

# **Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School**

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Dear Parents

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

6pm Miss Caswell's class

7pm Mrs Holmes' class

Please do respect the need for social distancing.

Please arrive shortly before your allotted time.

Please make sure you follow the guidance of 1 child and 1 adult only.

Follow the instructions of Fr. Michael and school staff. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER TAKE A TEST AS A RESULT OF COVID SYMPTOMS, WHICH ARE:**

- A HIGH TEMPERATURE (FEVER) - HOT TO TOUCH
- A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH
- A CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

**YOU MUST SELF-ISOLATE AND STAY AT HOME, AS A HOUSEHOLD, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR RESULTS.**

**PLEASE NOTIFY SCHOOL (USING THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW) OF YOUR RESULTS, EITHER WAY, TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF OTHERS IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**

**[confirmedcovidcase@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:confirmedcovidcase@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)**

**KEY INFECTION AND PREVENTION CONTROLS REMAIN IN PLACE** as published in the "daily plan". By following these measures we all reduce risks in our setting and create a safer environment.

We **MUST** always:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER

Headteacher: Mr J P Hayes BEd Hons NPQH  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr W Bright BA PGCE

3. Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
5. Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents.
6. Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
7. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
8. Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
9. Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available.
10. Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
11. Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
12. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

### **Making a difference at home**

Lots of reports this week in the media, of the damage caused by the lockdowns to children's development, particularly to early reading.

**NEVER UNDER ESTIMATE THE HUGE DIFFERENCE you can make as a parent by taking an interest WITH YOUR CHILD in their learning.**

The simplest ways of making a difference do not change.

Little and often, when you can - 10 to 15 minutes.

Talk to your child about their day. Having a conversation and encouraging to speak clearly, slowly and pronouncing words clearly is important. Explore new words and vocabulary.

Read with them. Unpick their understanding of words read. Use who, what, why questions to explore their language.

Experiences like walking to the park, to the shops.in the garden or cooking.

Talk about these events to build up their language use.

Make eye contact and encourage your children to do so.

Put key words, vocabulary up around the house, in the kitchen as a reminder to practice.

Return to key facts or language and get the child to show you what they know - and if they can then praise them.

A child has a much greater chance of developing a love of learning, with regular interest from you.

A child's life chances are greatly increased by developing basic reading and maths skills as soon as they can, as fully as they can. Thank you.

### **Parents/Carers Mask Wearing**

Thank you to all those parents and carers who continue to wear a mask when coming on to the school grounds. This is to protect yourselves and to protect others.

Thank you.

### **Collection at end of day**

All parents and carers are reminded - wait patiently as children are dismissed. We can only send one child at a time, while the teacher records the adult collecting. Please be clear that this is to satisfy safeguarding requirements and to ensure ALL children go home safely. Thank you

### **Tamworth Library is now open for browsing.**

Tamworth Library is now open for browsing. Opening hours are 10am-4pm weekdays and 9am-1pm on Saturdays for now, but families can now come in to choose their own books. The Library is also offering a range of "Reading Well" books which support children's mental health and wellbeing. Glascote Library is currently open Mondays and Thursday 10am-12, and Wilnecote Library is offering a doorstep service on Mondays and Wednesdays 4pm-5.30pm.

You can stay up to date by visiting [COVID-19 restrictions and what it means for libraries - Staffordshire County Council](#).

### **FREE Early Child Development Courses**

Please find attached details of 2 early child development courses which are being provided by Staffordshire County Council.

These online adult learning courses are being provided free of charge for parents/carers in Staffordshire. Both courses start on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and run for 6 weeks.

- Your Play - Ready Baby aimed at parents/carers of children aged 0-3 years
- Your School - Ready Child aimed at parents/carers of children aged 3-7 years

### **International Dawn Chorus Day - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**

Earlier this year a number of our children and their families took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - counting the different bird species they saw in their garden.

If taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch has given you an appetite for finding out more about your local birdlife you might be interested in International Dawn Chorus Day which is taking place this Sunday!

International Dawn Chorus Day is described as a 'celebration of nature's symphony' - 'Taking place on the first Sunday of May, International Dawn Chorus Day is the worldwide celebration of nature's greatest symphony. All across the world people rise early to revel in the sweet sound of birdsong, from rattling wrens in Rotherham to crooning cowbirds in the Caribbean.'

The RSPB and the Wildlife Trust are both involved and running a number of (virtual) events. Their websites have lots more information [Dawn Chorus Day | The Wildlife Trusts](#) and [International Dawn Chorus Day 2020 | Join the Chorus - The RSPB](#) where you can find details of their events, learn how to recognise different birds by their call and discover why birds sing so early in the morning! Don't forget to set an early alarm call!

### **Cafod Children's Liturgy**

Cafod continue to share a live Children's Liturgy each Sunday at 10am. The Liturgy can be watched live or as a recording later on. The sessions are a great way to engage with the Sunday Gospel and feature songs, prayer, readings and quizzes! Find out more and sign up to take part [CAFOD](#)

### **Parking**

Please continue to be aware of the need to park responsibly in the local area 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 or grass verges 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. Local Community Wardens and PCSO's continue to operate locally and will issue tickets where appropriate. Thank you.

### **Dogs on the school grounds**

A reminder please that dogs must not be brought beyond the school gates and onto school premises. Dogs are banned from all school grounds because of the danger of toxicariasis in dog waste. This is in line with County Council guidelines. Please respect this request at all times. Thank you.

### **Appointments**

If you cannot avoid a school time appointment please inform admin staff as soon as you are notified by presenting your appointment letter, card or text to request permission to take your child out of school. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

### **Message from the Kitchen**

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 is as follows:

**Tuesday:** Chicken Burger and Wedges

**Wednesday:** Pizza and Rainbow Pasta

**Thursday:** Roast Dinner

**Friday:** Fish Fingers and Chips

### **Operation Encompass**

Operation Encompass is an information sharing partnership between Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent educational settings (from Reception through to Higher Education) which allows schools to offer immediate support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

The letter sent previously has further details and information about this new cross partnership initiative.

### **Staffing**

On-going self-isolation for staff due to their own need or needs of family members means there is a reality of us not having a full work force.

We are therefore running with less than a full staff team at this time, this week 2 members of staff have been unable to attend work.

**Lateral Flow Testing for staff in primary schools means there is the chance, at short notice, of disruption to planned lessons or the need for bubble closures.**

**PLEASE DO HAVE A PLAN B IN PLACE FOR CARE OF YOUR CHILD IF CLASSES HAVE TO CLOSE AT SHORT NOTICE!**

We appreciate your understanding of this matter. Thank you.

### **Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist**

You have a vibrant and active Catholic parish in Tamworth. If you are not aware please explore it at their website at [www.tamworthrc.church](http://www.tamworthrc.church)

Please find below links from the parish for the booking of Mass, the weekly bulletin, the livestreamed Mass and Children Liturgy.

- Please book your attendance at masses through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-john-the-baptist-catholic-church-tamworth-30528677234>
- The bulletin can be found here: <https://parish.tamworthrc.church/>
- Our link for the livestreamed Mass and Children's liturgy can be found on the You Tube channel here <http://www.youtube.com/c/StJohntheBaptistTamworth>

### **Help and Support**

Any parent finding themselves struggling or in great difficulty with housing or finance, please approach us, in confidence. We may not have the answers but we may be able to signpost or help. If you do not approach us, we cannot help, so please be assured of confidentiality in approaching us! We have been able to support a number of families previously and are ready to continue to try to do so.

### **Tamworth Telephone Support Line - Community Together CIC**

This is just a reminder to let you know that Community Together CIC are continuing to provide support. **Tamworth Telephone Support Line 01827 59646**

The support line is there for anyone and can connect people and give people access to a wide range of support including -

- Access to Food
- People struggling for medication pick ups
- Befriending / Check in calls
- Energy
- Activity Packs
- Unemployment support
- Debt/Finance/Benefits
- Support with Home

### **The Heart of Tamworth Community Shop as seen at [www.tamworthrc.church](http://www.tamworthrc.church)**

Visit the HOT COMMUNITY SHOP based at sacred heart church for your shopping. They are there to give a helping hand to those who need it.

**1 bag of shopping = £4**

**2 bags of shopping = £7**

A selection of fruit and veg is available free when you buy your bag.

Opening times: Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm, Sunday - closed.

Thank you to all those who continue to donate food and hygiene items.

### **Tamworth Hygiene Bank**

Tamworth Hygiene Bank is a charity that offers support to families that find themselves unable to afford everyday hygiene products e.g. sanitary products, deodorants and shampoos etc.

They achieve this by putting together bespoke packages for whole families or individuals. This is facilitated by working alongside schools and other organisations without the need for them to know any details other than how many people are in a family and their ages.

They are completely funded by donated products and currently have drop off points at the Sacred Heart Church and Boots at Ventura. We now have a donation box in the school's main entrance, should you find yourself in a position to be able to donate hygiene products.

The charity have provided school with an assorted box of hygiene products that are available for anyone that might need them.

Should you wish to access this service or if we can help out with something from the assorted box, please give Mrs McKay a call.

The charity also have a Facebook page; Hygiene Bank Tamworth should you wish to find out more or to message them directly.

### **Citizens Advice Mid Mercia - EU Settlement Scheme**

Citizen's Advice Mid Mercia are working alongside the Government in order to reach out to all of the families in Tamworth and East Staffordshire to support them with their EU Settled Status. The Government has recognised that not all families are aware that they need to ensure they have been granted settled or pre-settled status by the end of June 2021.

### **May the month of Mary - the mother of Christ**

May is traditionally the month in the Catholic Church which we think of as the month of Mary.

We think of Mary, the mother of Christ and all mother.

We thank all mothers for all their work, in so many ways.

Pray to Mary. Just a few moments spent in quiet thought and sharing your mind with Mary through prayer, is good for the soul. Try it?

### Dates for your Diary

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	Bank Holiday -School Closed
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Sacrament of Reconciliation - First Confession Sacred Heart Church 6.00pm Miss Caswell's class bubble 7.00pm Mrs Holmes' class bubble
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Sacrament of First Holy Communion Sacred Heart Church 10.00am Miss Caswell's class bubble 12 noon Mrs Holmes' class bubble
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021	Sacrament of Confirmation - Mr Fowler's class bubble 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021	Sacrament of Confirmation - Mrs Taggart's class bubble 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church

I hope you can enjoy the long weekend ahead

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher