

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

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Dear Parents

**IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER TAKE A TEST AS A RESULT OF COVID SYMPTOMS, WHICH ARE:**

- A HIGH TEMPERATURE (FEVER) - HOT TO TOUCH
- A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH
- A CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

**YOU MUST SELF-ISOLATE AND STAY AT HOME, AS A HOUSEHOLD, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR RESULTS.**

**PLEASE NOTIFY SCHOOL (USING THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW) OF YOUR RESULTS, EITHER WAY, TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF OTHERS IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY. [confirmedcovidcase@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:confirmedcovidcase@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)**

KEY INFECTION AND PREVENTION CONTROLS REMAIN IN PLACE as published in the "daily plan". By following these measures we all reduce risks in our setting and create a safer environment.

We MUST always:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
3. Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
5. Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents.
6. Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
7. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
8. Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
9. Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available.
10. Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
11. Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
12. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

## **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – National Day of Reflection and Prayer for Covid 19**

To mark the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March will see a national day of reflection. Children will observe a period of silence, as the nation stops at midday. You are asked to take part in the door step vigil at 8.00pm. Please speak to your child about this. Thank you.

### **Open – Lent Daily Liturgy from One Life Music**

Following the success of OPEN – Advent daily liturgy, Dan and Emily, from One Life Music, are back with OPEN – Lent which provides an opportunity in Lent for a few short minutes of prayer and unity as a school community, coming together in faith, in the classroom or from the home.

Open – Lent takes the form of a daily five minute video full of prayer, reflection and music. We have been and will continue to share the videos with the children in school.

### **Cafod Children's Liturgy**

Cafod continue to share a live Children's Liturgy each Sunday at 10am. The Liturgy can be watched live or as a recording later on. The sessions are a great way to engage with the Sunday Gospel and feature songs, prayer, readings and quizzes! You can find out more and sign up to take part at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

### **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 or grass verges 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.

Local Community Wardens and PCSO's continue to operate locally and will issue tickets where appropriate. Thank you.

### **Walking Bus from Morrisons**

WOULD YOU COMMIT TO BRINGING YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO SCHOOL FROM A DESIGNATED SPACE AT THE LOCAL MORRISONS?

The meet up, route and process would all be risk assessed and checked by Staffordshire County Council.

With summer, and hopefully better weather arriving it would be a great start and end to the day and a chance to stretch your legs.

It would obviously mean reducing the number of vehicles around the school.

If you are interested in taking part would you please e-mail to say you would use it?

If you were interested in volunteering to help out with running the scheme, with assistance from the County Council, then please make that clear in your email.

With thanks to Mrs Fleurat, for her initial suggestion and support with this idea.

### **Parents/Carers Mask Wearing**

Thank you to all those parents and carers who continue to wear a mask when coming on to the school grounds. This is to protect yourselves and to protect others. Thank you.

### **Message from the Kitchen**

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 is as follows:

<b>Monday:</b>	Pizza	<b>Tuesday:</b>	Hot Dog with Potato Wedges
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Meatballs with Rice		
<b>Thursday:</b>	Roast Dinner	<b>Friday:</b>	Fish Fingers and Chips

### **School Dinners – PRICE CHANGE from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

Please note that the cost of the school dinners will be reducing to £2.34 per day from 1<sup>st</sup> April, ParentPay will be adjusted to reflect this. Thank you

### **Operation Encompass**

Operation Encompass is an information sharing partnership between Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent educational settings (from Reception through to Higher Education) which allows schools to offer immediate support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

The letter sent previously has further details and information about this new cross - partnership initiative.

### **Staffing**

Please be aware that the new government guidelines mean some staff are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. On-going self-isolation for staff due to their own need or needs of family members means there is a reality of us not having a full work force. We are therefore running with less than a full staff team at this time, this week 6 members of staff have been unable to attend work.

**The start of Lateral Flow Testing for staff in primary schools means there is also the chance, at short notice, of disruption to planned lessons or the need for bubble closures.**

**PLEASE DO HAVE A PLAN B IN PLACE FOR CARE OF YOUR CHILD IF CLASSES HAVE TO CLOSE AT SHORT NOTICE!**

We appreciate your understanding of this matter. Thank you.

### **Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist**

You have a vibrant and active Catholic parish in Tamworth. If you are not aware please explore it at their website at [www.tamworthrc.church](http://www.tamworthrc.church)

Please find below links from the parish for the booking of Mass, the weekly bulletin, the livestreamed Mass and Children Liturgy.

- Please book your attendance at masses through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-john-the-baptist-catholic-church-tamworth-30528677234>
- The bulletin can be found here: <https://parish.tamworthrc.church/>
- Our link for the livestreamed Mass and Children's liturgy can be found on the You Tube channel here <http://www.youtube.com/c/StJohntheBaptistTamworth>

### **Attention all year 5 and 6 choir children! Message from Alex Parker at church**

Dear year 5 and 6 children who like to sing,

If any of you would be interested in being on a virtual choir recording of 10000 Reasons that your parish is recording for Easter, please contact Alex Parker on this email address: [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) **Alex will then send you details of how to record yourself.**

Please email by this Friday (19th) if you would like to take part.

Your voice will be added to all the others we get so that it will sound like a choir, not soloists. The recording will be used at all Masses on Easter Sunday.

### **Help and Support**

Any parent finding themselves struggling or in great difficulty with housing or finance, please approach us, in confidence. We may not have the answers but we may be able to signpost or help.

If you do not approach us, we cannot help, so please be assured of confidentiality in approaching us! We have been able to support a number of families previously and are ready to continue to try to do so.

### **Tamworth Telephone Support Line - Community Together CIC**

This is just a reminder to let you know that Community Together CIC are continuing to provide support. **Tamworth Telephone Support Line 01827 59646**

The support line is there for anyone and can connect people and give people access to a wide range of support including -

- Access to Food
- People struggling for medication pick ups
- Befriending / Check in calls
- Activity Packs
- Unemployment support
- Debt/Finance/Benefits
- Support with Home
- Energy

### **The Heart of Tamworth Community Shop as seen at [www.tamworthrc.church](http://www.tamworthrc.church)**

Visit the new HOT COMMUNITY SHOP based at sacred heart church for your shopping. They are there to give a helping hand to those who need it.

**1 bag of shopping = £4**

**2 bags of shopping = £7**

A selection of fruit and veg available free when you buy your bag.

Opening times: Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm,

Sunday - closed

Thank you to all those who continue to donate food and hygiene items.

### **Tamworth Hygiene Bank**

Tamworth Hygiene Bank is a charity that offers support to families that find themselves unable to afford everyday hygiene products e.g. sanitary products, deodorants and shampoos etc. They achieve this by putting together bespoke packages for whole families or individuals. This is facilitated by working alongside schools and other organisations without the need for them to know any details other than how many people are in a family and their ages. They are completely funded by donated products and currently have drop off points at the Sacred Heart Church and Boots at Ventura. We now have a donation box in the school's main entrance, should you find yourself in a position to be able to donate hygiene products.

The charity have provided school with an assorted box of hygiene products that are available for anyone that might need them. Should you wish to access this service or if we can help out with something from the assorted box, please give Mrs McKay a call. The charity also have a Facebook page; Hygiene Bank Tamworth should you wish to find out more or to message them directly.

### **Citizens Advice Mid Mercia - EU Settlement Scheme**

Citizen's Advice Mid Mercia are working alongside the Government in order to reach out to all of the families in Tamworth and East Staffordshire to support them with their EU Settled Status. The Government has recognised that not all families are aware that they need to ensure they have been granted settled or pre-settled status by the end of June 2021.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	School closes for Easter
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	School reopens to staff and pupils

Prayer to St. Joseph (Feast Day tomorrow, 19<sup>th</sup> March)

Dear St. Joseph,

To you God committed the care of his only Son, Jesus.

As your adopted children, guard us, guide us and protect us until we are united as one family in the fullness of God's presence.

Amen

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes  
Headteacher