

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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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.

Parent Consultations - Tuesday 15th February and Thursday 17th February

Thank you to so many of you who made the effort to attend this opportunity. It was great to see you.

It was wonderful to be able to share the children's work with you.

On behalf of the governing board - thank you for the completed questionnaires and for so many positive comments in writing.

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.



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/>

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:



Please see the attached World Book Day newsletter to find out more about how we will be celebrating on the 3rd March.



February Half Term Reading Challenge!

This half term holiday we want to challenge the children to be Reading Superstars again!

Making time to read each day is extremely important. Reading for even just 10 minutes a day can help children to get even better as readers and can help their emotional well-being! It's also lots of fun! Over this half term holiday we are challenging the children to set themselves a reading target for each day. It could be 10 minutes a day or they could challenge themselves to aim for longer!

Attached to the newsletter email is a Reading Challenge sheet for the children to complete over the holiday - bring it back after the break to receive a Reading Challenge certificate!

Name: _____ Class: _____

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Each day you hit your reading target colour in one of the boxes below.

Once you have completed your sheet bring it back into school and you will receive a new Reading Challenge certificate!

Will you be a Reading Super Star?

My Reading Target is: _____ minutes each day.

Day One Day Two Day Three Day Four Day Five

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

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 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

St Gabriel's Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter - @GabrielsPrimary

We will be trialling our new Twitter account with our Reception classes very shortly.

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 find this useful.

Please be aware - this account will only be used to send out information, please do not use this as a means of direct contact. Thank you.

Jewellery

The only jewellery to be worn by pupils is a watch and one stud earring in each ear. No other will be permitted. On days when children are taking part in PE, earrings must not be worn. If a child cannot remove earrings for PE, the earrings will be covered by adhesive plasters to prevent them catching on equipment etc.

Governors Fund

Thank you to the families who have already made payments to the Governors Fund this year. The governors suggest a voluntary contribution of £50 per year, per family. This can be paid in instalments as you wish via ParentPay.

Your children attend a good school and your funds will directly impact on our ability to ensure continued success and allow the governors to attend to urgent matters of upkeep. It would be timely to thank those parents who already contribute various amounts regularly - thank you so much for your loyal support, month in, month out, year in, year out.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Autumn
RJC	Nina
1KG	Teddy
1NH	Bella
2JH	Harper
2NT	Cian M
3CC	Jacob
3LH	Marilyn
4HA	Eva
4HB	Tia
5AC	Amelia
5SG	Daisy May
6BF	Isobel
6ST	Aden



Well Done Readers of the Week!

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 28th February will be:

- Monday: Pizza and Rainbow Pasta
Tuesday: Sausage, Mash and Peas. American Pancakes.
Wednesday: Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna
Thursday: Roast Dinner
Friday: Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 7th February

Well done to class RK for achieving 100% attendance

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 17 th February	Parent Consultations 3.45pm-7.00pm (please see separate letter)
Fri 18 th February	School closes for half term
Mon 28 th February	School re opens to pupils and staff
Tues 1 st March	Y6 Athletics Team at Regional Finals Stoke on Trent 8.10am-2.45pm
Weds 2 nd March	Ash Wednesday - start of the Season of Lent
Mon 14 th March	School Nursing Team NHS - Reception and Y6 heights and weights
Weds 16 th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church 6pm
Mon 21 st March	INSET DAY 4 - School closed to pupils
Tues 22 nd March to	
Fri 25 th March	Vocations Week
Thurs 7 th April	Tempest Photography - Vista Group Photographs Reception & Y6
Fri 8 th April	School closes for End of Term
Mon 25 th April	School reopens to staff and pupils
Mon 2 nd May	MAY DAY - School closed
Weds 4 th May	Y3 First Holy Communion Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Mon 9 th May to	
Thurs 12 th May	KS2 SATS - Y6 pupils must be in school each morning
Sat 21 st May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Mrs Holmes' class
Tues 24 th May	Y6 Confirmation Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Fri 27 th May	School closes for half term
Mon 6 th June	School reopens to staff and pupils
Fri 10 th June	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos

The Lord is my Shepherd
There is nothing I shall want
Near restful waters he leads me
To revive my drooping Spirit
Amen

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher