



St Gabriel's C.E. Primary School

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Monday 11th January 2021
Excellence with Compassion

Dear Parents and Carers,

Nativity

Please do take a look at our website to view our Reception Class performing The Nativity, beautifully narrated by Year 6 and accompanied with singing from our Key Stage 2 classes. It is now in the 'Gallery' drop down menu. A huge thanks go to Mr Day and the Pimlico Musical Foundation for videoing this for us.

Online learning from home

It was fantastic to see so many of our families accessing Google Classroom from our first day of home learning last Tuesday, and brilliant that we had almost whole classes accessing the learning by Friday. Well done to everyone who has been able to complete and turn in your work. Teachers have really enjoyed seeing so many children join us for our live registers. I joined the Key Stage 2 classes on Friday and the Key Stage 1 classes for live registers this morning, and it was great to see so many faces!



We aim to post assembly video recordings each week, sharing our value and theme for the week and we look forward to being able to share examples of children's good work later each week.

We have chosen to provide pre-recorded videoed lessons and accompanying activities, rather than live lessons, as we understand there are many pressures on our families. We hope that pre-recorded lessons enable families to have greater flexibility during the school day, enable children to 'rewind' a teaching point and to support those families who may have more than 1 child at home trying to use the same device. For this same reason, we have also chosen to only have 1 live register each day, enabling children to spend more time completing work, particularly if a device is shared. We also hope that this system will be more future proof should staff have to isolate at home.

Below are the registration times. We have set them at different times so that those families having to share devices between siblings, are able to still join to say good morning to each other and their teachers. Teachers will be using the registration time to greet the children each morning, but also possibly follow up on any common misconceptions or issues with learning that may arise the day before. This is an open forum for the children and is specifically for them, in the same way that



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registration time would be in school. Teachers are also happy to answer any questions from children at this time.

Class	Class 6	Class 5	Class 4	Class 3	Class 2	Class 1	Reception
Time of live register	9-9.15	9.15-9.30	9.30-9.45	9.45-10	10-10.15	10.15-10.30	10.30-10.45

The messaging function at the side of the children's assigned work is also there for children to communicate with their teacher.

If parents have a concern or question about the learning, we would encourage you to please phone school and your child's class teacher will call you back as soon as possible. We recognise that these are unprecedented times, and there can be considerable pressures on families (and staff) at this time. We want to set high expectations for the children's learning, but in a way that requires minimal input from parents. We therefore value your feedback. If you and your child are really struggling, teachers are more than happy to support you in accessing the work.

Teachers will be following the curriculum that would have been taught in school, which plans for progression in our children's learning. So you know what topics will be covered and what the timetables will look like for the coming weeks, class newsletters will be posted on our website by this Wednesday. We are aiming to follow the government guidelines and for children to be learning for at least 3 hrs in KS1 and at least 4 hrs in KS2 and so are advising that children stick to a routine and roughly follow the school day. However, this is an ideal and we recognise and completely understand that for some families this may prove challenging. We appreciate that it is very hard to try and replicate the classroom at home, so please feel free to move on to other activities if your child is taking an excessive amount of time on one subject. Also, do let us know if your child is struggling to achieve this amount of learning time. It is important that children are still having fun and don't get 'turned off' their learning.

To ensure that pupils and staff remain safe during the live sessions, it is only the children in the Google Classroom that are allowed 'virtual' entry, access cannot be made through parents' Gmail accounts. We will be sending a Google Classroom Acceptable Use/Code of Conduct for families to sign. Please sign and return this via your child's Google Classroom Account.

Keeping in touch calls

Whilst we recognise the challenges, it is also very important that our children who are at home do not miss out on learning and do not fall behind their peers. Last week, we made follow up calls with any children who were not logging in to Google Classroom or not turning in any work, and also made calls to trouble shoot any technical issues. This week, teachers will be checking in with families, making keeping in touch calls and phoning any families who they haven't yet spoken to. Teachers may also contact you if they feel that your child's work is raising a concern.



Free School Meals

Last Monday, we contacted all families entitled to free school meals. Government vouchers are currently not available and we are awaiting DfE guidance as to when or if they will be in the near future. However, school is able to provide food bags/parcels for parents to collect. These parcels provide enough ingredients for a week of lunches at home, including such items as fresh fruit and veg, baking potatoes, bread rolls, beans, yoghurts, cheese and other ingredients to enable parents to make hot or cold lunches. If you initially said that you did not want a food parcel and have since changed your mind, please do give school a call and we can arrange a collection time for you.

Children Currently in School: Vulnerable and Key Worker Pupils

School is still open to children who are classed as vulnerable and children of key workers. On Friday the government issued new guidance requesting that children of key workers **only come to school if it is truly needed** and there is no one else at home to look after your child. We would ask that families follow the spirit of this message.

We have grouped the children currently in school into 4 small 'bubbles':

Bubble and year groups:	Designated staff
Bubble 1: Reception & Yr 1	Miss Wilson, Miss Cooper, Miss James, Miss Rachael, Miss Awo
Bubble 2: Yr 1 & Yr 2	Ms Page, Mr Scott, Mr Nathan, Miss Sarah
Bubble 3: Yr 3 & Yr 4	Mr Vanes, Miss O'Brien, Mrs Corrigan, Mrs Ward, Miss Margarida, Miss Alana
Bubble 4: Yr 5 & Yr 6	Mr Nunn, Miss Bell, Miss Davidson, Mr Tom, Mrs Court, Mr Baker

Because teachers are teaching children in school as well as at home, they have been timetabled to be in class either in the morning or the afternoon. This allows time to create video lessons and resources and to respond to those children on Google Classroom, who are remote learning at home. Therefore, it may be that your child will not receive an immediate response if they message their teacher, as their teacher may be teaching 'face to face' in the classroom. All adults are assigned to specific bubbles and do not mix between bubbles.

Children who are in school are learning the same objectives as their classmates at home.

Further information on how we are making school as covid safe as possible can be found on our website.

Further information on remote learning can also be found on our website.

These children should not be bringing anything other than a water bottle in to school with them and a piece of fruit (if they would like). Children who are packed lunches can also bring their packed lunch into school.

Tablets/Lap tops

We have been phoning families again to ensure that all children have access to a device at home. If children are struggling with sharing a device with brothers or sisters, please do call us and let us know.



We have a very limited number of devices which we can loan out for 8 weeks. After 8 weeks these will need to be returned, but can be 'checked out' for a further 8 weeks should they still be needed.



If you require a Covid 19 test:

To order a home test please go to this site: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

The following is from the Westminster website:

Tests for people without symptoms

Testing is the most effective way to control the spread of coronavirus. You can now get tested for coronavirus even if you don't have symptoms.

The symptom-free coronavirus testing sites will be open seven days a week. You do not need to book in order to get a free test.

Symptom-free tests will available at the following locations seven days a week:

- Little Venice Sports Centre, 10 Crompton Street, London, W2 1ND - 10am - 4pm
- Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, Westminster, London SW1P 1QH - 10am - 4pm
- Moberly Sports Centre, 25 Chamberlayne Rd, Ladbroke Grove, Kensal Green, London NW10 3NB - 10am - 4pm

A test takes less than five minutes and results will be with you within an hour.

Walk-through testing for people who have symptoms

The semi-permanent, walk-through testing centres are open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm. They can be used by anyone with symptoms or who has been asked to get a test. A test must be booked in advance at [NHS online](#) or by calling 119.

The centres are managed and run by the Department of Health and Social Care and increase the number of tests available to residents in Westminster. Each testing centre is able to undertake at least 200 tests per day.

Centres are in the below community halls. This means that these community halls are closed to the public. Existing bookings and regular users of the community halls are being provided with alternative community spaces so that their activities can continue.

- Greenside Community Centre, 24 Lilestone St, Marylebone, London NW8 8SR
- Grosvenor Hall, Vincent Street, London SW1P 4HB
- Lydford Tenants and Residents Hall, 74 Fernhead Road, London W9 3EW

Best wishes,

Rebecca Anson
Headteacher