

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

## **Whole School Mass - Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9.15am**

Please note that all classes will attend Mass in the school hall next Friday.

This Mass will mark the end of the school term and the approach of Holy Week. It will also mark the retirement of Mrs Birtwistle, after 34 years work at the school. Parents and carers are welcome to attend.

## **\*\*\* PLEASE READ AGAIN \*\*\***

**COVID CASES ARE SURGING ACROSS TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE AND THE COUNTRY AGAIN. PLEASE FOLLOW ADVISED BEHAVIOUR CAREFULLY**

## **Living with Covid**

The Government recently announced their Covid 19 response "Living with Covid-19" strategy for England. It means that most of the measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus are no longer required.

National guidance now urges us all to take personal responsibility so that our actions minimise the risks of transmission.

In school we will continue to:

- Offer frequent and proper handwashing for staff and pupils
- Encourage good respiratory hygiene - this includes continuing to follow "catch it, bin it, kill it"
- Have additional cleaning of major touch points
- Have additional ventilation

If your child feels unwell and has any symptoms associated with the covid virus, I ask you to take NHS advice and get them tested where necessary.

## **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.**

**IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE COVID 19 VIRUS, YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO ISOLATE FOR AT LEAST 5 DAYS AND ONLY RETURN TO SCHOOL ONCE THE VIRUS AND SYMPTOMS HAVE PASSED.**

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
- Good hand, nose and mouth hygiene
- Good ventilation

### IF YOU ARE INVITED INTO SCHOOL FOR A MEETING PLEASE

- Wear a mask if you can
- Sanitise hands on arrival
- Respect social distancing



### Letter from the Prime Minister

Children in year 6 have been learning about the plight of refugees around the world through their RE work focusing on the work of CAFOD. We have also been reading a text 'The Boy at the Back of the Class,' by Onjali q Rauf, which highlights the need to welcome refugees from other countries affected by violence and war. The children wrote letters to the Prime Minister, explaining what they have learnt and what they would like the government to do. Our two school councillors, Evie H and Holly M, wrote the covering letter to the PM detailing all the hard work that year 6 had put into their letters. Amazingly, we have had a response from the office of the Prime Minister thanking us for our letters and stating that they would pass on our concerns to the Home Office. Well done to all of year 6 and our school councillors, who were mentioned in the letter.

### Year 6 - CAFOD fundraising

All next week, year 6 are going to be raising money for CAFOD in different ways around school: We will be holding a toy and book sale every break time on the KS2 and KS1 playground (items will cost either 50p or £1). There will be a raffle ticket sale to win chocolate prizes - 5 tickets for 50p

Year 6 are doing a sponsored walk, where they hope to walk a combined total of 600km for CAFOD's Walk for hunger campaign. We have set up a just giving website where you can help donate money to at

### Ukraine - Humanitarian crisis situation

The March For Ukraine Campaign has been set up in Tamworth to collect essential supplies for refugees. It involves numerous organisations that includes Heart of Tamworth and The Parish of St. John the Baptist. They are helping as members of the organising group, collecting supplies, being a delivery centre and some transport. They are strictly only collecting new or nearly new items from the following list: Nappies, wipes, children's colouring books and pencils/crayons. Large blankets and sleeping bags. First aid items. Protein bars, baby food pouches (without milk or meat), sterilising tablets and dried food (pasta, rice, tea, biscuits etc). New nests, socks and pants. Toiletries. Donations can be dropped off at Sacred Heart Church.

## **Catholic Virtues**

This half term children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be learning to be **INTENTIONAL** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience, and **PROPHETIC** in the example they set to others.

## **Our Parish**

It's a good time to think about going back to Church if you have been away due to Covid.

There are many opportunities to be involved in the Catholic parish in Tamworth.

Have a look at [www.tamworthrc.church](http://www.tamworthrc.church) Think seriously about going along to one of the Masses at the times shown.

A celebration of Holy Mass takes about 50 minutes. Many people find it spiritually lifting to sit in the peace of the Sacred Heart Church and listen and feel God around them. You will not know that unless you try it. Try it and tell me of your experience. Thank you.

## **Reception Easter Bonnet Parade Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Reception children will be having an Easter Bonnet Parade on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm in the school hall. Parents are warmly invited to attend. Please refer to the separate letter and email sent home on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for more information. Bonnets should be brought into school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. We look forward to seeing their wonderful creations. Any concerns or questions, please contact Mrs Coakley or Mrs Keeling who will be happy to help.

## **St Gabriel's Twitter**

Please join our closed Twitter account - @GabrielsPrimary

We will be trialling our Twitter account with our Reception classes.

This will be used to show a screenshot of various activities throughout their day. We will be expanding upon this, over the coming months to include all other year groups in school. We hope you will find this useful.

We would like to increase our followers to all parents and grandparents that are known to us. Our Twitter account is a closed account (private); therefore in addition to your request to follow the Twitter account we will need your own Twitter account username details to be sent to us, via the following email address: [twitter@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:twitter@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)

This will allow us to accept you into the group and ensure the security of the account.

**Please be aware** - this account will only be used to share information and snapshots of your child's learning - please do not use this as a means of direct contact. There will be no facility to comment.

## **Emergency Contact Details Update - Please check the details we hold are correct**

*It is vital that we retain up-to-date Emergency Contact details for all children. Please inform school immediately if your mobile number or email address changes. We use Teachers2Parents text and email system to communicate with you and keep you informed about what is happening at school. Please ensure all 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Emergency Contact mobiles are fully charged and switched on during the school day so we can contact you in an emergency. Thank you.*

### Attendance

Further to the email sent to all parents on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Punctuality and Being on Time

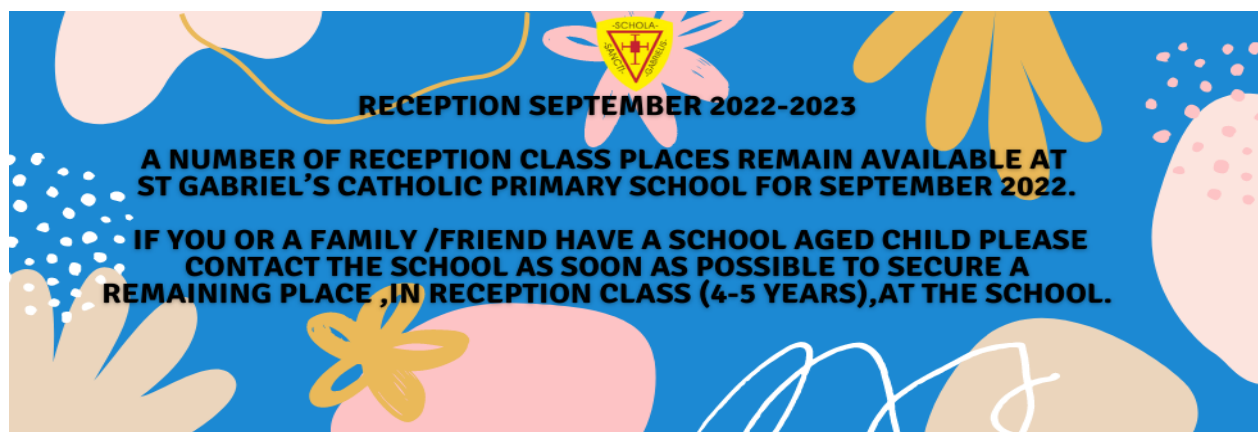
Thanks to all those families who get your children down to school on time.

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.

### Forthcoming Dinner Supervisor Position

If you are interested in a possible role in the future as a Dinner Supervisor please pass your interest via notice to the school office. You would be notified in due course of any availability. Thank you.





## Walk against Hunger

**Are you ready to change your life and transform someone else's this Lent?**

This Lent CAFOD are launching their Walk Against Hunger campaign:

Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time.

You can walk, roll, skip or stroll your way to 200k. You can boldly go it alone and take it on 5k a day for 40 days, or you can smash the target all at once as a team.

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to conquer 200k, and help give hunger its marching orders.

If you would like to find out more about Walk against Hunger please visit:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

### **Message from the kitchen**

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 28th<sup>+</sup> March will be:

Monday:	Cheese Pizza, Garlic Dough Balls and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Chicken Filo Pie, Mashed potato, Peas, Broccoli
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Beef Bolognese, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas

### **Dates for your Diary**

Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Tempest Photography - Vista Group Photographs Reception & Y6 Reception Easter Bonnet Parade 2.30pm
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for End of Term
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens to staff and pupils
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> April to	
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Y6 Alton Castle Residential Trip
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	MAY DAY - School closed
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Y3 First Holy Communion Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> May to	
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS - Y6 pupils must be in school each morning

Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Mrs Holmes' class
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 Confirmation Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> May	School closes for half term
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens to staff and pupils
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos

Father,

Help us to be like Jesus Christ your Son, who loved the world and died for our salvation.

Inspire us by his love, guide us by his example that we live out simple acts of kindness to and for each other this day.

Amen

God Bless

Yours sincerely

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

John P Hayes  
Headteacher