

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

## SCHOOL CLOSED FOR INSET DAY 3 - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

School will be closed to pupils tomorrow, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January, to all pupils as staff training will be taking place.

## Arek Wasilik - Funeral

Mr Wasilik's funeral took place this morning at the Sacred Heart Church. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time of great loss. May Arek rest in peace.

## Parent Consultations

These will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February, please see separate letter coming home with children today. Thank you

## 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.

## 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

## **PLEASE NOTE THE LATEST GOVERNMENT ADVICE BELOW.**

I want a proportionate and cautious response given the high number of Covid cases still current among pupils and staff.

Can I encourage you to follow the "encouraged" guidance and measures as time goes on.

Thank you.

## **PLEASE SEE SECTIONS BELOW FROM THE COVID SCHOOL UPDATE FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Face Coverings**

Since the last update, the guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings in school has changed.

From Thursday 27 January, the requirement for face coverings to be worn in communal areas will come to an end. The government suggests that all citizens can choose to continue to wear one in crowded and indoor spaces where they may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.

The Education team are continuing to support schools who are managing increasing cases and staff shortages due to sickness and isolation.

### **Testing**

Please continue with regular Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) twice a week wherever possible.

It is essential that contacts of a confirmed positive case test themselves daily for 7 days.

Doing this helps to reduce transmission in schools and keeps schools open. This is especially important given the prevalence in cases amongst 5-10 year olds.

**ANYONE WHO DEVELOPS 1 OF THE 3 MAIN COVID-19 SYMPTOMS SHOULD STAY AT HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE AND TAKE A PCR TEST.** They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed.

If you experience even mild symptoms, you will need to isolate and get a PCR test.

See our website for [advice on testing and self-isolation](#).

## **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 are already 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **Art Day Friday 21st January - Mrs Keeling writes.**

The children enjoyed our Art day on Friday. Each year group learned about an Artist and created a piece of Art work inspired by the Artist. It was lovely to see the children engaged and enthusiastic throughout school. We are looking forward to displaying the children's fantastic work in the Art room.

Ask your child to tell you about the Artist they learned about and what they created.  
Well done, everyone!

Thank you to Mrs Keeling for organising

## **Reader of the Week**

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Georgie
RJC	Olive
1KG	Alicja
1NH	Rosie
2JH	Eva
2NT	Max
3CC	Tommy
3LH	Izabela
4HA	Travis
4HB	Maja
5AC	Saskia
5SG	Summer-Skye
6BF	Mollie
6ST	Hugo



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

### **Big Garden Birdwatch 2022 - THIS WEEKEND!**

This weekend of (28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022) is the RSPB annual Big Garden Birdwatch - and you can take part!

All you need to do is to spend an hour counting the birds you see in your garden and then tell the RSPB what you have seen. Taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch helps the RSPB to build up a national picture of our garden bird population. It is open to experienced twitchers and absolute beginners!



If you would like to sign up please visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> You can also find a bird identification guide and a sign up form attached to the newsletter email.

### **FREE Children's Music Groups in Tamworth - Entrust Staffordshire Music Service**

Dear Parents, please see the flyers attached from Mrs McAusland at our music service about music ensembles and choirs that can be joined. These are freely provided by our county music service and your child doesn't need to be having lessons in order to access them.

The music groups take place a couple of times a month on Saturday mornings. They are based at Landau Forte QEMS Sixth Form, B79 8AA.

See the flyer for full details of the music centre groups on offer - including wind bands, string groups, ukulele orchestra and choir. There is also a poster for the ukulele group and one for the choir.

Children do not need to be having music lessons in order to attend - everyone is welcome and they can be loaned an instrument if they do not have one of their own to play. However, it is a perfect extension of their learning if they are already doing whole class or small group instrument lessons at school.

Please have a look and contact the music service (see flyers for emails) if you would like more information. Thank you, Mrs Taggart.

### **Message from the kitchen**

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January will be:

Monday:	Cheese Pizza, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Sausage, Mash, Peas and Broccoli
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Beef Bolognese, Pasta and Garlic Bread
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> January

We had no classes achieving  
100% attendance

**Dates for your Diary**

Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY 3 - School closed to pupils
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations 3.45pm-7.00pm (please see separate letter)
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations 3.45pm-7.00pm (please see separate letter)
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> February	School re opens to pupils and staff

Lord,

Help us to be grateful and humble for all you have created.

May we be worthy examples for the young people in our care.

Let us show simple acts of kindness for each other each day, to spread your love.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes

Headteacher