



4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! It is a great joy to see our school once again full of life and learning. I never fail to be amazed at how wonderfully adaptable and resilient our children are. They have slotted in to the new routines of school beautifully and are doing a great job of settling in to lessons and keeping together in their classes throughout the day. We have enjoyed really good attendance this week so thank you for ensuring a great return to school. I hope we will be able to maintain this throughout the year.

### **Walk or Cycle to School**

With ever-growing numbers of pupils living within walking distance of our school, we would encourage **as many families as possible** to take up the opportunity of walking or cycling to school. Not only is it a great active start to the day but it cares for the environment and in many cases can take less time than piling into the car, strapping in, waiting to get into a busy car park, parking and disembarking. Families coming from further afield may like to consider parking in the communal area near Dolman farm and walking down to the school. Our small car-park is very busy and we would like to reduce traffic wherever possible. Please do not park in our disabled bays unless you have a permit and keep access to dropped kerbs clear at all times. Parking on the paved area in front of the main school reception is not permitted at any time and is in constant use by pedestrians including children.

### **Drop-off and collection**

We would ask parents to be especially mindful of keeping their distance from each other at drop-off and pick-up times. Keep to the left as you walk through the site, staying close to the building on your way in and towards the field on your way out. If you need to pass by someone, overtake on their right-hand side and queue where necessary. Please be patient with each other and be prepared to wait for your child to be sent out. Each class has their own entry and exit points, and there is space for everyone. We also ask families to limit the number of adults dropping off and collecting where possible.

## **Hopper Class Collection**

**From Monday we are asking all parents and carers of children in Hopper class (Year 4) to collect their children from outside the main school reception (front of the school) at the end of the school day.**

If you are a parent/carer of a child in Hopper class and have other children in different year groups, you will be able to collect **all of your children** at 15.20pm from **outside the main school reception**. We are hoping that by reducing the number of adults moving around the back of the school at this busy time, it will be easier for everyone to socially distance.

## **Uniform**

It is lovely to see everyone looking so smart as we start the year. Just a reminder that our winter Uniform (September-March) is:

- 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.

Please make sure every item is clearly named and regularly check your uniform to make sure your child hasn't picked up someone else's in error. If you find you have another person's uniform, please return to the class teacher or school office.

## **PE**

- St Gabriel's crested white polo shirt
- St Gabriel's crested grey sweatshirt
- Black shorts\*
- Trainers\*
- White socks\*
- Plain black jogging bottoms for winter months\*

Pupils will require their PE kit on:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Bell</b> <b>Braille</b> <b>Hopper</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Bell</b> <b>Braille</b> <b>Berners-Lee</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>King</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Berners-Lee</b> <b>Hopper</b> <b>Jackson</b> <b>Gutenberg</b>

### **Fruit Snacks**

To help us in our aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle, please can you ensure you child has a break time snack of fruit only. Crisps and bars are not to be eaten at break time. Please also remember, due to allergens, we are a **nut-free** school.

### **Coats**

Please can you ensure your child has a **named**, warm, water-resistant coat with them each day. September has started fairly cold and wet, and as we have set break and lunch times, we want to avoid the children not being able to go outside. We have a stock of our reversible burgundy coat available to purchase from the office.

### **Home Reading**

We are not sending reading books home with children just yet as we are reviewing our procedures for this. Please await further information regarding home reading and other home learning opportunities in the next couple of weeks.

### **Well done everyone on a great first week back!**

*See, I am doing a new thing! It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the wasteland. **Isaiah 43:19***

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor  
Headteacher



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