



8th July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of this academic year, may I take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your tremendous support through the great challenges we have faced these past months. This has been a year like no other, yet as a school community we have pulled closer together than ever before to support our children in and out of school. My sincere thanks goes to our fantastic team who have given their all and worked so hard in difficult circumstances. As parents and carers, your trust, kindness, patience and goodwill have helped enormously and I am very grateful for your support. Our Trustees and Governors have shouldered great responsibility with care and attention and with the well-being of our whole community at the forefront of their thinking. There is work to be done in the year ahead but I have absolute confidence that by keeping close together as a community we will go on to achieve great things.

Full return

Last week the Government published [guidance](#) for ensuring a full return to school for all pupils in September. In it they state:

'Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus, we can plan for all children to return and start to reverse the costs of missed education. This will be an important move back towards normal life for many children and families.'

We know how difficult it has been for pupils who have missed out on months of being in school and we are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our children back in September. There will be a number of measures in place to minimise any risks posed by coronavirus whilst providing as full an educational experience as possible. We have developed good working practices during the period of lockdown (where we have accommodated up to 100 children in school) and are confident we

can make the transition to having all pupils in school safely, giving them their full entitlement to education. The guidance has been considered in the context of our own unique school circumstances and we have conducted our own thorough risk assessment which is available on request.

- ❖ The most important step is to ensure anyone who is presenting with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who has someone in their household who does, **does not attend school and gets tested**. We will engage with NHS Test and Trace process where necessary and we will manage any confirmed cases amongst the school community following guidance from public health.
- ❖ In school, everyone on site will clean their hands thoroughly and often; we will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes and we will ensure the school surfaces and equipment are regularly disinfected.
- ❖ We will minimise opportunities for pupils to mix outside of their classes by holding virtual assemblies and staggering break and lunch times. We won't hold whole school events for now and our extra-curricular activities will also be limited. However, we will aim to deliver our full curriculum to all children and make their experience as close to 'normal' as can be.

Frequently asked questions:

Will there be social distancing?

Some - within classes, particularly for our younger children, there will not be an expectation to maintain social distancing. We **will** aim to limit contact between classes throughout the school day. We would ask parents to be especially mindful of keeping their distance from each other at drop-off and pick-up times.

Will my child be with their class teacher?

Yes - classes will have their own class teacher and teaching assistants. To enable a full delivery of our curriculum, at times other staff will work with the classes.

Will children be able to play?

Yes - all the groups will have time to play outside in their classes. They will not mix with other classes.

Do I have to send my child back to school?

Yes – it is the Government expectation that all children will be able to access full-time education in school from September.

Does my child have to wear school uniform?

Yes – We believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables children to identify with and take pride in their school, strengthens community, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for parents/carers.

Winter Uniform (from September):

- St Gabriel's jumper or cardigan
- St Gabriel's tie
- Plain white collared shirt or blouse*
- Dark grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress *
- Dark grey or black socks or tights*
- Black shoes (not trainers)

*All of these items can be purchased relatively inexpensively from a range of retailers.

There is no longer an expectation that uniform is washed each day.

Will home learning still be set?

Yes – our homework approach has always centred on providing learning platforms for children at home. Spelling Shed, Maths Shed, Read Theory (from Key Stage 2) and Times Table Rockstars (from Year 2) will continue to be available for children to practice key skills. We will also be able to support home reading by sending home books as the autumn term progresses. The Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize will be available all year to all children and will help support pupils further. This will be especially important if your child is at home for any reason.

Will the children and teachers be required to wear PPE, mask, gloves and gowns?

No - Government advice is that PPE should only be worn when carrying out intimate care (First Aid or helping a child change following toileting) or if a member of staff has to look after children who develop a temperature or persistent cough during the day and is waiting to be collected. Children should not be wearing masks due to their age.

If my child hurts themselves will there be First Aid?

Yes - your child will be comforted and treated. You will receive a text, email or phone call if necessary.

What will my child be learning?

Lots - we want to ensure returning children feel happy and safe and their emotional well-being will be at the forefront of our planning. We will spend morning lessons focusing on English and Maths, making progress and catching up where necessary. Afternoon lessons will offer the full range of foundation subjects.

Will meals be provided by the school kitchen?

Yes - the school kitchen will be providing hot meal options for all children who would like one. They have a new menu which has been sent to all families. Lunches will be eaten in the school hall with children sitting in class groups. If your child wishes to bring their own lunch, then this of course is fine.

How can I pass messages to the members of staff working with my child?

As far as possible, please phone or email the school office. If there have been any changes to your circumstances, which staff need to be aware of before your child returns to school, please let us know in this way. We are aiming to minimise face-to-face meetings where possible but they can be arranged where required.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch over the next few weeks by email or phone with outstanding queries. The measures in place are not intended to inconvenience you or your child but to keep everyone safe whilst giving pupils access to a full education entitlement.

Although there are details and specifics, the overarching aims remain:

- Welcoming every one of our pupils in September and giving them a full curriculum offer, making as much progress as possible.
- We have a number of measures in place to reduce or mitigate risk to members of our community which we hope will inspire confidence.
- We want the experience for all our children in school to be positive and engaging.

Home over the summer

September is still a number of weeks away and so facilitating some time each day reading, writing and engaging in a maths activity will help pupils hit the ground running at the start of term. I would strongly encourage the continuation of a [home routine](#) to fit with family life for the next seven weeks. The [Oak National Academy](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#) have all the resources you need for English and Maths and also plenty of fun and interesting topics to try.

Transition

In the next week you will receive communication from your new teachers about the year ahead. There will be time built in to the first couple of weeks in September to get to know each other.

2020-2021 Classes

| Year | Class Name | Teachers | Entrance |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Reception | King | Miss Magowan | Classroom Door |
| One | Bell | Miss Randle | Classroom Door |
| Two | Braille | Miss Bailey | Key stage 1 Door |
| Three | Berners-Lee | Mrs Garner/ Mrs Roberts | Classroom Door |
| Four | Hopper | Miss Pearce | Key stage 2 Door |
| Five | Jackson | Miss Coulson | Key stage 2 Door |
| Six | Gutenberg | Mrs Bemrose | Classroom Door |

End of Year events

Next week, we will hold an end of year sport, games and celebration event **for all** of our children, this includes those who have not been able to return to school so far. The event will be in individual classes and will be held outside (weather dependent) following distancing guidelines. It will give classes the opportunity to end the year on a high note and say farewell to teachers. Children currently attending school should go to their normal 'bubble' at their usual drop off time. Children who will be joining at either 10am or 1pm should go to the main pupil gate for entry on to the field.

End of Year Celebration Events

| Day | Class Name | Teachers | Timing |
|----------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Friday 17th | King | Miss Magowan Mr Healey Miss Keegan Mrs Reed | 10am-2pm |
| Wednesday 15th | Bell | Miss Randle Miss Bailey | 1pm-3pm |
| Wednesday 15th | Braille | Miss Bailey Mrs Garner | 10am-12pm |
| Thursday 16th | Hopper | Miss Pearce Miss Shinner | 1pm-3pm |
| Thursday 16th | Jackson | Miss Coulson Miss Wright | 10am-12pm |
| Friday 17th | Gutenberg | Mrs Bemrose Miss Coulson Miss Pearce | 10am-2pm |

Reports

The period of school closure has had an impact on our ability to accurately assess the progress of all of our children this year. In order to provide you with the most useful information, we have decided to supplement each child's spring term report (which gives our most recent assessments) with a subject effort overview and end of year summary. If you wish to discuss your child's report with their teacher, please call the school office to make an appointment. More up-to-date assessments will be shared in the Autumn term once we have had all children returned.

Summer holidays

Our last day of term is **17th July** and we will be finishing school between 13:50 and 14:10 with Reception and Year 1 groups collected at 13:50, Key Worker groups collected at 14:00 and Year 6 groups collected at 14:10. If you have children across different groups, you can collect all children at the earlier collection time. To ensure staff receive a well-deserved break and that we are ready for the year to come, St Gabriel's **will not be open** in the summer holidays. Should you require childcare, please contact Angels at the Old Station Nursery to enquire about availability and prices at houlton@theoldstationnursery.co.uk or call 01788 222405 option 2.

Family Support

Warwickshire County Council want to encourage all families to sign up to the weekly Family Information service newsletter. They have a range of services to help families with relationships, finance, housing, parenting support, childcare, health and wellbeing. Check out their services and sign up to their newsletter here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>

Have a wonderful week!

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor

Headteacher



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