This half term holiday we want to challenge you to be a Reading Superstar!				
Over the course of the half term we want to see if you can complete FIVE READING CHALLENGES! Each time you complete a READING CHALLENGE colour in one of the book worms and record the challenge you did underneath. Your teacher will also share with you some READING CHALLENGE suggestions. You could complete FIVE of these challenges - or invent some of your own!				
Once you have completed your FIVE challenges, bring your challenge sheet back into school and you will receive a Reading Challenge Certificate!				
Name:		Class:		
				
Challenge Completed:	Challenge Completed:	Challenge Completed:	Challenge Completed:	Challenge Completed:
Great Start!	Great Reading!	Keep Going!	Nearly There!	You are a READING SUPERSTAR!

When they bring their completed sheets back in after half term they will receive a special **READING CHALLENGE** certificate!

Year 6 Secondary Transfer

Please ensure that your secondary applications are processed in good time.

Currently a number of our children have had no application made.

Do not leave it until the deadline day at the end of October to process your application.

Please note that if applying for a school such as St. Francis of Assisi, supplementary form must be included and you will need to provide proof of baptism, if the child is a baptised Catholic. Again, ensure you don't leave accessing a copy of the Baptismal Certificate until the last moment.

Thank you.

Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2022

The application system will open on 1st November 2021 for September 2022 Reception places.

If you/a family member/friend have a child of school age in September 2022, please make sure applications are submitted. The easiest way to apply is online and a link to the online system will be available from 1st November 2021.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022.

Flu Vaccination Programme – Tuesday 9th November 2021

The School Age Immunisation Team will be in school on Tuesday 9th November 2021 to deliver the Childhood Nasal Flu Programme for children from Reception-Year 6.

An email was sent out to all parents on Tuesday 12th October 2021 with information and a link for you to complete e-consent. Please ensure you give your consent by 5th November 2021

If your child is asthmatic and there are any changes to their health 14 days before the vaccination date YOU MUST contact the immunisation team on 0300 124 0366 as your child may not be well enough to receive the vaccination. These include, if your child:

- **Becomes wheezy**
- **Has required oral steroids**
- **Has increased their asthma medication**

If you have any further questions or need more information, please contact the School Age Immunisation Team rather than the school on 0300 124 0366 or

school.immunisation@mpft.nhs.uk

Parking

Please continue to be aware of the need to park responsibly in the local area and in and around the school. Thank you to the majority of parents who continue to park lawfully and sensibly.

Parking is not allowed in front of the school gates, the yellow lines and zig zags are there to stop people parking there and to protect and keep all of our children safe.

Please never park up on the footpaths in the surrounding roads. You are also asked to please show consideration to local home owners and do not block garages and driveways. Please do not become abusive to local home owners.

Parking on the grass verge along Wilnecote Lane has been raised as a COMPLAINT with local police. We have been asked to advise all parents not to do this. Parking on the grass verges is dangerous and causes blockage for neighbours. Local police will be following this up.

We again ask you take this advice and requests on board. Thanks to those parents who were supportive of PCSOs and PCs present at the school recently.

Home Start Family Group

Home-Start Tamworth is a local charity which supports ordinary parents in and around Tamworth, Staffordshire, who are going through challenging times. They are running a Family Group on Thursday mornings during term time at Sacred Heart 9.30am-11.00am. Please see attached poster for further information.

Alpha - In person or Online

A choice of two Alpha courses. One on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart 7.30-9.00pm from 30th September or one online on Zoom- day and time to be confirmed. So it's meeting up or Zooming in? The choice is yours. Watch an inspiring video and follow with discussion! Why not give it a try? Please book so that we know numbers via email alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403

Youth Band

Starting on Friday 24th September 6.15-7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church in the Modwen Room. New members welcome. It is open to all young people in Year 6 and above. If you enjoy singing or can play an instrument, why not give it a try we'd love to see you.

Please contact Alex Parker alex@tamworthrc.church for more details and to register your interest or feel free to just turn up! Parental Consent forms will need to be completed with contact details at the first practice. The Youth Band leads the music at one Mass probably about once every month to six weeks and meets during term time. Thank you.

Journey in faith

Are you, or do you know anyone else, interested in becoming a Catholic or finding out more about the Catholic Faith? Please get in touch with us soon as the course starts at the end of September. Email alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403 to speak with Fr Michael or Alex Parker to book a place and find out more.

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 1st November will be:

Monday:	INSET DAY
Tuesday:	Pizza and Rainbow Pasta
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Bonfire Night Menu - see attached
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas

Dates for your Diary

Fri 22 nd October	Non-uniform day in school - Wear It Pink
Fri 22 nd October	School finishes for half term 3.20pm
Mon 1 st November	INSET DAY 2 - School closed to pupils
Tues 2 nd November	School re-opens to pupils
Tues 9 th November	Childhood Flu Vaccinations in school Reception-year 6

Merciful Jesus, I want to have faith and trust in you.

Bless me in my life today.

Let me spread your love, through simple acts of kindness that I show to those I meet today.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes
Headteacher