

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Sacrament of First Holy Communion - Saturday 15th May 2021

Following last weeks beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we look forward to the First Holy Communions on Saturday 15th May.

Please do everything to create a prayerful atmosphere in the Sacred Heart Church.

10am Miss Caswell's class bubble

12noon Mrs Holmes' class bubble

Please refer to e-mail sent to all parents on Friday 26th March 2021.

Note - these events will be Covid secure with one household bubble only allowed to attend with each child to a maximum of 6. Parish wardens will complete a register of attendance as you enter. Hands to be sanitised and masks worn for the safety of all. Thank you.

Don't Give Up Now

Staffordshire County Council have launched a "Don't Give Up Now" campaign. We are all asked to keep following the guidelines, get tested twice a week and to book a vaccination when we're offered one.

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

Thank you to all these parents who have continued to inform and communicate with us via this e-mail.



SCHOOL
MEMBER

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

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.

Making a difference at home

Lots of reports this week in the media, of the damage caused by the lockdowns to children's development, particularly to early reading.

NEVER UNDER ESTIMATE THE HUGE DIFFERENCE you can make as a parent by taking an interest **WITH YOUR CHILD** in their learning. The simplest ways of making a difference do not change. Little and often, when you can – 10 to 15 minutes.

Talk to your child about their day. Having a conversation and encouraging to speak clearly, slowly and pronouncing words clearly is important. Explore new words and vocabulary.

Read with them. Unpick their understanding of words read. Use who, what, why questions to explore their language.

Experiences like walking to the park, to the shops.in the garden or cooking. Talk about these events to build up their language use.

Make eye contact and encourage your children to do so. Put key words, vocabulary up around the house, in the kitchen as a reminder to practice.

Return to key facts or language and get the child to show you what they know – and if they can then praise them.

A child has a much greater chance of developing a love of learning, with regular interest from you. A child's life chances are greatly increased by developing basic reading and maths skills as soon as they can, as fully as they can. Thank you.

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.

DEFERRED INSET DAY

The school cancelled the Inset day which was to be taken on 29th January 2021 in order to stay open for key worker and vulnerable children.

In line with government guidance, I have consulted with the chair of governors and have identified when this day will now be taken.

This teacher training day will now be taken on **Wednesday 21st July 2021**. The final day for pupils will therefore be Tuesday 20th July 2021.

Collection at end of day

All parents and carers are reminded - wait patiently as children are dismissed. We can only send one child at a time, while the teacher records the adult collecting.

Please be clear that this is to satisfy safeguarding requirements and to ensure ALL children go home safely. Thank you

Mental Health Awareness Week / Month



May is Mental Health Awareness Month and this week (10th – 17th May) is Mental Health Awareness Week. Mental Health Awareness Week / Month is being co-ordinated by the Mental Health Foundation

(<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>).

This year the week / month has been given the theme of 'Nature.'

The Mental Health Foundation have created resource packs for children and their families which contain lots of brilliant ideas for different ways to engage with nature and to look after your own mental and emotional well - being. Copies of these packs are attached to the newsletter email this week.

We have been using some of the Mental Health Foundation's resources in school this week as part of our ongoing work to support our community's mental and emotional health and we have found them to be really useful and fun!

Research suggests that engaging with nature - even for very short periods of time - can help reduce levels of stress and anxiety - it doesn't need to be anything complicated - watching a short nature clip, talking about the wildlife you have seen in your garden / park, going on a 'nature walk' around your local area, for example, will all have a great benefit.

The Big Ask - Get your child's voice heard and make a difference



The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched a once-in-a-generation review of children's lives.

It's called 'The Childhood Commission' and it will identify the barriers preventing children reaching their full potential and propose policy solutions to address them.

At its heart is 'The Big Ask' - the largest ever consultation held with children.

In this survey the Children's Commissioner is asking children what they think is important for their future and what is holding them back. The Children's Commissioner will use the results to show the Government what children think and what they need to live happier lives.

Taking part in the survey is optional and children do not need to answer the questions if they don't want to.

Children in Years 2 - 6 can complete the survey via

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

For younger children in years R and 1 (aged 4-5) there is [a survey which they can complete with their parent](#).

It's an exciting opportunity to help us think big and it's a chance for every child in England to have their voice heard.

[Find out more and take part](#)

May is the Month of Mary - Mrs Townsley advises

May is a very special month for the Church as we remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all. The month has traditionally become a time to focus on the Rosary and Marian devotions. A full month is given over to Mary and during this month we are asked to think about Mary, say special prayers, have May altars, and sing hymns to Mary to tell her how much we love her and to ask her to help us stay close to her son Jesus and to try to live as Jesus shows us.

Here are some ideas of how we can honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in a special way and allow her to conquer our hearts:

- Learn the Hail Mary prayer in different languages
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/series/full-of-grace/>
- Write your own prayers of devotion to Mary.
- Create your own May altar at home.
- Draw a picture of Mary and place it in your window.
- Have a family May procession in your garden.
- Say the Rosary together as a family.
- Make your own Rosary beads or create an outdoor Rosary with nature.
- Look at stories of Mary in the Bible. Choose your favourite one and retell it in words and pictures.
- In many countries, there are special places where people visit to pray to Mary. Find out about: Our Lady of Knock, Ireland, Our Lady of Lourdes, France, or Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal.

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! Find out more and sign up to take part [CAFOD](#)

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.

Dogs on the school grounds

A reminder please that dogs must not be brought beyond the school gates and onto school premises. Dogs are banned from all school grounds because of the danger of toxocarasis in dog waste. This is in line with County Council guidelines.

Please respect this request at all times. Thank you.

Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter

The Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter for May is now available via our school website

[The Ten:Ten Monthly Parental Newsletter | St. Gabriel's Catholic Primary School \(st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk\)](https://st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)

The newsletter has prayers, ideas and resources linked to the Collective Worship sessions the children will be celebrating this month.

FREE Early Child Development Courses

Please find attached details of 2 early child development courses which are being provided by Staffordshire County Council. These online adult learning courses are being provided free of charge for parents/carers in Staffordshire. Both courses start on 7th June 2021 and run for 6 weeks.

- Your Play - Ready Baby aimed at parents/carers of children aged 0-3 years
- Your School - Ready Child aimed at parents/carers of children aged 3-7 years

Message from the Kitchen

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 17th May 2021 is as follows:

Monday:	Pizza and Rainbow Pasta
Tuesday:	Hot Dog with Potato Wedges
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Taste of America Theme Day - see attached poster
Friday:	Fish Fingers and Chips

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.

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

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>

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
- Energy
- Activity Packs
- Unemployment support
- Debt/Finance/Benefits
- Support with Home

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.

The Heart of Tamworth Community Shop as seen at www.tamworthrc.church

Visit the 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 is 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.

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.

Today is the Feast Day of the Ascension of Our Lord.

"Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there"

Dates for your Diary

Sat 15th May 2021 Sacrament of First Holy Communion
Sacred Heart Church
10.00am Miss Caswell's class bubble
12 noon Mrs Holmes' class bubble

Fri 18th June 2021 INSET DAY - School closed to pupils

Sat 19th June 2021 to Parish Mission - The theme will be "My Light and My Hope"
Sun 27th June 2021 Please keep the dates in your diary. Themed events, retreat
days, Interesting activities all at the Sacred Heart and run by
Sion

Thurs 1st July 2021 Sacrament of Confirmation - Mr Fowler's class bubble
7.00pm Sacred Heart Church

Friday 2nd July 2021 Sacrament of Confirmation - Mrs Taggart's class bubble
7.00pm Sacred Heart Church

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes
Headteacher