

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

CORONAVIRUS CASES REMAIN HIGH IN TAMWORTH

The number of people catching coronavirus in Tamworth has more than halved since the New Year, but Tamworth still has the highest number of cases across all of the eight districts and boroughs in Staffordshire and is above both the West Midlands and England averages.

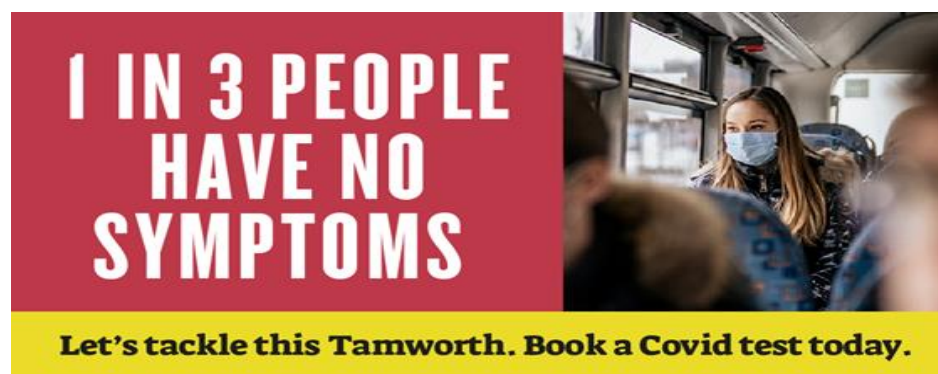
What's more, fewer people are getting tested than elsewhere in the county.



Why we need to tackle COVID in Tamworth

1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and are spreading it without knowing. When the virus is growing in the community, more people are at risk of catching it, more people will become ill and more people risk losing their lives.

As a country, we will only be able to move forward with lifting lockdown if the virus is under control and our hospitals are able to cope.



How you can help tackle COVID in Tamworth

Everyone can do something to control coronavirus by following these steps:

- Stay at home - in line with government guidance
- Stick to hands/face/space guidelines.
- Get a regular rapid COVID test at one of our community testing centres
- Have the vaccine when you're offered it.

There is now a seven-day-a-week community testing site at: **Ankerside Shopping Centre, Unit 30, George Street, Tamworth, B79 7LG**

Staffordshire residents can walk-in or you can book in advance if preferred at:

<https://staffordshire.zipporah.co.uk/TrackAndTrace/>

There are also pop-up community sites at various locations in the Tamworth area. Just a few minutes of your day can give you peace of mind and potentially save someone's life.

Anyone with symptoms should book a national test at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

More information on how you can help to tackle COVID in Tamworth can be found at

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Tackling-COVID-in-Tamworth.aspx>

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

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.**

INSET DAY - Next Monday 15th March

Note - the inset day WILL be going ahead, as previously mentioned before Christmas. School is closed to pupils for staff training.

PLEASE PARK AND DRIVE WITH CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

Complaints from local residents and the police regarding both poor parking and poor driving in the local area have been received earlier this week.

Please do not block driveways of local residents.

Please do not block the flow of traffic of local roads, particularly stopping in the yellow hatch block near the top of the school drive.

We have been informed that tickets will be issued by enforcement officers over the days ahead. Thank you.

Open - Lent Daily Liturgy from One Life Music

Following the success of OPEN - Advent daily liturgy, Dan and Emily, from One Life Music, are back with OPEN - Lent which provides an opportunity in Lent for a few short minutes of prayer and unity as a school community, coming together in faith, in the classroom or from the home.

Open - Lent takes the form of a daily five minute video full of prayer, reflection and music. We have been and will continue to share the videos with the children in school.

Cafod Children's Liturgy

Cafod continue to share a live Children's Liturgy each Sunday at 10am. The Liturgy can be watched live or as a recording later on. The sessions are a great way to engage with the Sunday Gospel and feature songs, prayer, readings and quizzes! You can find out more and sign up to take part at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

Parents/Carers Mask Wearing

Thank you to all those parents and carers who continue to wear a mask when coming on to the school grounds. This is to protect yourselves and to protect others. Thank you.

Message from the Kitchen

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 15th March 2021 is as follows:

Monday:	INSET DAY
Tuesday:	Sausage and Mash
Wednesday:	Pasta Bolognese
Thursday:	Roast Dinner
Friday:	Fish Fingers and Chips

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is an information sharing partnership between Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent educational settings (from Reception through to Higher Education) which allows schools to offer immediate support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

The letter sent previously has further details and information about this new cross - partnership initiative.

Staffing

Please be aware that the new government guidelines mean some staff are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. On-going self-isolation for staff due to their own need or needs of family members means 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 5 members of staff have been unable to attend work.

The start of 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.

Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist

You have a vibrant and active Catholic parish in Tamworth. If you are not aware please explore it at their website at www.tamworthrc.church

Please find below links from the parish for the booking of Mass, the weekly bulletin, the livestreamed Mass and Children Liturgy.

- Please book your attendance at masses through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-john-the-baptist-catholic-church-tamworth-30528677234>
- The bulletin can be found here: <https://parish.tamworthrc.church/>
- Our link for the livestreamed Mass and Children's liturgy can be found on the You Tube channel here <http://www.youtube.com/c/StJohntheBaptistTamworth>

Help and Support

Any parent finding themselves struggling or in great difficulty with housing or finance, please approach us, in confidence. We may not have the answers but we may be able to signpost or help.

If you do not approach us, we cannot help, so please be assured of confidentiality in approaching us! We have been able to support a number of families previously and are ready to continue to try to do so.

Tamworth Telephone Support Line - Community Together CIC

This is just a reminder to let you know that Community Together CIC are continuing to provide support. **Tamworth Telephone Support Line 01827 59646**

The support line is there for anyone and can connect people and give people access to a wide range of support including -

- Access to Food
- People struggling for medication pick ups
- Befriending / Check in calls
- Energy
- Activity Packs
- Unemployment support
- Debt/Finance/Benefits
- Support with Home

The Heart of Tamworth Community Shop as seen at www.tamworthrc.church

Visit the new 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 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.

Tamworth Hygiene Bank

Tamworth Hygiene Bank is a charity that offers support to families that find themselves unable to afford everyday hygiene products e.g. sanitary products, deodorants and shampoos etc. They achieve this by putting together bespoke packages for whole families or individuals. This is facilitated by working alongside schools and other organisations without the need for them to know any details other than how many people are in a family and their ages. They are completely funded by donated products and currently have drop off points at the Sacred Heart Church and Boots at Ventura. We now have a donation box in the school's main entrance, should you find yourself in a position to be able to donate hygiene products.

The charity have provided school with an assorted box of hygiene products that are available for anyone that might need them. Should you wish to access this service or if we can help out with something from the assorted box, please give Mrs McKay a call.

The charity also have a Facebook page; Hygiene Bank Tamworth should you wish to find out more or to message them directly.

Citizens Advice Mid Mercia - EU Settlement Scheme

Citizen's Advice Mid Mercia are working alongside the Government in order to reach out to all of the families in Tamworth and East Staffordshire to support them with their EU Settled Status. The Government has recognised that not all families are aware that they need to ensure they have been granted settled or pre-settled status by the end of June 2021.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th March 2021

INSET DAY 3 - school closed to pupils

Thursday 1st April 2021

School closes for Easter

Monday 19th April 2021

School reopens to staff and pupils

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes
Headteacher