

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

VERY IMPORTANT UPDATE - "RESPONDING TO INCREASING RATES OF COVID 19" - Updated Wednesday 29th September 2021

Parents and carers are asked to note that there has been a huge increase in the presence of Covid cases across Staffordshire and in Tamworth.

Staffordshire Local Outbreak Control have advised ALL school settings to be proactive to prevent and reduce transmission, from now until half term.

For the next 4 weeks we have been asked to reintroduce a range of controls, that were in place pre-summer.

Part of this will be **STRONGLY ADVISING THAT ALL CONTACTS OF A SCHOOL CASE TAKE A PCR TEST.**

It may also involve the need for a precautionary PCR test 7 days later.

PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS AND FOLLOW THIS ADVICE.

- **Where pupils have a brother, sister or household member who tests positive there is a high risk of infection.**
- **PCR tests are strongly advised for ALL people in the household.**
- **Pupils/household are advised to stay at home pending results.**
- **Parents are reminded that children should not attend if they have any of the 3 main symptoms of Covid or are "generally unwell". In these cases a PCR test should be booked and taken.**

This advice has been provided on Wednesday 29th September 2021. Staffordshire County Council have the support of the Director of Public Health, Cabinet Members and DFE, in taking these steps to control the rate of increase and confirmed spread.

Staffing

Please be aware that ongoing sickness/illness and impact of Covid means there is a reality of us not having a full work force, from week to week.

St. Gabriel's last week had 10 members of staff absent at some point. We currently have 3 members of staff absent. We are therefore running with less than a full staff team at this time. Please be understanding and patient with us, given the current situations.

Who should NOT attend school?

Any staff, young people and children who are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or a loss of, or change in normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) should not attend school. ANYONE FEELING UNWELL IS ADVISED TO BOOK AND TAKE A PCR TEST TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.

Self-Isolation/Close Contact Procedures

You need to self-isolate for 10 days if you:

- test positive for Covid-19 or start showing symptoms
- are an adult who has not been fully vaccinated, and you are identified by contact tracers as a close contact of someone who has tested positive
- are an adult who lives with someone who tests positive (or has Covid symptoms) and you are not fully vaccinated
- arrive in the UK from a red list country
- are an adult who has not been fully vaccinated and you arrive in the UK from an amber list country

When you do not need to self-isolate

Fully vaccinated adults in the UK do not have to self-isolate for 10 days if they're told they have been in close contact with a person who has Covid. The second vaccine must have been received at least 14 days before contact with the infected person.

This rule also applies to everyone under the age of 18 years and 6 months.

Additionally, you do not have to self-isolate if you:

- are taking part (or have taken part) in an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial
- are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible. Children aged 4 and under will not be advised to take a test unless the positive case was someone in their own household.

IF YOU OR A CHILD ARE **ADVISED** TO TAKE A PCR TEST TO CONFIRM YOU/THEY ARE NEGATIVE, THEN PLEASE DO FOLLOW THAT ADVICE.

Thank you

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.

Safeguarding/Child Protection

At times we as a school have to act when children or family members report issues of possible physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect.

Physical abuse **MAY** be hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, scalding, suffocating, bruising or biting a child. THIS IS NOT A CHECKLIST AND CAN INVOLVE OTHER ACTIONS.

Emotional abuse **MAY** be the maltreatment of a child to cause persistent negative effects on a child and their development. It MAY involve making a child feel worthless, unloved, being made fun of, deliberately silencing them, causing a child to feel frightened or in danger. THIS IS NOT A CHECKLIST AND CAN INVOLVE OTHER ACTIONS.

Neglect **MAY** be failure to meet the basic needs of a child, such as, enough food, shelter, clean clothing and ability to wash. THIS IS NOT A CHECKLIST AND CAN INVOLVE OTHER ACTIONS.

When we do act, it could mean us talking to you as parents or carers, advising parents or passing information on to Children and Families Services. You could then be asked to take part in follow up meetings or processes.

We are not doing this to intrude or be nosey. We are doing it to make sure all our children are safe, that their voice is heard and that they are protected. It is part of our job. It is the most important part of our job.

Thank you to all parents who understand this and who continue to do the best they can for their children on life's journey. If you are ever worried about this or have any other worries come in and talk to me or the other staff.

CAFOD Family Fast Day - 'GO GREEN' Non Uniform Day Friday 1st October

Friday 1st October is CAFOD Family Fast Day. This year the theme is 'Go Green' and links into CAFOD's climate emergency related campaigns. On the 1st, we will be asking children (and staff) to wear green clothing / an item of green clothing and make a donation to CAFOD. However, please do not go out to buy something new for the event as one of the messages CAFOD wants to get across is the need for us all to live more sustainability and reduce our consumption of the world's resources. Lower Key Stage Two will also have a Mass on the 1st, led by Year Four.

We will be asking for non-uniform donations to be paid via ParentPay. This is to reduce the amount of cash having to be handled within school.

More info / resources to about Family Fast Day can be found at

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

Christmas Card Project

Please look out for an email about the Christmas Card Project as well as your child's design. It is being run slightly differently this year

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 earlier in the week.

Parking at Belgrave Club

The club will continue to offer the facility of parking for parents/guardians. Please be aware that the cost for use of the car park remains at £5.00, per car, for the school year (club members are free - see below). Parking permits must be clearly displayed at all times. Parents/guardians who are club members are asked to collect their passes from the club during opening times.

Please abide by the club rules:

- Only designated parking spaces are to be used.
- Please do not park on the yellow lines, hatched areas, in front of bottle banks
- Please park with care and avoid hitting the perimeter fence when parking
- Please obey the speed limit in the car park at 5 mph
- Please adhere to the one-way system around the car park
- Please do not leave rubbish behind. Rubbish should be taken away and disposed of correctly.
- Children should be supervised at all times.
- Bike/scooters are not permitted to be used on the car park at any time

Parents/guardians who require a parking pass via the school – Please complete and submit the request form which can be found on the school website Parent Information/Belgrave Parking Pass

https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/belgrave_parking_pass

The school office will notify you via text when the pass is available for collection. Please have the correct money when collecting your pass.

PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO COLLECT PASSES UNTIL NOTIFIED. Thank you.

Wear It Pink

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

Please note that to mark this, we will have a non-uniform day in school on the day.

All proceeds to this cause. We will be asking for non-uniform donations to be paid via ParentPay. This is to reduce the amount of cash having to be handled within school.

Children's Worship

Countdown to Children's Worship Only 1 weeks to go! On Sunday 3rd October the parish will be relaunching Children's Liturgy as **Children's Worship**. Any children attending Mass (9.00am, 10.30am, 12.00 noon) will have the opportunity to go out for Children's Worship at the start of Mass to worship and explore the Gospel together. **DON'T MISS IT!** Let the children come...

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

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.

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.

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 4th October will be:

Monday:	Pizza, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Garlic Chicken, Spanish Potatoes, Broccoli and Sweetcorn
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Burgers and Dogs Menu - see attached
Friday:	Fish Fingers and Chips

Sustainable Staffordshire Tip of the Week



Love your leftovers

Do you always have leftovers after cooking? Give them a little bit of love and don't throw them away!

- You can turn most of your leftovers into another tasty meal. For a few ideas for using leftovers, [check out our recipe book](#).
- Make use of your freezer. Many common items such as milk, bread and cheese can all be frozen. Do not re-freeze food, if you are unsure check the label.
- Use the [Yummly App](#) to find over 2 million new recipes with the ingredients that you have leftover.
- Can't finish your food in a restaurant? Ask for a doggy bag and take it home with you.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 1 st October	CAFOD family fast day "Wear Green" - Non Uniform Day
Tue 12 th October	Y3 First Holy Communion meeting for parents 6pm Sacred Heart
W/C Mon 18 th October	Parents Consultations - more information to follow
Fri 22 nd October	Non-uniform day in school - wear pink
Fri 22 nd October	School finishes for half term 3.20pm
Mon 1 st November	INSET DAY 2
Tues 2 nd November	School re-opens

A prayer for Creation

All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Amen
God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher