



Dear Parents/Guardians,

## Newsletter – September 2019

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the start of a new academic year here at St Gabriel's. Now at the start of a new term, we can look back with fondness on the fantastic achievements of our inaugural year and look ahead with hope and expectation to all that we want to achieve in the future. I look forward to journeying together with your family this year as we serve and develop the wonderful children of this school. Please read the following information carefully and as always, communication can be directed to the school office either via [office@stgabrielsofeacademy.org](mailto:office@stgabrielsofeacademy.org) or call us on 01788 222405

## Celebrations 2018-2019

A massive well done to the staff, children, parents, volunteers and governors who gave so much to make St Gabriel's CofE Academy's first year such a success.

Year 5 and 6 won the 'Values' award at the county rounders' final for showing brilliant teamwork, respect and sportsmanship.



*Our first ever residential to Viney Hill Christian adventure centre was a great success.*

'Best School' at the Year 3 Rugby School partnership day.

We had some amazing whole school trips to the Pantomime and Twycross zoo, in addition to the Space Centre and Living Rainforest.

*Our official opening by the Bishop of Coventry!*



Fun facts from our first year – we buried a Time capsule in Houlton which will not be opened until 2068! Our Christmas production involved every one of our 93 pupils! 95 children took part in 22 different clubs ranging from Animal to Zumba with everything in between! We held 37 celebration assemblies!

It's been a huge privilege to see the educational opportunities we dreamed of being realised in this place. Children learning, growing, having fun, sharing community and love.

*The following is a list of useful information and points to note – organised alphabetically for reference.*

### **Attendance**

Our pupil attendance for last year was a little over 95% and we are seeking to improve that this year to well above the government target of 96%. We can only do this with your support. Avoidable absences are very disruptive to a child; even a 5% absence rate means a whole morning's learning lost every two weeks. Requests for absence must be put in writing for the attention of Mr Taylor as far in advance as possible and will only be authorised if the circumstances are exceptional. Please note holidays during term time will not be authorised. We would like to celebrate all pupils who make it through each half term with 100% attendance.

### **Car parking**

With so many families and staff at St Gabriel's you will notice the car park is feeling very busy at the start and end of the day. We would encourage as many families as possible to walk, cycle or scooter to school. We are running road safety awareness classes this year for all year groups in partnership with Warwickshire county council. If you need to travel some distance to get to school, please consider parking a little way away and walking the rest. We hope that as Houlton continues to develop, more of the road that runs past the school will open with a roundabout creating the ability to drop off without having to reverse. If you do use the car park, please take extra

care during busy times. Please reserve the disabled access parking spaces for those that require them.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

Every **Friday at 10:20am** we hold a celebration assembly looking back on the week and celebrating our school values. Families are always welcome. If children receive awards outside of school that they would like to share, please drop into the school office for the attention of Mr Taylor.

### **Events Calendar**

Can be found at: <http://stgabrielshoulton.org.uk/events/>

### **Home School agreement**

Please read this simple document which can be found at:

<http://stgabrielshoulton.org.uk/home-school-agreement/>

### **Homework**

You will receive a copy of St Gabriel's homework approach in the next week along with login details for all home learning platforms and reading books. We will celebrate excellent attitudes to homework in our weekly assemblies.

### **Nuts**

We are a nut-free school, please don't send in nuts for snack or lunch items.

### **Online Safety**

In order to raise awareness of online safety, we would like to draw your attention to the guides available on the website below, which provide information for parents/guardians about a number of popular online platforms as well as the age restrictions for using them. Please note that many of the platforms have an age restriction of **13 years old**.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/>

## **Punctuality**

To ensure the best possible start to the day and to help prepare our children well for learning, it is so important that they are in school on time for morning registration at 9am. The school gate to the playground opens just before 8:45am every day and closes just before 9am. Aiming to arrive **for 8:45** should ensure children are always on time.

## **School meals**

From October Half term, we will be slightly increasing the price of school meals for children in Years 3-6 by 5p to **£2.35** This represents a 2% increase since the start of last year and ensures the school can cope with rising costs.

## **Snacks**

Children are welcome to bring a snack of fruit to school. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit as part of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.

## **Uniform**

Thank you for helping us to make the pupils look so smart at the start of the year. Please note that we are now back into our winter uniform. Can we remind all parents and carers to ***please clearly name every item of clothing*** before bringing it to school. A full copy of our uniform policy can be found on our website:

<http://stgabrielshoulton.org.uk/uniform/>

## **Water**

Children are encouraged to bring in a named bottle of water to drink and refill throughout the day from our water fountains.

## Staff Positions 2019-2020

Mr A Taylor – Headteacher, Safeguarding Lead

Mrs B Garner – Deputy Safeguard Lead, Lower School Lead

Mrs R Roberts – Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Upper School Lead

Mrs B Dowler – Curriculum and Assessment Lead

Miss A Magowan – Reception Teacher (King)

Miss K Randle – Year 1 Teacher (Bell)

Miss G Bailey – Year 2/3 Teacher (Braille)

Miss M Pearce – Year 4 Teacher (Hopper)

Miss R Coulson – Year 5 Teacher (Jackson)

Mrs J Bemrose – Year 6 Teacher (Gutenberg)

Mrs J Simmons – French Teacher

Miss S Reed – Wild School Leader

Miss H Wright – Year 5 (Jackson) (Cover Miss G Roberts)

Miss G Shinner – Year 4 (Hopper)

Mr R Healey – Reception (King)

Mrs M Ponter – Learning Mentor and Family Liaison

Mrs E Shipley – Year 2/3 (Braille)

Ms C Bale – Year R (King)

Mrs C Carter – School Business Manager

Mrs H Wilmot – Office Manager

Mrs K Hunt – Office Administrator

Mr R Healey; Mrs C Matyjaszczyk; Mrs P Moore – Premises

I pray for a blessed year together as we serve our wonderful children.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor

Headteacher



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