

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

PUNCTUALITY AND BEING ON TIME

Thanks to all those families who get your children down to school on time.

We open for business at 8.50am.

Currently about half of the children are in school getting started with their day within 3 minutes.

The flexi start allows less congestion outside at the start of the day.

A very small number of families are still arriving after the registration bell at 9.10am. A lot of important, key work takes place in the first few minutes. Please do get your children down to school before the bell so that they DO NOT MISS OUT. Thank you.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 8th February 2022

Every day needs to be a safer internet day.

Thanks to Mr Fowler who has arranged activities and input on National theme for this year of "All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online."

Please continue to talk with and to your children about using technology safely and with respect.

Attached is a letter detailing what the children will be doing on the day and suggestions on how you, as a family could further explore how to be safe online. Please remember the huge role you have in being a positive role model, demonstrating how to be responsible online to your child.

Parent Consultations

These will take place on Tuesday 15th February and Thursday 17th February, please see separate letter that came home with children last week. Please return all slips by tomorrow. Thank you

Catholic Virtues

This term children and staff at St. Gabriel's are learning and growing to be **CURIOUS** about everything; and **ACTIVE** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.



SCHOOL
MEMBER

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

IMPORTANT

IF YOU TAKE A CHILD FOR A PCR TEST THEY MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE AWAITING A RESULT, FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHER PUPILS AND STAFF. THANK YOU.

Get the basic principles of virus controls done well as part of your behaviour.

The spread of ALL variants will be reduced by:

- Limiting your mixing
- Keeping your distance
- Wearing a mask and wearing it properly – fully over your nose
- Good hand, nose and mouth hygiene
- Good ventilation

PLEASE NOTE THE LATEST GOVERNMENT ADVICE.

I want a proportionate and cautious response given the high number of Covid cases still current among pupils and staff.

Can I encourage you to follow the “encouraged” guidance and measures as time goes on.
Thank you.

PLEASE SEE SECTIONS BELOW FROM THE COVID SCHOOL UPDATE FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Face Coverings

The requirement for face coverings to be worn in communal areas has ended. The government suggests that all citizens can choose to continue to wear one in crowded and indoor spaces where they may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.

The Education team is also continuing to support schools who are managing increasing cases and staff shortages due to sickness and isolation.

Testing

Please continue with regular Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) twice a week wherever possible.

We’ve noticed that there has been a drop off in the amount of people testing twice weekly.

It is essential that contacts of a confirmed positive case test themselves daily for 7 days.

Doing this helps to reduce transmission in schools and keeps schools open. This is especially important given the prevalence in cases amongst 5-10 year olds.

ANYONE WHO DEVELOPS 1 OF THE 3 MAIN COVID-19 SYMPTOMS SHOULD STAY AT HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE AND TAKE A PCR TEST. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

If you experience even mild symptoms, you will need to isolate and get a PCR test.

See our website for [advice on testing and self-isolation](#).

IF YOU ARE INVITED INTO SCHOOL FOR A MEETING PLEASE

- **Wear a mask if you can**
- **Respect social distancing**
- **Take a lateral flow test prior to your visit**

Staffing Shortages

Given the unprecedented current spread of Omicron, I want to say clearly that we will be doing everything to keep children in school wherever possible, while it remains safe to do so in terms of staffing levels.

Previously I have each week recorded numbers of staff absent in a week. Be aware that a number of teachers continue to be off isolating due to Covid. There is likely to be continuing shortages over the weeks ahead. This is bound to cause disruption.

A range of approaches will be taken to cover absence. Please understand that absences cause a greater load of work for all staff in school covering for absent colleagues. Thank you.,

Attendance

Further to the email sent to all parents on Monday 22nd November 2021. Please assist by:

- Not taking holidays in term-time, no period of leave for holiday can be authorised
- Only request a leave of absence when absolutely necessary
- Book routine appointments where possible outside of school times
- Not taking time off school for minor ailments - ask yourself if you would stay off work for the same
- Be on time for school - lateness disrupts the start of the day for your child and many key interventions take place in the first few minutes of the day
- Remember there are 175 non-school days per year, plenty of time for holidays, visits, days out and routine appointments

Wow Active - Mr Fowler writes

Children have completed the second round of fitness assessments from Wow Active last month.

Children in KS1 benefitted from fitness sessions delivered by the Wow Active team and practiced how to keep active. In KS2, the children took part in their second fitness assessments and all classes made an improvement since the last assessment, which is very encouraging.

Below is the list of highest scorers from assessment 2 and the most improved from the first assessment.

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Highest Scorers</u>
Year 3	Gabriella P and Joshua P
Year 4	Ella G and Haitham M
Year 5	Tymoteusz D and Lenny H
Year 6	Sebastian H and Sam S

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Most Improved</u>
Year 3	Mia E and Franciszek P
Year 4	Isabella T and Amelia G
Year 5	Dominika M and Dexter D
Year 6	Mason P and Holly M

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Erik
RJC	Emily
1KG	Marcel
1NH	Macie
2JH	Oscar
2NT	Liam
3CC	Lucas
3LH	Isabelle
4HA	Nikola
4HB	Chloe
5AC	Riley
5SG	Oskar
6BF	Gracie
6ST	Oliver



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 7th February will be:

Monday: Cheese Pizza, Garlic Dough Balls and Sweetcorn
Tuesday: Garlic Chicken, Potato Cubes, Peas and Broccoli
Wednesday: Roast Dinner
Thursday: Beef Bolognese, Pasta, Sweetcorn and Garlic Bread
Friday: Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 24th January

Well done to class 3CC for
achieving 100% attendance

Dates for your Diary

Tues 15 th February	Parent Consultations 3.45pm-7.00pm (please see separate letter)
Thurs 17 th February	Parent Consultations 3.45pm-7.00pm (please see separate letter)
Fri 18 th February	School closes for half term
Mon 28 th February	School re opens to pupils and staff
Weds 2 nd March	Ash Wednesday - start of the Season of Lent

Prayer to St. Brigid - Feast Day 1st February

Brigid,

You were a voice for the wounded and the weary.

Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and Spirit.

Amen

God Bless

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P Hayes".

John P Hayes
Headteacher