

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

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9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Volume 13 Number 1

Dear Parents

Welcome back to all of our children and families.

Particular welcome to the children in Reception and to our new families who have joined us through the school.

## **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.

## **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 requirement.

### 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.

### Year 5 Mrs Hunt Squires

We welcome Mrs Hunt Squires to teach year 5.

Unfortunately, Mrs Nicholson, who was due to commence work in year 5 had to step away from the position because of a serious change in circumstances.

The governing board are delighted, that at very short notice, early in the holiday period, we have been able to secure the services of Mrs Hunt Squires for the year.

### Mass

Year 6 will lead a Mass, in person for years 5 and 6, tomorrow morning Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

We are following current advice and NOT ALLOWING parents and carers to attend events inside school, in groups, at present.

We will continue to keep checking advice, and reviewing procedures, hopefully allowing a return to wider attendance in school in due course.

### Season of Creation 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020



## **SEASON OF CREATION**

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. September 1<sup>st</sup> marked the start of the celebration which will run until 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi - the patron saint of ecology.

During the Season of Creation we are encouraged to pray with and for the natural world in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share.

Pope Francis is encouraging us all to look after our environment by becoming greener and more environmentally friendly in our daily choices and actions. In school, pupils will be taking part in activities and prayer to help them understand the vital role we all play in being more attentive to our environment and all those who we share it with.

As part of our celebration of the Season of Creation this year we are taking part in One Life's Open for Creation virtual retreat sessions. Open for Creation is a virtual 'burst of liturgy' each day delivered by Dan and Emily from One Life Music reflecting on the key messages of the Season of Creation.

Attached to this email is a copy of a prayer written by Pope Francis - A Prayer for Our Earth - which you might want to use at home during the Season of Creation.

### **Website**

Mr James, our ICT Technician, has been busy over the summer sourcing a new host for our website. Our new website is now live, with updated information gradually being added.

### **Mrs Louise Morgan**

I have spoken to Mrs Morgan this week. It has been a long, tough summer of treatment for her. She is continuing to have various treatments, including chemotherapy.

The prognosis is now positive going forward.

Mrs Morgan particularly asked me to thank parents for their thoughts and prayers, which have lifted her.

Please keep Mrs Morgan in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Resilience/Independence**

Do encourage your child to organise themselves properly each morning. Encourage them to carry their own bag and belongings. Talk to them about organising their belongings, so they are not misplaced. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Attendance**

The attendance of our children at school has received a massive blow due to the pandemic. It has always been parents/carers legal duty to get children into school regularly, this is even more vital now due to the disruption to the children's learning. For this reason, it is so important that your child is in school for every educational hour possible.

I would ask that any routine appointments are made out of school hours and that you consider very carefully any absence from school. We don't want the education of our children to suffer any more than it has done already.

Our expectations for attendance are as per our published Attendance Policy which you can find [here](#) , we would encourage you to read and understand this. Thank you.

## Asthma

We are currently in the process of reviewing the way that we manage asthma within school, this is being done in conjunction with Asthma UK specialist nurses. Over the next week, any child who is on the Asthma Register will be receiving a letter to outline these changes.

Can I just remind you that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that we have an in date inhaler in school at all times and that spacers are taken home regularly to be washed. Thank you.

## Reading

Mrs Hughes writes to remind us that as parents/carers, you play a vital role in developing our children as readers. It is essential that children have regular practice of reading at home in order to become fluent, confident readers.

This year we will be providing our early readers (children who are reading books from our reading scheme) with two books to bring home each week:

A **Reading Practice book**, matched to your child's phonic stage, that they can read to you to improve their reading fluency.

A **Sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer. This will be chosen by your child from their classroom library in order to foster their love of reading.

This will be an age appropriate book but will not necessarily be a text that your child is capable of reading independently, the idea being that you will share it together.

Those children who are **free readers** will not bring home an additional book as they are already reading books which they have chosen themselves.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 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. Thank you.

## Key Dates

Please find attached a list of key dates for the academic year ahead.

### **Message from the kitchen**

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September will be:

Monday: Pizza, Doughballs and Veg

Tuesday: Garlic Chicken, Spanish Potatoes and Sweetcorn

Wednesday: Roast Pork Dinner

Thursday: Beef Meatballs in Tomato Sauce, Pasta, Broccoli and Sweetcorn

Friday: Fish Fingers and Chips

### **Dates for your Diary**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 School finishes for half term 3.20pm

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 INSET DAY 2

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 School re opens

Jesus, our source of power and inspiration.

Give us strength, joy and hope.

Help us to serve you, as followers of Christ,  
in simple acts of kindness we do for others each day.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes

Headteacher