

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Mrs Minton

St. Gabriel's had its very own Christmas arrival.

On Thursday 30th December 2021 Mrs Minton delivered a beautiful baby girl, Connie, weighing 8lb 4oz. I'm sure you will all join us in sending prayers and good wishes to Mrs Minton and her family as they share the very precious first few weeks of their new baby's life.

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.

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

[New isolation guidance for schools](#)

Since the last update, the guidance regarding isolation and testing has changed. Now, pupils can return to school on day 7, provided they have had two negative lateral flow tests on day 6 and 7, and these tests have been carried out 24 hours apart.



SCHOOL
MEMBER

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

Testing

Please continue with regular Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) twice a week wherever possible, although we understand nationally there are ongoing issues with the supply of LFTs.

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. **THIS IS WHERE THERE ARE NO SYMPTOMS.**

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

PCR Tests

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.

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

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 are already 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

Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2022

The application system opened on 1st November 2021 for September 2022 Reception places. If you/a family member/friend have a child of school age in September 2022, please make sure applications are submitted. The easiest way to apply is online and a link to the online system has been available from 1st November 2021.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022. Please make sure submissions are made for the limited number of places.

You cannot be allocated a space unless you have applied, this includes brothers and sisters of children ALREADY here at St. Gabriel's AND children who attend St. Gabriel's Pre School. It is important that you select St. Gabriel's as your 1ST CHOICE.

Polite Reminder to Parents/Carers from the School Age Immunisation Team

We shall be visiting school on Thursday 27th January to deliver the Nasal Flu spray programme to all children in Reception to Year 6 (inclusive)

Thank you to those who have returned a completed consent form. All consents from the previous planned session will be transferred accordingly.

If you have not already done so, please complete the consent form and return to school as soon as possible via this link <https://forms.mpft.nhs.uk/> School code: **SS124373**

Ten:Ten Parental Newsletter

The January edition of the Ten:Ten parental newsletter is now available on our school website (https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/the_tenten_monthly_parental_newsletter_/568126).

This month Ten:Ten are thinking about New Year Resolutions and sharing some exciting information about their Year of Pilgrimage!

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Harlow
RJC	Jacob
1KG	Evie
1NH	Eliza
2JH	Eva
2NT	Georgia
3CC	Erin
3LH	Oscar
4HA	Kathleen
4HB	Oliver
5AC	Chloe
5SG	Connor
6BF	Maja
6ST	Owen



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

Big Garden Birdwatch 2022



During the weekend of 28th - 30th January 2022 the RSPB will be holding their annual Big Garden Birdwatch - and you can take part! All you need to do is to spend an hour counting the birds you see in your garden and then tell the RSPB what you have seen. Taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch helps the RSPB to build up a national picture of our garden bird population. It is open to experienced twitchers and absolute beginners! If you would like to sign up please visit

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 17th January will be:

Monday:	Pizza, Garlic Doughballs and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Garlic Chicken, Diced Potatoes, Broccoli and Peas
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Sausage, Mash, Peas and Gravy
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas

Thursday 20th January - School Census Day

Please note that Thursday 20th January is school Census Day.

The Universal Infant Free School Meal Grant to schools is based on school dinner uptake on that day.

With this in mind, please encourage your child to have a school dinner on Thursday 20th January, especially if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

The kitchen will be serving Sausage, mash, peas and gravy on Census Day. Thank you.



Week commencing 4th January

A big well done to class 3LH, they achieved 100% attendance last week.



Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission are re-visiting Staffordshire to review our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services between 18 – 20 January 2022.

The visit follows on from a 'Local Area Review' that took place in November 2018 which highlighted some strengths as well as some areas that needed improvement.

The main concern was that different parts of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities system (including education, health and care) did not work together or with families well enough.

In response to this, we worked together, with our partners to develop a [Written Statement of Action](#) to drive the improvements we all wanted to see. The re-visit will evaluate how effectively we have made these changes.

Share your thoughts

The [enclosed letter from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission](#) asks all parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities to give their thoughts on the SEND services in Staffordshire.

Complete the Survey

You can give your feedback by [completing this survey](#). The survey will close on Monday 17 January 2022.

Join the open discussions

You can also give your feedback at an open discussion with the Inspectors. The discussions will be held online on Wednesday 19 January 2022. You can choose between two time slots:

- 11:00 – 12:00. - [Click here to join the meeting.](#)
- 18:15 – 19:15 – [Click here to join the meeting.](#)

All information about the SEND Local Area Review re-visit can be found at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/SENDLAR

Mrs Morgan updates us

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all of your prayers and thoughts over the time that I have off school. I have really missed being at St Gabriel's- I've missed teaching the pupils so much, their smiling faces and the general buzz of school life.

I am very grateful to Mr Hayes and the staff for their support and prayers- Mr Hayes rings me every week to see how I am. I couldn't work in a nicer school where everyone looks after each other and cares.

It's been a long journey and I'm nearing the end of it all now. It's also been really tough- chemotherapy was brutal and I've had surgery but I've had excellent pathology results and I'm doing well. I have radiotherapy to go now, starting next week and hope to be back at St Gabriel's soon. I keep on asking my oncologist when I can go back to school!

I have been blessed though as I've been looked after well by my family and my faith has kept me strong.

Thank you all for your best wishes, I really appreciate all of your kind words, prayers and thoughts.

See you soon,

Mrs Morgan

Dates for your Diary

Sat 15 th January	Closing date for Reception 2022 admissions
Thurs 27 th January	Nasal Flu Spray Programme Reception to Year 6 inclusive
Fri 28 th January	INSET DAY 3 - School closed to pupils
Fri 18 th February	School closes for half term
Mon 28 th February	School re opens to pupils and staff

Last weekend was the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own baptism - the moment when our own Christian life and journey of discipleship began.

We are also invited to think about how we use the gifts we have.

A moment of reflection enables us to move forward with a resolve to follow Christ more closely, to serve him and use our gifts and time well. To act in kind ways for others who we might come across each day.

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes
Headteacher