

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

**IF ANY PARENT IS WORRIED OR CONCERNED ABOUT PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE AT THIS TIME THEN PLEASE DO APPROACH ME OR THE SCHOOL OFFICE IN CONFIDENCE, WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN.**

## Mrs Morgan

It is great news to be able to tell you that Mrs Morgan is returning to work this week. Mrs Morgan will be returning gradually over the next few weeks. We are grateful to have her back and we hope for a continued return to good health in what lies ahead for her. Mrs Morgan is thankful again for the good wishes and prayers of so many over the past year.

## Alton Castle

It is lovely to hear what a great time our Year 6 had on their 3 day residential at Alton Castle. The children were amazing throughout the trip and really impressed the Alton Castle team, with their great attitude and teamwork. They really did epitomise the attributes of being young disciples and were a credit to the school.

Thank you to Mr Folwer, Miss Cunningham, Mrs Devenney, Miss Shackles and Mr Taggart for being so giving in their own time, to allow this opportunity to happen. They get no additional pay for this. Without their selflessness in giving 2 full evenings and nights away from their own families this experience would not happen.

## Catholic Virtues

This term children and staff at St. Gabriel's are growing to be **GRATEFUL** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **GENEROUS** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others

## First Confession

Congratulations to Jasmine, Thomas, Orla, Lola and Poppy-Mae who all made their Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. John's last night.

## 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.

## 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 verges 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 continue to follow this up. We again ask you take this advice and requests on board.

Thank you.

## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Maksymilian
RJC	Austin
1KG	Kaia
1NH	Sebastian
2JH	Edward N
2NT	Jenson
3CC	Rosie
3LH	Jacob
4HA	J'Ron
4HB	Isabella
5AC	Seb
5SG	Ruby
6BF	Josh
6ST	Veronica



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

### **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.*

### **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.

### **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

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.



*Do you know of any families who have moved into Tamworth? We currently have a small number of spaces in some other year groups.*

*If a family you know is interested please ask them to contact the school office in the first instance. Thank you*

### **Message from Mrs Birtwistle**

I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the parents/grandparents for all their good wishes, cards and presents. I was really overwhelmed.

### **Message from the kitchen**

Please now refer to the attached Chartwells Spring/Summer Primary Menu for the daily lunch choices. This menu runs until the end of this academic year.

Thank you

## 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

## SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT ADVICE

### UPDATED FROM 1ST APRIL 2022 ONWARDS

- Staff or pupils who are unwell, particularly with a fever or high temperature, **SHOULD STAY OFF SCHOOL** until they are feeling well and temperature has returned to normal.
- It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for Covid unless directed to by a health professional.
- Pupils who do test positive, after following direction to take a test by the NHS or GP, **SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR 3 DAYS** (This is the day of the test plus 3 clear days). After the 3 days they should continue to stay off/away until they are feeling well and temperature is back to normal.
- Adults who test positive **SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR 5 DAYS** ((This is the day of the test plus 5 clear days). After the 5 days they should continue to stay off/away until they are feeling well and temperature is back to normal.

## IMPORTANT

**IF YOU TAKE A CHILD FOR A PCR TEST, FOLLOWING DIRECTION FROM NHS OR YOUR GP, 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
- 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

### Dates for your Diary

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 - <b>Y6 pupils must be in school each morning</b>
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
W/c Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 Phonics Screenings Y4 Multiplication tables check
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET DAY 5 - School closed to pupils

Jesus said "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." Alleluia!

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher