

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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1st July 2021

Volume 12 Number 37

Dear Parents

***** COVID CASES CONTINUE TO RISE ACROSS STAFFORDSHIRE AND ARE SURGING IN TAMWORTH. PLEASE FOLLOW THE HANDS, FACE, SPACE AND FRESH AIR ADVICE*****

Staffing

Please note that due to increasing rates and the on-going self-isolation for staff due to their own need or needs of family members means that 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 8 members of staff have been unable to attend work.

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.

Sacrament of Confirmation

We look forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for Mr Fowler's bubble on Thursday 1st July at 7.00pm and Mrs Taggart's bubble on Friday 2nd July at 7.00pm.

Please note these are not public events. Details of all attending must be recorded. Please note that a range of COVID measures continue to have to be in place to allow these celebrations to take place. Please follow the directions and requests of parish Covid Wardens.

Please create a prayerful and peaceful atmosphere in the Church each evening.

Don't Give Up Now

IN LIGHT OF THE LATEST CONCERNS REGARDING THE NEW VARIANT, IT IS ONLY SENSIBLE TO CONTINUE WITH THE CAUTIOUS WAYS OF WORKING, TO TRY AND MINIMISE INCREASED SPREAD.

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.



SCHOOL
MEMBER

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

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.

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.

Sports Days

The children will be having some additional year group sports in the days ahead, co ordinated by teachers and Mr Fowler.

However, given the surging suspected and confirmed case rates in Tamworth area, we have been advised **NOT** to have the assembly of large groups of parents and relatives on the site. Please accept this for what it is, a decision made in the context of ever changing advice and circumstances. It is as frustrating for us as it must be for you. Throughout this time all we have focussed on is trying to make the school safe, in line with the guidance we are asked to follow.

Sickness Bugs

Parents and Carers of all children are reminded that where a child has been ill where vomiting has been involved, you are advised to keep your child at home until they have been 24 hours clear. If there is any diarrhoea then they have to be 48 hours clear. This is to prevent the spread of symptoms to other children. 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. Parents are asked NOT TO QUEUE OFF MARLBOROUGH ROAD OR WILNECOTE LANE as this is blocking the flow of local traffic. Thank you.

Bikes

If using the cycle rack to leave bikes or scooters on the school premises then please ensure they are secured with a bike lock. We cannot accept any responsibility for any bikes or scooters left on school premises. Thank you

Hot Weather

Now that the weather is warmer please remember to send your child in with a suitable hat to wear at playtimes. Please ensure that on hot/sunny days you apply cream BEFORE YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL. Do not send children to school with bottles of sun cream. We are not allowed to apply sun cream for children.

Children need to have had their hay fever medication before they come in to school and bring a water bottle with them. Unless there is a medical reason, children should not be bringing sunglasses into school. Please ensure all belongings are named and labelled. Thank you

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and School Party - Monday 19th July 2021

On Monday 19th July, Y6 children will be hosting a live leavers' assembly via Microsoft TEAMS, that all parents can log on to and attend.

Mr Fowler's class assembly will be from 10.30-11am. Mrs Taggart's will be from 11.00-11.30. There will also be a party on the school field for the children on that day.

Your child will be ready for collection at 3.40pm from the KS2 playground - note the slightly later end to the school day.

Please see separate letter sent by e-mail on Tuesday 22nd June for full details. Thank you.

Message from the Kitchen

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 5TH July 2021 is as follows:

Monday:	Pizza, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Quorn Hot Dog, Potato Wedges and Salad **Golden Ticket**
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Meatballs, Rice and Veg
Friday:	Fish Fingers and Chips

Outdoor Holiday Activities and Food Programme



The government has launched a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme enabling local authorities in England to deliver inclusive activities including a hot meal over the school holidays. It's **free** for children and young people aged 5 - 16 years who receive benefit related free school meals.

Staffordshire County Council are writing to all parents/carers of eligible children (via school) with a unique code to register their interest and receive a timetable of activities.

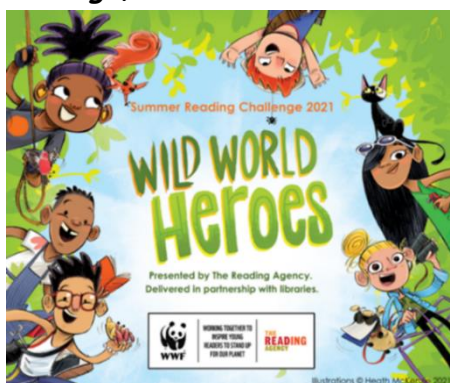
Registration will be live from 5th July and closes once all the eligible places have been filled. To avoid disappointment, parents/carers should register and book as soon as possible at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities

Summer Reading Challenge

The 2021 Summer Reading Challenge is going to be launching in libraries across Staffordshire and the rest of the country on Saturday 10th July!

This year the Summer Reading Challenge has a Wild World Heroes theme:

Pack your bags, we're headed for Wilderville!



It's a pretty cool place, but there are lots of things that the Wild World Heroes can do to make their town even better for the people and animals that live there.

*Join the Wild World Heroes for the Summer Reading Challenge and discover how **you can make a difference** to the environment too.*

*We're teaming up with **WWF** for a very special nature-themed Challenge that will inspire you to stand up for the planet!*

Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

*Are you excited to join the **#WildWorldHeroes** this summer?*

You can join the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library or online - visit

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> for more details.

To complete the challenge you just need to register and read 6 books during the Summer - as you read you can collect rewards include stickers and certificates!

The Summer Reading Challenge is a fantastic way to encourage your children to keep reading during the Summer - please do take a look and take part!

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.

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 1 st July 2021	Sacrament of Confirmation - Mr Fowler's class bubble 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church
Fri 2 nd July 2021	Sacrament of Confirmation - Mrs Taggart's class bubble 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church
Mon 19 th July 2021	Y6 Leavers Assembly via Teams and Y6 Leavers Party
Tues 20 th July 2021	Last day for pupils
Weds 21 st July 2021	INSET DAY - School closed to pupils

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher