

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

## 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.

## Polite Reminder to Parents/Carers from the School Age Immunisation Team

We shall be visiting school on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January** to deliver the Nasal Flu spray programme to all children in Reception to Year 6 (inclusive)

Thank you to those who have returned a completed consent form. All consents from the previous planned session will be transferred accordingly.

If you have not already done so and would like your child to receive their Flu Immunisation, please complete the consent form as soon as possible via this link

<https://forms.mpft.nhs.uk/> School code: SS124373

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

### **Isolation Guidance**

Since the last update, the guidance regarding isolation and testing has changed.

People self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after five full days if they test negative on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature.

Individuals who are still positive on their lateral flow tests must stay in isolation until they have had two consecutive negative tests taken on separate days.

Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 6 are strongly advised to wear face coverings and limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home if they can do so and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

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### **Testing**

Please continue with regular Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) twice a week wherever possible, although we understand nationally there are ongoing issues with the supply of LFTs.

From 11 January in England, non symptomatic people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. THIS IS WHERE THERE ARE **NO** SYMPTOMS.

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.

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](#).

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### **PCR Tests**

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

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.

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

### **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

## **Ten:Ten Parental Newsletter**

The January edition of the Ten:Ten parental newsletter is now available on our school website ([https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/the\\_tenten\\_monthly\\_parental\\_newsletter\\_/568126](https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/the_tenten_monthly_parental_newsletter_/568126)).

This month Ten:Ten are thinking about New Year Resolutions and sharing some exciting information about their Year of Pilgrimage!

## **Reader of the Week**

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	SEBASTIAN
RJC	OLAF
1KG	LOKI
1NH	NATALIA
2JH	LAUREN
2NT	THEO
3CC	ELIZABETH
3LH	DOLLIE
4HA	ADAM
4HB	LILY - GRACE
5AC	NATALIA
5SG	ELEANOR
6BF	ISABELLA
6ST	QUINN



**Well Done Readers of the Week!**

## **Big Garden Birdwatch 2022**

During the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the RSPB will be holding their 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/>



### Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January will be:

Monday: Cheese Pizza, Pasta and Sweetcorn  
Tuesday: Chicken Pie, Mash, Peas and Sweetcorn  
Wednesday: Roast Dinner  
Thursday: Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas  
Friday: INSET DAY - School Closed



Week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> January

We had no classes achieving  
100% attendance

### Dates for your Diary

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> January Nasal Flu Spray Programme Reception to Year 6 inclusive  
Fri 28<sup>th</sup> January INSET DAY 3 - School closed to pupils  
Fri 18<sup>th</sup> February School closes for half term  
Mon 28<sup>th</sup> February School re opens to pupils and staff

"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher