



The Messenger

St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School, Well Lane, Alsager, ST7 2PG
01270 875770 email: admin@stgabriels.cheshire.sch.uk



Welcome back everyone. The cones have gone, the chains have gone and the school drive looks more like a school drive than airport passenger check-in lanes! Yesterday proved to be quite a milestone for all of us as the children happily came through the gates into the playground and played and chatted with their friends from all classes! How we all have missed that. It felt like a weight was certainly lifted as we held mixed break times and lunchtimes for the first time in 18 months. All appeared to go very well too... once we had all remembered how we managed lunchtimes from long ago!

All of the children looked very smart too in their uniforms, a little taller and ready for their new class. A special warm welcome also to our new children and parents joining us in Reception and Pre-School. Just a two-day induction this year for our Reception children means they all join us fulltime from Monday. I'm sure we will have a great term.

Whilst we have relaxed some restrictions and measures in line with Government guidance we know we expect infection rates to rise with schools reopening. That said, we will continue to do our utmost keeping our hygiene, cleaning and ventilation practice in place for as long as necessary. We are all learning how to live with Covid, so please keep safe.

Update: Covid-19 Operational Guidance for September 2021

So, we are not operating class 'bubbles' anymore and there are no restrictions around mixing at break time and lunchtime, different to before the initial lockdown. We will still follow:

- **Good hygiene practices for everyone**
- **effective cleaning regimes**
- **keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

- **public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.**

We have an 'outbreak management plan' ready to implement if there is a requirement and bubbles need to be re-introduced as part of a local plan, if we need to reduce mixing again. This may come into force if there are multiple cases linked to each other within a 2 or 3 week window. Any decision to reintroduce bubbles however would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education. I sincerely hope we don't have to go there again.

What happens if a pupil or staff member develops symptoms?

All should follow public health advice. No one should come onto the school site if they have symptoms, have a had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on the virus. (e.g. quarantine)

If any pupil/adult develops symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and should follow public health advice.

If a pupil is identified as being a 'close contact' with a positive case, they will not need to self-isolate. They will however need to get a PCR test and can still attend school whilst awaiting result. This in itself will reduce the number of pupils missing school because of isolation requirements. It will only be children/adults with confirmed positive cases that will need to isolate.

If there is any change in our approach because of the changing nature of restriction then we will advise asap via text/email platforms, the school website and use our school facebook/twitter feeds.

SCHOOL TIMINGS

Our previous timings have returned for all. Our school day begins at 8:40 and ends at 3:00. Children can start arriving between 8:20-8:40 and wait on the school playground till classes line up and begin entry into school. NEW starters in Reception can be brought around to the playground with their parents after 8:40 via the whizz kids gate near the school reception. Here you will be met by Miss Birchenough. Once your children are settled and more confident they can come through the main gate with all other children independently. We aim for before half term for this to begin, so plenty of time yet.

class	Arrival time and location	exit time and location	Parent waiting
Reception	8:40 Whizz Kids gate	3:00 class outside area	Rear playground

Year 1	8:20-8:40 main gate	KS1 playground	Rear playground
Year 2	8:20-8:40 main gate	Y2 external door, rear pathway	Rear pathway
Year 3	8:20-8:40 main gate	Front exit by Y3 classroom	Front of school, pathway, near bicycle shelter
Year 4	8:20-8:40 main gate	Main gate	
Year 5	8:20-8:40 main gate	Main gate	
Year 6	8:20-8:40 main gate	Main gate	

Arrival and Exit Times

General reminders 😊

- 'Snack' will be sold for KS2 starting Monday 13 September. We will only be able to accept cash for these items.

item	cost
Juice carton drinks	35p
milk	25p
toast	20p
crumpet	35p
bagel	50p
Pizza bap (FRIDAY ONLY)	50p

- We are currently collating information regarding the offer of clubs we can provide. Detail will follow.
- Please remember to pay lunch monies on School Spider by Monday of the week required. Any queries please speak with Mrs Stevenson (Office).
New Parents please encourage your child to have a hot meal provided free of charge. Fruit is also available to your child. So just a water bottle is the only requirement. Book bags will be sent home next Friday.
- New parent 'School Spider' log ins will go out asap. Look out for those.

School Building Fund

It is that time of year we remind all parents to contribute to the school building fund. Please see the letter attached.

Funding of Our Catholic Schools

Our Catholic schools are Voluntary Aided or Academies and most income is derived from public funds. However, in return for the right to promote the Catholic Faith in our schools, 10% of the cost of building works and major repairs in our Voluntary Aided schools and the costs of managing repairs and improvements to all our school buildings must be met by the Diocese.

Why was the Schools Building Fund set up?

The 10% cost of building schools and other major building repairs and improvements used to be met from the regular giving made at Mass by parishioners of the Parish (or Parishes) connected to the school. This was often giving by those who could least afford it.

Today, building works are still needed as we strive to continually improve our schools to provide the best teaching and learning environment for your children. However, Mass attendance has fallen in recent times, and the burden of the 10% cost could no longer be met by Parishes. In response to this the Schools Building Fund was set up by the Diocese in 2000, in order to meet the 10% cost of building works and the development of building programmes in our schools.

How can you help?

All parents with Children attending a school in the Diocese are asked to make a voluntary contribution to the Schools Building Fund. See inside this leaflet for more details.

The suggested voluntary contribution is £15 per child (as little as 29p per child per week!) However, you are free to give more or less than this figure – your child will not be treated any differently.

Help Your Child's School

Please give generously for your children's future

My dear Parents,

It is important that our school buildings provide the best possible environment for the children and young people of the Diocese. I am very grateful to those parents and guardians who support the Schools Building Fund, at a time when there are many calls on your generosity as we emerge from the lockdown and public health crisis.

There is a continual need to repair and improve school buildings to meet the requirements of the many varied educational activities that take place within them so that the very best Catholic education can be provided.

With your help, I am confident that this can be achieved.

How you can make a voluntary contribution to the Schools Building Fund is described in this document..

*With every good wish,
Yours sincerely in Christ*

+ Man

Bishop of Shrewsbury



Donate Online

See inside for details

All Saints Catholic College



SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND

Finance Office, Curial Offices, 2 Park Road South, Prenton CH43 4UX

Phone: 0151 652 9855 Fax: 0870-094 0341 Email: ann.holmes@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Registered Charity No. 234025



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



**DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY**

SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND

How you can make your voluntary contribution

The appeal for contributions is made each year. The suggested voluntary contribution is £15 per child, but you are free to give more or less than this.

Direct to School

Complete the Direct Donations to School Form (Form A) and send this with your voluntary cash/cheque contribution in an envelope direct to your child's school. You can also Gift Aid your voluntary contribution using the Gift Aid Declaration (Form B) on the opposite page.

Online

Go to: www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/schools-building-fund where you can donate via:

- i) **PayPal** – your voluntary contribution can be made via PayPal;
- ii) **ParentPay, ParentMail, Tucasi, Cheshire East ePayments, Schoolgateway, SchoolMoney, Agora, etc.** – if your child's school allows you to make payments via one of these systems, you may also be able to use it to make your voluntary contribution.

Go to www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/schools-building-fund to make your voluntary contribution by i) or ii) and you can also Gift Aid your voluntary contribution by completing the Online form.

- iii) **Direct Debit** – a form can be downloaded and completed if you wish to make your voluntary contribution by means of an annual Direct Debit. The Direct Debit form also allows you to Gift Aid your voluntary contribution.

FORM A

DIRECT DONATIONS TO SCHOOL

NAME OF CHILD(REN): _____

Please find enclosed my voluntary contribution of £ _____ paid by cheque / cash for the purposes of the Diocese of Shrewsbury Schools Building Fund.

Cheques should be made out to the name of your school and this form returned to that school

Remember do not send Direct Donations (Form A) to the Curial Offices – return it to your Child's School

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (please delete) _____

First Name(s) _____

Surname _____

School attended by your child(ren) _____

Local Authority _____

FOR OFFICE USE

(to be completed by School)

DATE RECEIVED: _____

BANK ACCOUNT PAYING IN SLIP NO: _____

I confirm that the above sum was received on the date indicated _____

Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees
Registered Charity No. 234025

FORM B

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees
Registered Charity No. 234025

Please complete this form – even if you have done so in previous years

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (please delete) _____

First Name(s) _____

Surname _____

Home Address _____

Post Code _____

School attended by your child(ren) _____

Local Authority _____

I request that all donations I have made to the above charity since 6 April 2017 and all qualifying gifts of money that I make hereafter shall be treated as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I intend to make my voluntary contribution by:

cash cheque

direct to school for: £ _____

Signature of Donor _____

Date of signature _____ / _____ / 20 _____

Please send this form to:

Ann Holmes, Finance Office, Diocese of Shrewsbury,
Curial Offices, 2 Park Road South, Prenton CH43 4UX

Protecting Your Privacy

A record of your personal information and donations will be held by the Diocese of Shrewsbury and stored securely on the Diocese's database. We comply with data protection and marketing legislation and the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Practice. We do not transfer your data to 3rd parties to use for their own marketing or fundraising purposes. The Diocese will use your details to administer your gifts. This may include sharing your information with external organisations working on our behalf such as IT support companies or when required by law (e.g. to claim Gift Aid). Many thanks for your continued support. You can read our full Privacy Notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice. The statement also contains details on how to opt-out of further communications from the Diocese if you change your mind at a later date and how to update your preferences. We would also occasionally like to send you news by post on the work of the Diocese and give you the opportunity to support future appeals. If you do not wish to receive these communications, please tick this box

Boost the value of your voluntary contribution by 25% with Gift Aid!

If you are a UK Tax Payer, you can take advantage of Gift Aid for your voluntary contribution.

If contributing directly to your school by cash/cheque, complete the Gift Aid Declaration (Form B). Gift Aid on your voluntary contribution will then be reclaimed for the Schools Building Fund.

See the opposite page for how you can Gift Aid if you are making your voluntary contribution Online.

Thank You!



24 August 2021

People Directorate
Westfields
Middlewich Road
SANDBACH
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL/COLLEGE YEAR

We look forward to welcoming all children and young people back to school or college in September and have been working with education settings to ensure they have the appropriate arrangements in place to do this.

We hope the information below is helpful in assuring you about the arrangements that will be in place from September as these will have changed since before the school holidays. This sets out the plans to cautiously and gradually reduce the measures in place across education settings.

Tracing Close Contacts and Isolations

It is great news that as pupils return to school or college in September, under the new national arrangements, there will be no need for them to isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This should keep more pupils in school/college, continuing their education and means that parents do not need to put childcare plans in place. Instead, only pupils who are positive will isolate and their close contacts and/or their families will receive a letter advising them to undertake more regular home testing and/or go for a more accurate PCR test. It continues to be important that you do not send your child into school should they develop COVID-19 symptoms, however mild.

Asymptomatic Testing

Secondary schools are planning to carry out two lateral flow device tests for every pupil in year 7 and above, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Although this may result in a slightly delayed return, we have asked schools and colleges to minimise delays as much as possible. As this is a significant logistical task, please follow the guidance provided to you by your school/college.

Shielding for Vulnerable Pupils

The national requirement for vulnerable pupils to shield was removed some time ago. We are aware that some families have continued to shield their children. Whilst we appreciate this will be an anxious time, we want to assure you that measures will be in place to support you and your child to enable them to return to their education from September.

As schools will be returning to their usual absence procedures in such cases, it is important that you speak to them to discuss any concerns or, if you prefer, you can contact Cheshire East Council on CESchoolattendance@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

School Transport

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we received additional funding to enable us to reduce the number of pupils on school transport vehicles. This government funding has now ceased so additional buses and taxi services will no longer be in place. However, the government guidance recommends that children and young people aged 11 and over continue to wear a face covering when travelling to secondary school or college. For vulnerable children where transport has changed, meet and greet arrangements have been taking place. If you are unsure about arrangements for your child's school transport, please contact Transport Services Solutions (TSS) on schooltransport@transportservicesolutions.co.uk

Risk Assessments

In line with the national lifting of restrictions and new government guidance, we have been working with schools and colleges on what measures will need to be in place from September. Every school/college has carried out a risk assessment based on national and local guidance and put in place measures to reduce the risks from COVID-19. These may be more cautious over the first half term, as we believe this will provide reassurance for many children and parents. We will continue to monitor the impact of changes to isolation rules on positive cases and use this to inform the pace at which we advise the removal of further measures.

In general, the following are some of the measures that will be in place:

- Good hygiene and ventilation will be key measures that all schools/colleges MUST continue to have in place.
- Pupils who are close contacts will not be required to self-isolate and can still attend school.
- Some one-way systems may be retained and some social distancing between staff and pupils may continue
- Some staggered start and finish times and breaks may stay in place
- Pupils should NOT be expected to wear face coverings in classrooms or communal areas (unless the school has an outbreak situation)
- Pupils will be recommended to wear face coverings on school transport (except those who are exempt)
- Schools and colleges will no longer be required to have all desks facing forward.
- There will no longer be a need to keep to strict bubbles, although it is likely that schools/colleges will gradually increase the number of pupils mixing in large groups indoors.

The above are just examples as every school/college will respond to their individual situation, removing measures gradually and informed by the local data. We hope this approach assures you as parents that the appropriate safety measures will still be in place.

Outbreak Management Plans

All schools and colleges will have a contingency plan (or outbreak management plan) describing what they would do if children or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how they would operate if they were advised to reintroduce any additional measures to help break chains of transmission. This would include, for example, measures such as requesting pupils in year 7 and above to have a PCR test or for pupils and family members to undertake more frequent (ideally daily) home testing.

It remains more likely that COVID transmission will take place in the community than in schools and colleges, so you may wish to consider the continued use face coverings in indoor crowded spaces and practice good hygiene routines, wherever possible.

Vaccinations for Young People

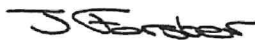
Vaccinations are a key measure in the government's plan to reduce the risks of COVID-19. We encourage all those eligible to take up the vaccine offer as soon as possible.

You may be aware that vaccinations will now be available for those aged 16 plus. Also, in line with government guidance, young people aged 12 years and over with specific underlying health conditions that put them at an increased risk of serious COVID-19, or who live with a person who is immunosuppressed, are eligible for vaccination. Those who are eligible will be identified and will receive an information letter with instructions on getting a vaccine. We encourage everyone invited to get vaccinated as soon as they are contacted.

Finally, the evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. Please let's ensure that together we support our children and young people to get back to school/college as soon as possible.

We understand that testing and vaccinations are a personal choice and if you have any queries, the latest information on COVID-19 can be found on Cheshire East's website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/covid19. If you have any queries on the content of this letter or the arrangements from September, please contact your school/college direct as we will be unable to respond to your individual queries and they are best placed to be able to support you.

Yours sincerely



Jacky Forster
Director of Education



Dr Matt Tyrer
Director of Public Health