

# **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 NOW OR OVER EASTER THEN PLEASE DO APPROACH ME OR THE SCHOOL OFFICE IN CONFIDENCE, WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN.**

## **This term**

Well, what a busy term this has been.

The last month has seen a real surge in Covid cases and disruption to our staffing levels has, at times, been major over the past number of weeks.

On your behalf, I want to thank so many staff who have been so flexible in so many ways, working different hours, days and taking on rolls to help fill in for absent colleagues.

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

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

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. Respectfully, given the pressure of space I do ask that a maximum of 2 individuals per family attend. And... please remember Covid numbers at the moment - DO NOT COME INTO SCHOOL if you have symptoms, particularly a high temperature or continuous cough. Thank you.

**COVID CASES ARE CONTINUING TO SURGE 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.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER

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

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

### 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

After Easter 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

This half term's virtues certificates for being intentional and prophetic go to: RC Zach, RK Ignacy, 1NH Jacob, 1KG Freya, 2NT Harper, 2JH Jack, 3CC Poppy, 3LH Oscar W, 4HB Joshua, 4HA Nikola, 5AC Caleb, 5SH Faith, 6BF Holly, 6ST Nikola.

### 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.

### Easter Services

Maundy Thursday: 14th April - 7.30pm at St John's

Good Friday: 15th April 3.00pm at St John's and Sacred Heart

Easter Vigil Saturday: 16th April 8.00pm at Sacred Heart

No 6.00 pm Mass at St John's on Saturday 16th due to vigil

Easter Sunday Masses at usual times: 9.00 am at Sacred Heart, 10.30 am at St John's and 12.00 noon at Sacred Heart

### Diocesan Vocations Art Competition

The Diocesan Vocations Office provided a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to continue to explore Vocation and win prizes for themselves and our school through an art competition. This year, their theme was 'The Walk to Emmaus'. Many of you entered the competition and there were so many excellent entries! Thank you all for your hard work and effort to show case your God-given talents! Congratulations to: Eli B (1KG), George L (2JH) and Anton (5AC) whose artwork will be sent to the Birmingham Vocations Office to be judged by Archbishop Bernard, Sr. Miriam and Fr. Tomáš. Good luck!

## **Vocation Week**

22nd March - 25th March 2022

The children and staff of St. Gabriel's celebrated a wonderful and inspiring week of vocations. We began the week together in an assembly thinking about the vocation of St Gabriel. The beautiful theme for our week focused on The Annunciation and Mary's "Yes" to God's plan for her.

Following this, each year group had visits from Birmingham Vocations Officer, Deacon Owen, who delivered an inspiring workshop to Y6 and also visited each year group with Franciscan Sisters, Miriam and Michala, who talked about their own calling and taught us a song linked to vocation.

Brother Edmar, Mrs McKay, Mrs Brown and the class teachers also discussed how God has called them in different ways to live out their special vocations. Mrs McKay brought the car ambulance to school and Mrs Brown brought in her pet therapy dog, Bodhi for us to meet. Over the week, we learnt that God calls each one of us, here and now, on our vocational journey and that there are three parts: the call to holiness, the call to a way of life and the call to work.

On Friday 25th March, the children of St. Gabriel's came together to share all their learning during a special prayer service. It was very humbling to hear how much the children had learnt and enjoyed as well as having a much deeper understanding of the person God is calling them to be. The children have been able to come away from the vocation's experiences with the opportunity to really evaluate their purpose in life and think about their own future.

## **Netball**

Some of our Year 5 netballers had the opportunity to take part in a tournament last Thursday at Rawlett. They were Misha (captain), Faith, Izzy, Inez, Amelia, Daisy, Lola and Lucy.

Faith and Inez say: 'We had an amazing time. We were against year 6 and we won 1 game. Even though we only won one game we are really proud because it was our first tournament and was tricky. We worked as a team, did well and had a lot of fun.' Miss Cunningham says: 'I am extremely proud of the team; they gave the other schools a real challenge.'

Thank you for the efforts of all the netballers that come to practice on a Thursday morning. We will be planning a mini tournament in school next term for the whole of our netball club.

## **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.***

## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| RHK | Roza and Mia        |
| RJC | Autumn F and Ava    |
| 1KG | Abi and Maja        |
| 1NH | Samuel and Weronica |
| 2JH | Kobie and Maya      |
| 2NT | Niamh and Eloise    |
| 3CC | Lola and Poppy      |
| 3LH | Leo and Layla       |
| 4HA | Ava and Krystal     |
| 4HB | Freddie and Harry   |
| 5AC | Harry and Seb       |
| 5SG | Olivia and Oliver   |
| 6BF | Lilly and Georgie   |
| 6ST | Alfie and Maisey    |



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

## 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.

## 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.



*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*



### **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 25<sup>th</sup> April will be:

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Monday:    | Cheese and Tomato Pizza |
| Tuesday:   | Sticky Noodles          |
| Wednesday: | Roast Turkey            |
| Thursday:  | Cottage Pie             |
| Friday:    | Fish Fingers and Chips  |

### Dates for your Diary

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> April     | Whole school Mass 9.15am<br>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<br>10.00am Miss Caswell's class<br>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                               |

May you find peace, hope, love and joy in the story of our Lord Jesus Christ, this Easter.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher