

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to all of our children and families.

Particular welcome to the children in Reception and to our new families who have joined us through the school.

Mass - Friday 9th September 2022 9.15am

Yea 6 will lead a celebration of Holy Mass for the school from 9.15am tomorrow morning in the school hall. Please note Reception year will not attend this Mass.

Catholic Virtues - Compassionate and Loving

This half term, the children and staff at St. Gabriel's are growing to be Compassionate and Loving.

Pupils are growing to be compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.



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 toxicariasis in dog waste. This is in line with County Council guidelines.

Please respect this request at all times. Thank you.

Safeguarding/Child Protection

At times we as a school have to act when children or family members report issues of possible physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect.

Physical abuse **MAY** be hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, scalding, suffocating, bruising or biting a child. THIS IS NOT A CHECKLIST AND CAN INVOLVE OTHER ACTIONS.

Emotional abuse **MAY** be the maltreatment of a child to cause persistent negative effects on a child and their development. It MAY involve making a child feel worthless, unloved, being made fun of, deliberately silencing them, causing a child to feel frightened or in danger. THIS IS NOT A CHECKLIST AND CAN INVOLVE OTHER ACTIONS.

Neglect **MAY** be failure to meet the basic needs of a child, such as, enough food, shelter, clean clothing and ability to wash. **THIS IS NOT A CHECKLIST AND CAN INVOLVE OTHER ACTIONS.**

When we do act, it could mean us talking to you as parents or carers, advising parents or passing information on to Children and Families Services. You could then be asked to take part in follow up meetings or processes.

We are not doing this to intrude or be nosy. We are doing it to make sure all our children are safe, that their voice is heard and that they are protected. It is part of our job. It is the most important part of our job.

Thank you to all parents who understand this and who continue to do the best they can for their children on life's journey. If you are ever worried about this or have any other worries come in and talk to me or the other staff.

Season of Creation 1st September to 4th October 2022



SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. September 1st marked the start of the celebration which will run until 4th October 2022 - the feast day of

St. Francis of Assisi - the patron saint of ecology.

During the Season of Creation we are encouraged to pray with and for the natural world in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share.

Pope Francis is encouraging us all to look after our environment by becoming greener and more environmentally friendly in our daily choices and actions. In school, pupils will be taking part in activities and prayer to help them understand the vital role we all play in being more attentive to our environment and all those who we share it with. We are called, in particular, this year to 'Listen to the Cry of Creation.'

As part of our celebration of the Season of Creation this year we are taking part in One Life's Open for Creation virtual retreat sessions. Open for Creation is a virtual 'burst of liturgy' each day delivered by Dan and Emily from One Life Music reflecting on the key messages of the Season of Creation.

Attached to this email is a copy of a prayer written by Pope Francis - A Prayer for Our Earth - which you might want to use at home during the Season of Creation.

Mrs Hawker

Mrs Hawker continues to receive radiotherapy and chemotherapy. She is also receiving physio. This has all been going quite well.

More recently Mrs Hawker had some other medical complications, thankfully this now appears to be improving.

Please continue to keep Mrs Hawker and her family in your thoughts and prayers as she continues this battle.

Asthma

Over the next week, any child who is on the Asthma Register will be receiving a letter to confirm the asthma plan in place.

Can I just remind you that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that we have an in date inhaler in school at all times and that spacers are taken home regularly to be washed. Thank you.

Resilience/Independence

Do encourage your child to organise themselves properly each morning. Encourage them to carry their own bag and belongings. Talk to them about organising their belongings, so they are not misplaced. Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance

The attendance of our children at school has received a massive blow due to the pandemic. It has always been parents/carers legal duty to get children into school regularly, this is even more vital now due to the disruption to the children's learning. For this reason, it is so important that your child is in school for every educational hour possible.

I would ask that any routine appointments are made out of school hours and that you consider very carefully any absence from school. We don't want the education of our children to suffer any more than it has done already.

Our expectations for attendance are as per our published Attendance Policy which you can find [here](#) , we would encourage you to read and understand this. Thank you.

Reading

Mrs Hughes writes to remind us that as parents/carers, you play a vital role in developing our children as readers. It is essential that children have regular practice of reading at home in order to become fluent, confident readers.

This year we will be providing our early readers (children who are reading books from our reading scheme) with two books to bring home each week:

A **Reading Practice book**, matched to your child's phonic stage, that they can read to you to improve their reading fluency.

A **Sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer. This will be chosen by your child from their classroom library in order to foster their love of reading. This will be an age appropriate book but will not necessarily be a text that your child is capable of reading independently, the idea being that you will share it together.

Those children who are **free readers** will not bring home an additional book as they are already reading books which they have chosen themselves.

Thank you for your continued support.

Summer Reading Challenge / Reader of the Week

Well done to all those children who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge during the holidays. If you have received your certificate and would like to bring it into class please do!

We are looking forward to celebrating our first Readers of the Week for the new school year next week and will be sharing their names in our school newsletter.

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 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.

Parking on the grass verge along Wilnecote Lane has been raised as a COMPLAINT with local police. We have been asked to advise all parents not to do this. Parking on the grass verges is dangerous and causes blockage for neighbours. Local police will be following this up. Thank you.

Parking at Belgrave Club

We have been informed that from September 2022 the Belgrave Club will continue to offer the facility of parking for parents/guardians. Please be aware that the cost for use of the car park remains at £5.00, per car, for the school year (club members are free).

We will notify you once new parking permits are made available to purchase. In the meantime, please continue to display last year's permit.

Plant donation

A huge thank you to the families of Selena McNamee-Lay and George Thomas for their generous donations, at the end of the last academic year, of plants, trees and a beautiful garden ornament for our prayer garden.

Congratulations Mrs Brindley

We wish the previous Mrs Duff, now Mrs Brindley congratulations. Mrs Brindley got married during the summer holidays. We wish Mrs Brindley and her family well for the future.

Key Dates

Please find attached a list of key dates for the academic year ahead.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 9 th September 2023	Holy Mass - School Hall 9.15am
Wednesday 21 st September to	
Friday 23 rd September 2023	Alton Castle Trip Year 6
Wednesday 28 th September 2023	Flu Immunisations Reception-Year 6
Friday 7 th October 2023	Open Morning for prospective Reception 2023 parents
Tuesday 18 th October 2023	Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.00pm
Wednesday 20 th October 2023	Parents Evening 3.30-6.00pm
Friday 21 st October 2023	School finishes for half term
Monday 31 st October 2023	INSET DAY 2
Tuesday 1 st November 2023	School re opens for pupils

Saint Mother Theresa of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) said "We can do no great things - only small things - with great love."

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher