

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

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.

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

New Guidance for Schools

In line with DFE guidance schools should:

- Continue to promote vaccination for eligible staff;
- Ensure that symptomatic staff and pupils isolate and take a PCR test;
- Ensure that staff take regular lateral flow tests, twice a week, and isolate if they get a positive result;
- Ensure that contacts of cases, especially household contacts take a PCR test, commence daily lateral flow tests, and isolate if they get a positive result;
- Ensure that face coverings are worn by staff and any visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas;
- Ensure that plans are in place to support pupils with online learning where necessary; and

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

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.

People who have one of the main three symptoms, feel generally unwell, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive should take a PCR test.

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

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

Attendance

Further to the email sent to all parents on Monday 22nd 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

Attendance Rates – Autumn Term 2021

Whole School Attendance 93.79% (for school aged children)

RC	87.68%	RK	92.05%
1NH	94.12%	1KG	95.00%
2NT	93.55%	2JH	96.17%
3LH	94.34%	3CC	95.20%
4HB	94.05%	4HA	91.73%
5AC	92.89%	5SG	94.11%
6BF	93.70%	6ST	93.32%

Mr Arkadiusz Wasilik

Sadly I must tell you that Mr Wasilik (Arek), father of Oscar in Year 3, died on 31st December.

This followed a long, brave battle with cancer.

Arek is remembered by his family as a good man who was interested in the best for his family.

Please remember and pray for Mrs Wasilik, Oscar and older daughter Patrycja.

May Arek rest in peace.

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.

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.,

Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2022

The application system opened on 1st November 2021 for September 2022 Reception places. If you/a family member/friend have a child of school age in September 2022, please make sure applications are submitted. The easiest way to apply is online and a link to the online system will be available from 1st November 2021.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022. Please make sure submissions are made for the limited number of places.

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

We shall be visiting school on **Thursday 27th 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, please complete the consent form and return to school as soon as possible on the link below.

<https://forms.mpft.nhs.uk/>

School code: **SS124373**

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).

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	Fredrick
RJC	Elizabeth
1KG	Primrose
1NH	James
2JH	Albie
2NT	Zoe
3CC	Lenny
3LH	Jakub
4HA	Ruby
4HB	Joshua
5AC	Niamh
5SG	Sam
6BF	Mikolaj
6ST	Summer



**Well Done Readers
of the Week!**

2022 Reading Resolutions!

Many of you may have been thinking about New Year Resolutions recently - why not set yourself some family Reading Resolutions for 2022!

Having a Reading Resolution - whether it is a number of books to read in a year, number of new authors to try or different genres to explore - is a great way to build and maintain reading momentum as well as motivate and challenge children who already love reading to stretch their reading boundaries even further.

Below are some examples of Reading Resolutions - why not give one a try!

I will read ____ books in 2022.

I will read ____ whole series in 2022.

In 2022, I will read ____ new authors.

I will read ____ non-fiction titles every month in 2022.

I will read ____ books all by myself in 2022.

I will read ____ books to a younger sibling in 2022.

In 2022, I will read ____ chapters every night.

In 2022, I will go to the library and find a new book each week.

In 2022, I will go to bed 10 minutes early every night so I can get an 10 extra minutes of reading in.

In 2022, I will read ____ comic books.

I will read ____ books about _____ in 2022.

Winter Reading Challenge

Well Done to everyone who took part in the Winter Reading Challenge! There's a brand new certificate AND a limited-edition virtual badge for every Wild World Hero who completes the Mini Challenge so don't forget to register your great reading at

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2021> and claim your reward!

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 10th January will be:

Monday:	Pizza, Garlic Doughballs and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Sausage, Mash, Peas and Gravy
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese/Beans
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 13th December

We had no classes achieving
100% Attendance.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 15 th January	Closing date for Reception 2022 admissions
Thurs 27 th January	Nasal Flu Spray Programme Reception to Year 6 inclusive
Fri 28 th January	INSET DAY 3 - School closed to pupils
Fri 18 th February	School closes for half term
Mon 28 th February	School re opens to pupils and staff

Lord,

You make all things new.

You bring hope alive in our hearts.

You cause our spirits to be born again.

Thank you for the new year.

For all the potential it holds.

Let us spread your good news through our actions to and for one another.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher