



24th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are safe and well at this time and have been able to enjoy the glorious weather this week. You will have seen and heard over the last few days the latest Government announcements around easing lockdown measures in England. Whilst it remains important not to be complacent, it is so encouraging to see green shoots of recovery. We know there is still a long road ahead but the way forward is becoming clearer. I'm sure you will share my happiness at the news we are aiming to have all children back in school from September. Further details on this will be shared in due course. Thank you as always for your tremendous support throughout this time.

Gradual return

In line with Government guidelines we have been working hard this month to welcome children in priority groups into the school. It has been lovely to see so many children back working in small groups however it does remind us how much we are missing those who remain at home. School remains very different for all of us at this time but I am so grateful to our fantastic staff team for making the necessary changes and operating in a new way to support as many children as possible safely. Also a big thank-you to our families for your backing and patience; you too are having to adapt to new ways of operating safely and supporting children both at home and in school. It would help us greatly if all families please arrive promptly at their **allotted** time for drop off and pick up (listed on your place offer letter), follow the one-way system and avoid walking back towards the main office from the pupil gate or congregating in the car-park. We don't have any further capacity for critical worker places, but if you are still seeking a place in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, please let us know.

Children at home

I want to assure those families with children at home that we appreciate what a tough ask this is. For some, September will mark nearly six months away from school. Please keep going, spending a part of each day reading, writing and engaging in a maths activity, alongside all of the other fantastic things you are doing, will make a huge difference when we return in September. I would strongly encourage the continuation of a [home routine](#) to fit with family life.

The [Oak National Academy](#) will continue to provide a structure of lessons each day, with an assembly and PE. There is a new feature [activity clubs](#) which provide access to fun and engaging extra-curricular activities. The Academy will run for the entire academic year 2020-2021 and can be used to supplement learning for children in or out of school. This can even help structure holiday periods. The resource is growing all the time and I would really recommend it. [BBC Bitesize](#) also continues to provide excellent online resources and gives access to a breadth of subjects. Geography with David Attenborough is fantastic! **Thank you** to everyone at home for the work you are doing, it makes such a difference! Please keep sending your amazing work, we are always delighted to receive your videos, pictures, poems, photos, writing, maths and more.

Transition

Transition arrangements for pupils moving to the next year group will look slightly different this year. Instead of face-to-face activities, your teachers will be writing to you about the year ahead and will be posting short videos to support transition. For now, I can confirm your teachers for next year:

Year	Class Name	Teachers
Reception	King	Miss Magowan
One	Bell	Miss Randle
Two	Braille	Miss Bailey
Three	Berners-Lee	Mrs Garner/ Mrs Roberts
Four	Hopper	Miss Pearce
Five	Jackson	Miss Coulson
Six	Gutenberg	Mrs Bemrose

End of Year events

We are planning to organise an end of year sports and celebration event for all of our children which will take place in the last week of term. This will be in individual classes and will be held outside (whether dependent) following distancing guidelines. It will give classes the opportunity to end the year on a high note, and say farewell to teachers. More details on this will follow nearer the time.

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.

Warm weather

Please ensure children in school have sunblock factor 50+ applied and that they bring a sunhat and a water bottle every day.

Family Support

This period has been hard on all of us. Warwickshire County Council and the Family Information service have a range of services to help. Topics include: family relationships, finance, housing, parenting support, childcare, health and wellbeing. Check out their services here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>

Symptoms and testing

A reminder that throughout this time it is a good idea to regularly monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19. If their temperature is higher than normal (a **fever** over **38°C**), or a new continuous cough has developed, or they experience a loss of taste or smell, your child should not come to school. Please follow the [self-isolation guidance](#) and arrange for your child to be tested as soon as possible. Upon receipt of a negative result, your child can return. Typically results can be received within 48 hours.

Tackling Racism – Promoting Equality

Like you, I have been deeply moved by the events of the past few weeks, as I have observed the outpouring of grief, emotion and anger, inspired in part by the horrific death of George Floyd. St Gabriel's has at its core the values of Love, Community, Respect, Growth and Integrity and the firm belief that by loving, challenging, supporting and inspiring all our children we can help them to flourish and have life in all its fullness. We are blessed to have a diverse, multi-racial, multi-cultural school community of different faiths and backgrounds which is something to be celebrated. However, now more than ever, we must reflect, review and question, what more can we do to tackle racism, inequality and exclusion in our society? We recognise that the process of change is a marathon and not a sprint. Real and lasting change will not be achieved by a proclamation, a new policy or a day set aside to think about these issues. We must be prepared continually, to consult, listen and learn. We must challenge ourselves to analyse our work, our curriculum, our plans and procedures to reflect on whether we are doing enough to combat racism in all its forms and promote equality and inclusion as best we can here in our school. As we head towards September, I am looking forward to working with pupils, parents, staff and governors as together we seek to listen, learn, grow and make a difference.

Whether at home or in school, thank you for all you are doing, we are here should you need to get in touch.

'This time the dove returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the floodwaters were almost gone.' Genesis 8:11

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor
Headteacher



St Gabriel's CofE Academy, Houlton Way, Houlton, Rugby, CV23 1AN

✉ office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎ 01788 222405