



Welcome to

**St. Gabriel's Church of England
Primary School**

**Getting Ready for School
Booklet
September 2020**

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Starting School



Welcome to St. Gabriel's!

We are a Church of England School, under the Diocese of Blackburn. The Christian faith and the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ underpin all aspects of our school life, shaping our distinctive caring and pastoral character. Our Mission Statement defines our hopes and aspirations for our children along with a set of key attributes that, as a whole school family, we want to nurture and demonstrate. These are: self-belief, courage, resilience, ambition and harmony. These qualities are inclusive of all - whatever faith, belief or ability.

As a high achieving school academically, staff at St. Gabriel's have the highest expectations for every child - especially in Reading, Language and Mathematics which form the vital core of learning. But we also recognise that each child is unique with individual gifts, talents and abilities.

We also believe that children need to be happy and motivated if they are to achieve their very best in the classroom. I believe that developing their self-confidence at an early age is crucial. As such we aim to nurture children's wellbeing and self-belief in daily lessons and through other opportunities such as music (choir and orchestra) and competitive sporting activities. Encouraging children to take on roles of responsibility or leadership also actively strengthens their self-esteem. When our children eventually move on to high school, it is our hope that they will leave us as self-assured and capable young people, ready to take on the rigours of the next step in their school lives. The inspiration to achieve these qualities is reflected in our chosen Bible quotation: "stand firm... be courageous" 1 Corinthians 16:13.

Your child's **Reception Class Teacher will be Miss White.**

At St. Gabriel's we encourage a strong relationship between school and home - we will always endeavour to keep you informed of your child's progress and we hope that you will come to us if you have any concerns or questions.



Mrs. Haigh

Preparing your child for school

It is helpful if children have some idea of the things that will be expected of them at school to enable them to settle into school life with the minimum disruption and maximum enjoyment.

The new BwD '**School Readiness**' document provides a checklist of essential skills and abilities:

- I can put on my own coat and fasten it.
- I can go to the toilet by myself and wash my hands afterwards.
- I can confidently say goodbye when I am left with an adult that I know will look after me.
- I have made good friends and can happily talk to other children and adults.
- I can share and take turns in a group.
- I can sit and listen for a short while.
- I can answer a simple question about a story.
- I can tidy up after myself and look after my things.
- I am happy to speak to others about my wants, needs and feelings.
- I can follow simple instructions.
- I can retell a past event (something that has happened to me).
- I can feed myself and enjoy a range of healthy foods.
- I can dress and undress myself as well as putting on and taking off my shoes.
- I can follow rules at home and nursery and will be able to do this at school.
- I enjoy listening to stories and singing rhymes.
- I can hold a pencil and enjoy making marks.

In addition, please talk to them about the school routine (which can be found on p9) so that they are familiar with what will happen throughout the day.



In order to make sure that children are able to enjoy school and get off to a good start, please encourage and develop the following:

Storytime Books

Enjoy Books Together! - Books play a vital role in school life. To foster an interest in books, begin by **looking at picture books with your child**. Talk about the story and encourage your child to hold the book the correct way and turn pages correctly to prepare them for having a school reading book.



The school uses the **Oxford Reading Tree** as the basis for its take-home reading scheme. If you wish to give your child the benefit of pre-school reading materials it would be wise to **purchase from other publishers**. We must stress that reading at home should be for pleasure, and shouldn't become a chore!

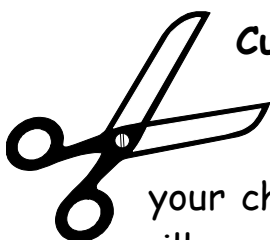


Speaking and Listening

Children who can listen well will learn well. Your child will need to **be able to listen to instructions** at school, so please practise this at home. Children also need to **be able to take turns**. Encourage them to wait until the other person has finished speaking and let them know that they are being listened to in return.

Fine Motor Skills

These are the skills needed to grasp and manipulate small objects such as **pencils** and **scissors**. Encourage them to **draw** and **scribble** as much as possible so that they become comfortable using these tools.



Cutting skills are best practised using small, round ended scissors. Children will need help to acquire the open/ close technique and to turn the paper to cut round corners. Let your child use the hand which is most comfortable for them - we will provide both left and right handed scissors.

Observation and Curiosity

Encourage your child to look at the world around them, e.g. street signs, place names, adverts etc. and talk about what they can see. This can contribute to word recognition.

First days at school



The first few days at school are an exciting time for both you and your child, but they are also a time when changes take place, and children have to adapt to a new routine.

Although some children can become a little upset when parents leave them in the morning, it is essential that all parents resist the temptation to follow their child into the classroom. **Please remain on the yard once your child enters school at the beginning of the day. At the end of the day, please remain on the yard, and your child will be sent out to you. Will you please ensure that siblings do not enter the fenced off outdoor play area.**

It is common for children to become tired, especially in the initial weeks of starting school. Please help your child by ensuring that they get lots of sleep to enable them to cope with the busy school day.

Children also have different reactions to starting school. Some are eager to talk about everything they have done during the day, whilst others prefer to keep it to themselves! Both are perfectly normal responses - some children need time to think through what they have done before they share it with others. If this is the case and you wish to know what your child has been doing, please come in and ask!



Uniform

Although not compulsory, all children currently wear the school uniform. Our colours are royal blue, white and gold, and look very smart.

The uniform consists of:

Girls

- white polo shirt (preferably badged in gold)
 - royal blue round-neck sweatshirt or cardigan embroidered with school badge
 - grey knee length skirt or pinafore dress
 - white socks / grey tights
 - sensibly styled black flat shoes
- (please note: no trousers)**
- for summer - blue and white short sleeved checked dress



Boys

- white polo shirt (preferably badged in gold)
 - royal blue round-neck sweatshirt embroidered with school badge
 - grey trousers or shorts
 - grey socks
 - black shoes (not trainers)
- for summer - grey shorts



P.E. Kit

Children will require a P.E. kit comprising:

- white T-shirt (preferably badged in gold)
- royal blue shorts
- black slip on / Velcro pumps



All items **MUST** be named and kept in a bag with the child's name clearly visible on it. **Could you please send in extra pairs of underwear and socks and put in their PE bag in case of any accidents in school.**

Fleeces, sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school badge can

be purchased from **Whittakers**, Ainsworth Street or **Grays Outfitters**, Northgate.

We ask that children are dressed in clothes suitable for the weather. If Wellingtons are worn, children should also bring their school shoes to change into. A named peg can be useful for keeping Wellingtons together.



We also ask that instead of a bag, your child brings a blue wallet to school in order to carry home their reading book etc. These can be purchased from the school office.

Shoes

Please avoid laces when children first start school.

Naming

Please put your child's name on all items of clothing plus their P.E. pumps

Daily routine

- 8.30 Main yard gates open. (Note, yard is not supervised)
- 8.45 Children enter into class from 8.45 a.m.
- 8.55 School gates close. Late arrivals must report to the School Office

Morning Session

Whole school/class worship

Class lesson time

Morning playtime and school milk (15 minutes)

Class lesson time

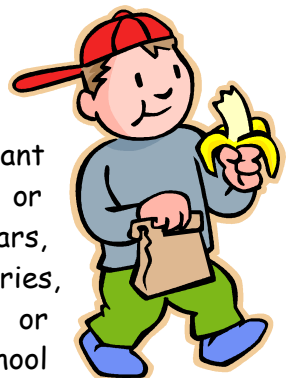
- 11.50 -1.00 Infant lunch time

Afternoon Session

Class lesson time

Afternoon Playtime (15 minutes) -

Children have a free fruit/ vegetable snack if they wish. The National Fruit Scheme offers all infant children a daily free piece or portion of a fruit or vegetable. Examples include: apples, bananas, pears, satsumas, cherry tomatoes, pineapple, strawberries, dried raisins, sugar snap peas, mini cucumbers or carrots. Note, this is not an exhaustive list. School does not select items, nor do we receive advance information regarding which fruits/vegetables will be delivered. It is essential that parents notify us of **ANY** known food allergies on the medical health questionnaire.



Class lesson time

- 3.30 School ends



Before School

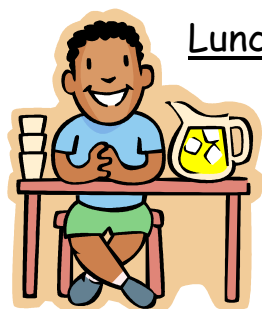
The yard gates open at 8.30 a.m. From 8.45 a.m. children enter into class to be greeted by staff. We ask that parents resist the desire to escort their children into the classroom, allowing the children to be independent from day one!

Playtimes

Children are supervised by a member of staff at playtime.

For infant children, a fruit snack is provided, but children may bring their own 'healthy' alternative.

Milk is provided by the Local Authority (LA) for a small cost per year. If your child does not drink milk, they may bring bottled water (with sports cap).



Lunchtime

Children eat lunch in the hall, sitting in class groups. Your child will automatically receive a school dinner as part of the Universal Free School Meal Initiative offered to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. Please note our lunches are not halal, vegetarian alternatives are provided.

Water Bottles

All children may bring in **named water bottles** which they can have a drink from during the day. They must be sports-cap bottles to avoid spills and contain water only. Bottles should be brought to school empty to avoid soggy book bags!

Home time

When you come to collect your child at the end of the day, please remain on the school yard ready to receive your child. Children will not be allowed out of school unless we can see the appropriate person is there to collect them, so please inform the class teacher if your child is being collected by another family member or friend. Please also ensure that you are on time to collect your child, as it can be upsetting for them to feel that they have been 'left behind'. If we are not informed otherwise we cannot allow your child to leave with anybody but you.

Reading in school

Learning to read with fluency and understanding is absolutely essential for your child to embark upon a lifelong journey of education. **Reading holds the key to unlocking the wider world of understanding!**

In recent years, all schools have taught reading based on a structured programme of 'synthetic' phonics - this is an approach to reading whereby early skills are based on phonetic word building and 'sounding out'.

We teach reading and writing through a scheme called Read, Write Inc. This scheme combines the teaching of phonics, reading and early literacy skills in a highly structured and integrated approach. More information will be shared with parents at a later date.

St. Gabriel's is a Model School, recognised nationally, for its teaching and delivery of Read, Write Inc.



Getting ready for reading

Before your child begins to actually 'read', they can still enjoy books. **We encourage you to share books with your child**, discussing the characters and settings, following the text explaining that these words are the story you are telling. Allow your child to follow the print as you tell the story- this helps them to make the association between the words on the page and the story you are telling. Ask your child to retell familiar or favourite stories, sequencing the events correctly.



Play matching games such as snap—this helps your child when they try to recognise words by shape and length.



Begin to **practise letter sounds**, starting with the initial letter and other letters of their name. (Please use 'a' as in cat rather than 'a' as in cake.)

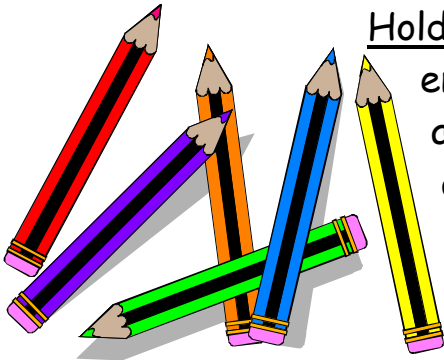
Above all, encourage them to try and praise them for what they are achieving and let them know that it is alright to make mistakes!

Rhyming - activities, books.

Hearing and saying initial sounds in words e.g. c - cat, d - dog, e.g. I spy.

Getting ready for writing

Any drawing or painting activities you do with your child are a preparation for writing and will help your child progress to writing in school.



Holding a pencil - When your child holds a pencil, encourage them to use the '**pincer**' grip rather than a fist, as this is what they will be taught in school and gives them more control over what they are writing / drawing. Allow them to hold their pencil in the hand they find most comfortable - it does not matter which.

Draw patterns and lines for your child to follow - encourage left to right to familiarise them with the direction of writing.

You can write sentences for your child to trace over and copy - remember to increase the size of your writing to make it easier for your child to copy. If you are writing for your child, please use lower case letters rather than capitals - a handwriting sheet which shows the style taught in school is included in this booklet.



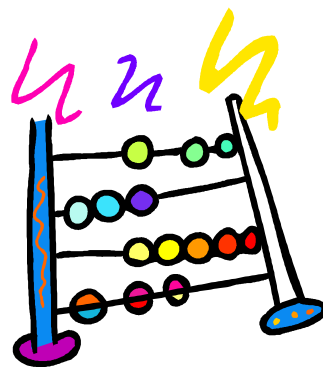
Activities that require children to manipulate objects e.g. squeeze, stretch and thread... will help children develop hand muscles which will later help with writing.

Getting ready for numbers

For children to progress in Numeracy, they need a basic understanding of what numbers are. This is where we begin when your child first starts school and there are several things you can do to help your child.

Counting

Children enjoy counting, but until they have an understanding of the value of numbers, it has little meaning for them. You can help them to establish this meaning by **encouraging them to say one number per object** when they go up steps, share out sweets etc. Ask 'How many?' (starting with small numbers) to encourage your child to count things.



Please encourage your child to count objects and collect up to 5, or up to 10 of the same object. It is important that children understand the value of a number rather than just recognising the digit.

Language

Language is a vital part of maths and is developed throughout the school. You can encourage your child to develop their mathematical vocabulary by talking about the **size, position and shape of objects**, asking them to make comparisons, first between two then more objects. Also, you can talk to your child about money and different **coins** when you are shopping.

Numerals

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

We will begin by working with numbers 0-5, then to 10, moving on to teen and two digit numbers throughout the year. You can practise recognising and matching numbers in this order. For number formation, please see the handwriting sheet included.

Foundation stage curriculum

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape educational programmes in early years settings. The three prime areas are:

- **Communication and language** development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.



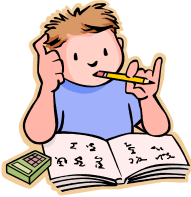
- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.
- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.



The specific areas are:

- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.



- **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.



- **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.



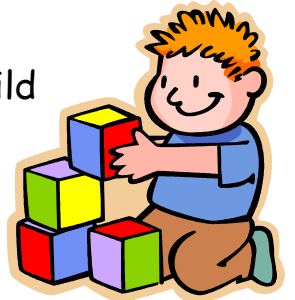
In planning and guiding children's activities, three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are considered:

- **playing and exploring** - children demonstrate a 'have a go' attitude when finding out and exploring and playing with what they know.
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements;
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Principles of early year practice

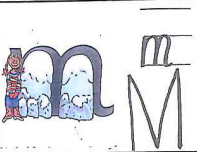
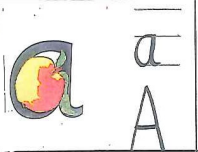
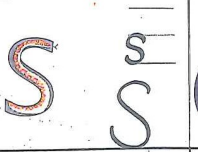
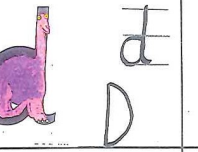
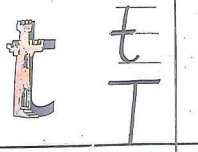
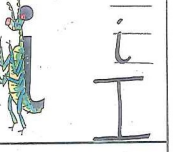

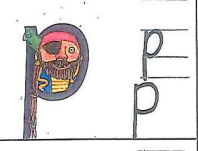

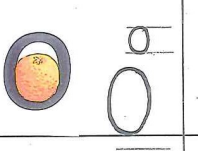
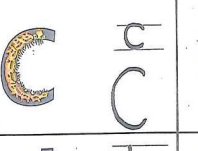
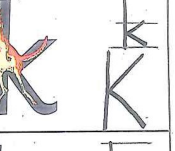
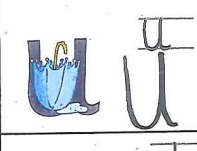
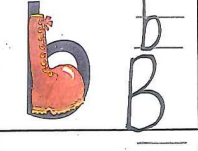


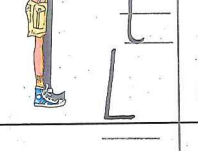
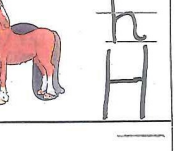

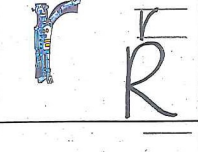
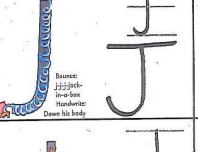
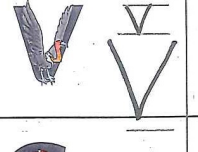
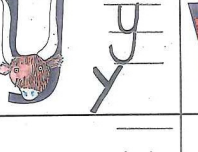

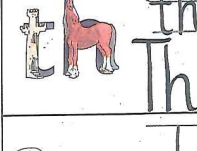
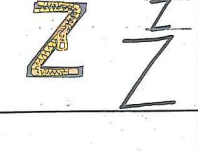

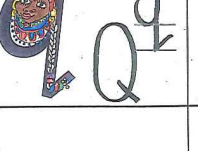
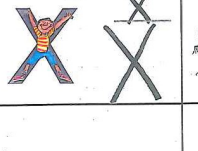


Principles which are fundamental to good Early Years Practise.

- Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives, it is not just a preparation for the next stage - it is vitally important in itself.
- Children develop emotionally, intellectually, morally, physically, spiritually and socially and at differing rates. All aspects of development are equally important and are interwoven.
- Young children learn from everything that happens to them and do not separate their learning into subjects.
- Young children learn most effectively when they are playing and exploring, actively involved and interested.
- Children need time and space to produce work of quality and depth.
- What children CAN DO rather than what they cannot do are the starting points in their learning.
- Playing and talking are the main ways through which young children learn about themselves and the world around them.
- Children who feel confident in themselves and their own ability have a head start to learning.
- Children who are encouraged to think for themselves are more likely to act independently.
- All children have abilities which should be identified and promoted.
- The relationship which children establish with adults and other children are of central importance in their development.



Handwriting

Below are the Read, Write, Inc. letters of the alphabet plus key blends: sh, th, ch, ng, nk in the order in which they are taught.

Outdoor Provision

The provision of outdoor learning opportunities is an essential element of the Early Years. The newly created outdoor area will offer enhanced opportunities for exploration and investigation through structured, active play. Children will be taught to respect the outdoor environment and to use the new area appropriately and safely.

Essential information

There are several things that you as parents can do to help us keep our school running smoothly and to minimise disruption to your child's routine, and we hope that by providing this extra information, we will be able to ensure that your child's start to school life is as easy as possible.



Please note: Our Business Manager is Mrs. Hollings and we have two Office Assistants: Mrs. Haworth, (Monday and Fridays only) and Miss Wilkinson.

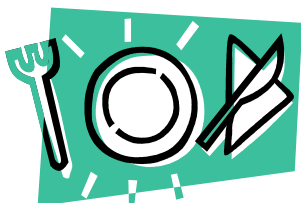
Arrival in the morning: The school gates open at 8.30 a.m. Children **should not** be dropped off before this time. Staff open classroom doors at 8.45 a.m. for children to come directly into school. Please note, the yard is not supervised and younger children should remain accompanied until they enter the class at 8.45 a.m.

Late arrivals

The gates close at 8.55 a.m. Late arrivals after this time must report to the School Office.

Dogs on the school yard

Please note that under no circumstances should dogs be brought onto the school yard. This is for obvious health and safety reasons.



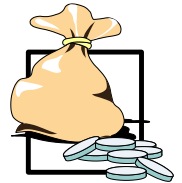
Lunchtime arrangements

Menus are available online/from the office. Please note our meals are not halal, vegetarian alternatives are

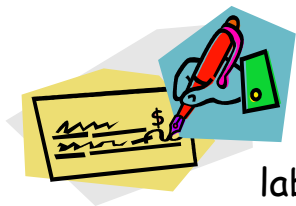
provided. Should your child wish to change from school dinners to pack lunches or vice versa, please give the school office a week's notice to allow for ordering of supplies. As part of the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative, all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will receive free lunches as a matter of course. Please note, this is NOT linked to eligibility for free school meals due to receipt of state benefits. Please see page 25.

Payments

Lunch money is payable weekly and is collected in class, on a Monday morning.



Milk money is payable at the start of the year. If your child does not wish to continue with milk, please inform Mrs Hollings at the end of term.



Payments can be made by cash or cheque (to St Gabriel's School). Please put money in a sealed envelope, labelled with your child's name, class and the contents.

Medication

If at all possible, all medication such as antibiotics should be administered at home. Should medication need to be sent into school it **must** be named, **brought to the school office personally** by **an adult and accompanied by an 'Authority to Administer Medication' form**. This is available on the school website www.stgabrielssch.co.uk under forms. Medication will **NOT** be administered if these procedures are not followed, or if the expiry date has been exceeded.



Children out of school during school hours

If you need to remove your child from school during the day, for example an unavoidable appointment, please notify your child's class teacher/the office in advance. When you collect your child, please go to the main office. If it is a last minute appointment, please inform school as soon as possible.



Absence from school

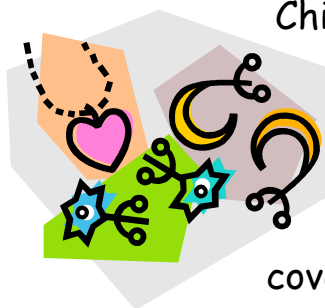
If your child is absent due to illness, please telephone school in the morning, if possible to let us know that they will not be in. If your child needs to be absent for any other reason, e.g. family emergency, religious observance - please notify your child's class teacher or the school office directly.



Term-time absence requests

Regulations state that Headteachers **may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'**. Full guidance and procedures for parents are available on the school website or from the school office.

Jewellery



Children are not permitted to wear earrings or other jewellery (except watches). Please note these must be removed for all PE lessons. Children with newly pierced ears wearing studs are not permitted to participate in any PE lesson, including swimming. This includes studs covered with plasters. Studs should be removed as soon as allowable from newly pierced ears to ensure lesson participation is maximised. Reminder: Newly pierced ears must routinely be covered by plasters, supplied by parents, for the duration of the time they are required to be worn in school.

Nail varnish and make up

These are not appropriate in school.

Hair

Hair that is long enough to tie back must be tied back during all PE lessons. We recommend all long hair be worn tied back throughout the day. **All hair styles**



should be moderate and 'natural looking'. Extreme fashions are not acceptable in hairstyles and other aspects of appearance.

Advice to parents regarding hot weather

- Children are encouraged to bring hats/caps
- Children are advised to bring water bottles with sports cap tops



Note: **Staff CANNOT** apply lotions. Parents should apply 'once' style sun cream before school starts which will last the duration of the school day.

Footwear

Children should wear sensibly styled black shoes (not trainers). Their school shoes should be safe and properly secured to allow them to run and play at break times. Children wearing boots to school in bad weather should bring shoes to change into. Girls are actively encouraged to have low heels and will be requested to change if inappropriate shoes are worn. Ballet style pumps provide very little protection or support for growing feet and are not recommended.



Home/school correspondence

Newsletters are regularly sent out by **email**, along with other letters for your information. Please check your child's bag as other information may be sent out as hard copies. Essential information will be sent by **text**. Please ensure that you keep us up-to-date of **any changes** to address and contact details.



School Uniform

Girls

- white polo shirt (preferably badged in gold)
 - royal blue round-neck sweatshirt or cardigan embroidered with school badge
 - grey knee length skirt or pinafore dress (**please note: no trousers**)
 - white socks/grey tights
 - sensibly styled black flat shoes
- for summer - blue and white short sleeved checked dress



Boys

- white polo shirt (preferably badged in gold)
 - royal blue round-neck sweatshirt embroidered with school badge
 - grey trousers or shorts
 - grey socks
 - black shoes (not trainers)
- for summer - grey shorts

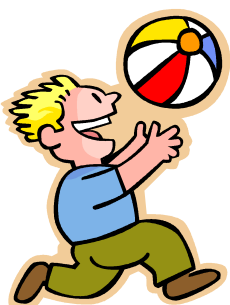
P.E. Kit

Children will require a P.E. kit comprising:

- white T-shirt (preferably badged in gold)
- royal blue shorts
- black slip on / Velcro pumps

Fleeces, sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school badge can be purchased from Whittakers, Blackburn or Grays Outfitters, Northgate.

We ask that children are dressed in clothes suitable for the weather. If Wellingtons are worn, children should also bring their school shoes to change into. A named peg can be useful for keeping Wellingtons together.



PE Lessons/Kits

- For indoor PE or dance lessons all children should wear black slip-on pumps. Trainers may be worn by juniors for outdoor games lessons only.

- For regular games lessons football boots will not be required since a range of skills and activities are taught.
- Children with newly pierced ears wearing studs are not permitted to participate in any PE lesson, including swimming.
- All hair, long enough to be tied back, must be gathered back in a hair bobble (or swimming cap).
- Girls wishing to cover their legs for PE should change from tights into footless leggings - to be worn under their games skirt/PE shorts.
- Bare feet and not pumps will be required for all gymnastic lessons.

School Bags and PE Bags



All children are actively encouraged to use the slim 'book bags' available from the school office. We have very limited cloakroom space and these bags stack neatly in storage trays. Larger bags or back packs are discouraged. School bags and PE bags are both available from the school office.

Water Bottles - Infants and Juniors

Children wishing to have an additional drink throughout the day should bring named sports-top plastic bottles which can be filled with **water** at school. Packed lunch drinks of juice and cartons will not be permitted in the classroom.



Packed Lunches

Lunches should be brought in appropriate carry boxes to store in the classroom. We actively encourage 'healthy choices' and request that sweets are not sent into school.

Parents in receipt of state benefits

Please help us to make sure we receive our correct school funding

If you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit

...then **you are entitled** to receive free school meals and we get extra funding, **but only when you register online for free school meals at <https://mybwd.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Benefits.aspx>**

The really important thing is that you should still register even if your child is in the infants and gets a free lunch everyday

Some parents have thought the free lunch in the Infants is the same as being entitled to free school meals. It's not. If your child is in the Juniors, registering **doesn't mean** they have to have a school dinner. You don't have to take up the offer.

You just need to register for us to receive the money.

Additional Criteria - We also get extra funding for:

- Children who **are, or have been, in care** (including special guardianship orders)
- Children who are **adopted**
- Children whose parents are in the **armed forces**

If you receive benefits, or any of the additional criteria apply and **you haven't already informed school** please contact the school office for additional advice. This information remains confidential for school use only.

We thank you for your help and support in this matter.

Toilet Breaks

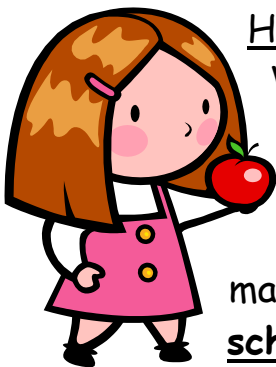
Children are discouraged to go to the toilet during lesson times. Opportunities are given at playtimes and lunch times. Should your child require more frequent visits for medical reasons, **please inform your Class Teacher**. No child, however, would be expected to remain in class feeling uncomfortable, or would be denied to go in an 'emergency'.

National Free Fruit and Vegetable Scheme for Infants

The National Fruit Scheme offers all infant children a daily free piece or portion of a fruit or vegetable. Examples include: apples, bananas, pears, satsumas, cherry tomatoes, pineapple, strawberries, dried raisins, sugar snap peas, mini cucumbers or carrots. Note, this is not an exhaustive list. School does not select items, nor do we receive advance information regarding which fruits/vegetables will be delivered. It is essential that parents notify us of **ANY** known food allergies on the medical health questionnaire.



Healthy Snacks



We actively promote the eating of healthy snacks. The school council agreed that all snacks brought Monday to Thursday by junior children, for morning break, should be healthy. Friday would be 'treat' day when crisps or chocolate biscuits may be brought. **Sweets are not permitted to be eaten in school.** Infants are not encouraged to bring additional snacks as they already receive milk and fresh fruit/vegetables each day. Those who wish to do so should also follow The School Council's agreement.



Birthday Treats - Many parents wish to celebrate their child's birthday by generously sending in birthday cakes or sweets to share around. Unfortunately, this kindly gesture causes complications in classes. Increasing numbers of children have allergies which exclude them from being able to accept cake and chocolates, other children are not permitted sweets with gelatine. There are also difficulties in cutting up and distributing 30 pieces of cake! As a compromise, we recommend that parents wishing to celebrate birthdays do not supply cakes or sweets, but mini gifts such as pencils or rubbers. One parent recently supplied pots of blowing bubbles! Thank you for your generosity. Nothing is ever simple.

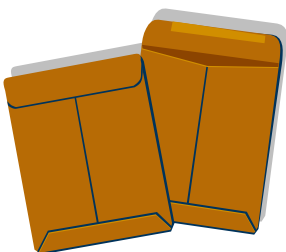
Skipping Ropes and Balls

Children are permitted to bring ropes and balls (tennis balls, not small bouncing balls or footballs) into school. These should be clearly named. Please note balls which go over the fence or onto the roof are not easily recovered.



Clothing

Please ensure **ALL CLOTHING and COATS ARE NAMED!**



Money

All money brought into school for dinners or trips should be in a named envelope.

Valuables

Valuables, including mobile phones and electronic games, should not be brought into school. Any child bringing a mobile phone to school in exceptional circumstances will be asked to hand it into the school office, complete a disclaimer form and collect it at the end of the day.





Toys

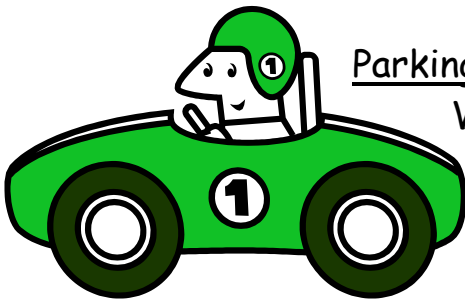
Small toys, figures, cards and stickers are permitted but remain the responsibility of the child. Inappropriate toys i.e. model guns, swords will not be allowed.

Spare clothing for Infant children

All infant children should have spare underwear and socks in their PE bags in case of any unfortunate accidents.

School Website - www.stgabrielssch.co.uk - Key information including medical forms, holiday dates, newsletters and curriculum advice is all available on the school website.

Wilworth Crescent - Please note that an unofficial one way system applies at busy times entering the crescent at the Knowles Arms end.



Parking around School

We also ask that parents do not stop in the road to drop children off or block residents' driveways. We also request that you refrain from parking on the unmade road. Parents are encouraged to park on the Knowles Arms car park at the beginning and end of the day (agreed with the landlord) and walk children into school.

No access to School for parking

Please note: parents are not permitted to use the staff car park for dropping off or picking up children - including after school hours for clubs and events. This is due to congestion and capacity issues.

General Data Protection Regulations

School follows the latest GDPR regulations. The current policy and privacy notice can be found on the school website.

A final word.....

We hope that this booklet has answered some of the questions you may have about your child starting school. Children's education is a partnership between teachers and parents and we value your support, as we hope that you will value the teachers' hard work and professional judgement.



We look forward to you and your child becoming part of the thriving community that is St. Gabriel's School.