

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - Mr Fowler writes

Well done to all the children for working so hard and engaging so well with assemblies and activities on Tuesday, which centred on being safe online and how to be respectful whilst playing games. Children in year one, in Mrs Hughes class, were very enthusiastic and could talk about how they could be safe and choose an appropriate password that is made up of three random things. Josh and Martyna from year 4 said "we learnt a lot and remembered to keep passwords safe and only play games with people you know and always ask your parents' permission". Do try and make time with your child this week and talk about what they have learnt. Remember, Safer Internet Day should be every day and we need to be the positive role models for our children when using online devices.

With thanks to Mr Fowler for arranging.

## Parent Consultations - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Please check in with your child today. They should all have a slip confirming the time of their appointment for next week.

*Please follow Covid guidance and make sure you take a Lateral Flow Test before attending. We encourage the wearing of a face mask inside, if you can. No one with any of the 3 main Covid symptoms should attend.* 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

## **Children's Mental Health Week**

This week (7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> February) is Children's Mental Health Week.

Children's Mental Health Week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to focus on the importance of looking after our emotional well - being from an early age. This year's theme is 'Growing Together.'

In school children have watched an online Growing Together assembly, taking part in activities to help them support their mental health and reflected on why - and how - it is important to look after our emotional well - being.

If you would like to find out more about Children's Mental Health Week please visit

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

## **World Book Day**

When we return after the half term break (WB:28.02.2022), children in all year groups will be reading **The Tear Thief** by Carol Ann Duffy.

On the Thursday of this week (03.03.2022) we will be celebrating World Book Day. As part of our celebration of reading, and to link to our whole school text, we would like the children to dress in a colour to match the tear colour of their choice from the following:



## **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 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

## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Bruno
RJC	Ava
1KG	Kaiden
1NH	Robbie
2JH	Willow
2NT	Blossom
3CC	Charlie
3LH	Jasmine
4HA	Zuzanna
4HB	Scott
5AC	Matthew
5SG	Callum
6BF	Mason
6ST	Ava



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

## Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February will be:

Monday: Cheese Pizza and Rainbow Pasta  
Tuesday: Chicken Burger, Potato Wedges and Peas  
Wednesday: Roast Dinner  
Thursday: All Day Breakfast  
Friday: Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> January

Well done to classes 1NH and  
3CC for achieving 100%

### Dates for your Diary

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

Dear Lord,

Last week you reminded us in the Gospel, that we are called to "put out into the deep".

You call us to travel the seas of life, stormy though they may be at times, believing that the Lord is with us in all we do.

Putting our Faith in action, through simple acts of Faith, hope and charity is something we will try to do.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

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

John P Hayes

Headteacher