



22nd October 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of our first half-term it is an opportunity to look back and celebrate a great start to the year. I am proud of the community here at St Gabriel's for working together so well to deliver a learning experience as close to 'normal' as possible in challenging times. The children have been excellent at adapting to new routines, getting fully immersed in their learning and having fun with the peers in their class bubbles. My thanks to all our families for adapting to the situation, partnering with us and following our directions. I know there are things we are still missing, like being together as one and holding whole-school events but I am pleased with the togetherness we have still managed to hold on to in these times. After the events of earlier in the year, it is a great joy to see every one of our pupils in school and this is something to be cherished.

Remote Learning

You will no doubt have seen in the media over recent weeks that schools, where individuals have confirmed cases of COVID-19, have been directed to send home classes or 'bubbles' of children for a period of isolation to help limit spreading. This can happen to anyone and we want to be as prepared as possible for such an eventuality here at St Gabriel's. We are making arrangements to ensure that should any class be disrupted by a period of isolation, we are immediately able to deliver education remotely. Keeping in touch during such a time is absolutely essential and therefore we ask that you spend a moment letting us know your connectivity situation at home [by clicking this link](#). Any internet-enabled device, mobile-phone, tablet or laptop will be sufficient to facilitate our approach. Pupils (with adult support for our youngest children) should be able to connect with the school daily. We will be providing each family with writing materials and an **exercise book** to be able to record learning. Please look after this book. Teachers will send home ideas for exercises to use in it.

Class Videos

This week teachers sent class information in video format on the daily update emails to parents. If you haven't seen your class' yet you can find them on our [website here](#).

Home Reading

We've got some exciting developments planned for after half-term with improvements to our library system and procedures for home reading. Letters detailing the changes went out last week and can be [found here](#).

Distancing

Many of you will have noticed we have substituted the cones for a bright red line to mark the playground path for drop off and collection. After half-term, please continue to stick to the left hand side when moving around the site and do ensure you keep your distance from other families. If you need to pass by someone, overtake on their right-hand side and queue where necessary. We also ask families to limit the number of adults dropping off and collecting. Where possible, please follow the [#wearitforwarwickshire](#) campaign, which encourages families to wear face coverings for drop-off and collection. As always, try to make sure children arrive with all that they need so you do not need to drop off lunches, water bottles, PE kits etc. during the day.



Attendance

Thank you to everyone for helping raise St Gabriel's attendance this half-term. I am delighted with our overall attendance. It has been so helpful for the children to have consistency where possible, even in these uncertain times. Please see this chart for parents and carers who are unsure about attendance with regards to Covid-19 symptoms [Guide for Parents and Carers](#)

Uniform Sale

A big thank you to all who helped with the sale of donated uniform, braving the lashing wind and rain to raise over £90 towards school funds!

Parking

Thank you to everyone for turning into the right hand side of the car park on entry, allowing a pedestrian path to run safely back away from the school gates. **Please do not turn left** unless you are a blue badge holder and require disabled access for you or your children.

Staff Updates

This half-term we have welcomed Mr Marshall to our team as our new Site Manager, tasked with taking care of our lovely building and grounds. You will see Mr Marshall around site at drop-off and pick up times.



Sadly, as this half-term ends, we wave a fond farewell to Miss Reed who is relocating to beautiful Cornwall with her family. We wish her all the very best on her new adventure! Miss Reed was part of the founding team here at St Gabriel's and has worked with all our children over the past few years sharing her passion for outdoor education. We will miss her greatly and thank her for all her work and the creation of our 'Wild School' area.



I hope you all have a wonderful week together as a family and enjoy some time to rest. Thank you as always for your fantastic support over the past eight weeks.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor
Headteacher



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

✉ office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎ 01788 222405