



St. Gabriel's C.E. Primary School

"Stand firm... be courageous" 1 Corinthians 16:13

October 2020



The school would like to thank the Friends' of St. Gabriel's School for their continued support and for purchasing the P.E. kits, infant and junior library furniture and for their generous donations towards the cost of the Y6 Leavers' hoodies, and the new interactive teaching screens across school.

A big thank you to all our parents for your support during this term. It has been a challenge for everyone! As we approach the holiday, we are fortunate that all our classes have remained open, but please see the reminder below regarding Home Learning should this be required.

If your child, or anyone in your household tests positive over the holiday, please ensure you email the school office to let us know. The email is office@stgabriels.blackburn.sch.uk.

Oxford Owl eBook Library – keep your children reading at home!

During lockdown we signposted you to Oxford Owl to access online books from the Oxford Reading Scheme. Please see the leaflet your child is bringing home which explains how **to access a new and extended library of ebooks books via a new class login**. The login is simple, to allow children to access the books more independently. Teachers have shown children how to do this in class. The leaflet will also state the **Level at which your child is comfortably and fluently reading**, to select appropriate books. Infant children will also be given an appropriate Read Write Inc level. Reading at home should always be about reading for pleasure – not choosing books which are difficult.

Your children are reading and being heard read daily, but please continue to support their reading at home – the ebooks are a great way of doing this. We intend to send 'real' books home after half term... more details will follow.

Home Learning Parental Questionnaire - responses

- Thank you for completing the questionnaire sent last week. We have read all your comments and collated all the responses. A few parents asked questions regarding the use of Microsoft Teams and the live streaming of lessons (in the event of a lockdown or bubble closure). We have considered all options to decide what is best for primary aged children. We have also listened to parents' concerns on the ability to supervise and support whilst also attempting to work from home.

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Live streaming via Teams or Google classroom etc seems far more appropriate to high school aged children. It would also be restricted to set times. We know that you are best able to support young children at times that work for you! On balance, we feel that White Rose maths, Read Write Inc and Oak Academy offer video lessons that can be played and paused at any time – giving you flexibility. In addition, Purple Mash has proven to be very effective in providing essential feedback and personal comments. I am sure the whole online learning experience will continue to evolve and we will, as ever, review our approaches to ensure we provide the best options for our children.

Home Learning for children absent due to Covid

The information below will apply to Years 1 to 6. Home Learning in the Reception class will aim to follow a similar '3 tier' approach, but will involve more practical activities than online tasks.

If a child is absent because you are awaiting test results (hopefully only a couple of days!)

- Children should continue with their routine homework tasks.
- Teachers will send a postcard via Purple Mash with links to the relevant White Rose Maths lessons and the current Oak Academy lessons.

If individual children are isolating for 14 days (because a household member is positive)

- Children should continue with their routine homework tasks.
- Teachers will send a postcard via Purple Mash with daily links to White Rose Maths lessons and Oak Academy lessons.
- We will post out a maths booklet to accompany the online White Rose lessons and a Home Learning Journal to record additional activities.

If a full class bubble is forced to close

- We will resume a similar format to the Home Learning Opportunity grids that were used during lockdown, providing essential links to Maths activities, Read Write Inc, topic activities and Purple Mash.
- We will request that maths booklets and Home Learning Logs are collected from school wherever possible (please note it is only the child from the bubble who needs to self-isolate in this situation, not any siblings or any other members of the household).
- Teachers will actively correspond and maintain contact with all children through Purple Mash activities and postcards.

Note: there is no expectation for children to complete home learning tasks if they are unwell.

Secondary School Applications – Please note the **deadline date for application is 31st October**. Parents are encouraged to apply online at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions. St. Wilfrid's along with a number of other schools require a supplementary form to be completed by your faith leader. Details for Rev Corbett have already been sent. Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact school or the Local Authority Admissions Team on 01254 666605.



Parents' Evening—We aim to keep Parents' Evening personal and informative, so we will be inviting you to book a 'slot' to receive a phone call update from your child's class teacher **on Tuesday 24th November** and **Thursday 26th November**. More details to follow.

Harvest—We are holding a whole school non-uniform day on **Friday 23rd October** to celebrate this year's Harvest. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept tins of food this year and are therefore requesting voluntary contributions from parents if they wish to donate. All donations raised on this day will go towards Blackburn Foodbank— a charity which is in desperate need during this current time.

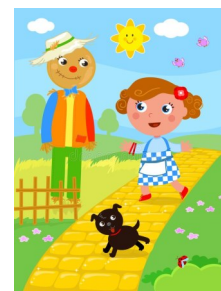


Year 6 Bikeability— Unfortunately, Bikeability could not go ahead last year for the Year 5 children. As a result, we have rescheduled it for this year's Y6 for **Wednesday 4th November** and **Thursday 5th November**. We will be using the information you provided to us last year regarding the arrangements of the bikes and helmets. An email has been set out already to each individual parent confirming the information we have in the office. If there are changes to this, you will need to contact the office ASAP.



Year 5 Bikeability will hopefully take place in Spring 2021.

The Wizard of Oz Pantomime—This year, The Friends will be funding an M&M production of The Wizard of Oz. This will be a big screen virtual performance with a live presenter and will meet all social distancing requirements. The new normal! We're excited to see it and it will provide children with a festive treat before we break up for the Christmas Holidays.



Children in Need—This year's Children In Need fundraiser will be held on **Friday 13th November**. Children will be invited to come to school in their favourite jumper. Any voluntary contributions will be put towards Children in Need.

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Reception Class Applications– September 2021—Parents with siblings wishing to apply– please note that the deadline date for applications is **Friday 15th January**. Parents are encouraged to apply online at www.blackburn.gov.uk/pages/admissions.



Christmas Tree Delivery—This years Christmas Tree will be arriving on 30th November.

Pocket Money Stall—The Friends' of the school are in the process of organising a pocket money stall for all children. It may look slightly different this year compared to previous years, but we will do our best to ensure the children get to experience as much festive cheer as possible. More details about this event will follow.



School Dinners— We want to thank all parents for their patience and continued support in bringing in the SchoolMoney system and the approach to selecting school lunches in advance. We hope that in the long term they will enable greater sufficiency for both parents and school. However, the systems for lunch choices and payments are linked and requests for changes

to meal options cause a lot of additional work. **Please note, after half term, meal options and days need to be fixed.** This is essential for the preparation and smooth running of the menu moving forward.

Marbles—With restrictions carrying on, the youth and children's meeting are continuing to host marbles online. The sessions will take place on the second Friday of every month. The details are on the Marbles Facebook page. The procedure is that parents/carers contact church on **07955 730834** or email stgabriels20@gmail.com. Parents will then be sent login details for Zoom..

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Dates for Diaries...

Friday 23rd Oct	Non-Uniform Day for Harvest Fundraiser School Closes @ 3.30 p.m. for Half Term
Monday 2nd Nov	School Closed for Inset Day
Tuesday 3rd	School re-opens
Wednesday 4th	Y6 Bikeability (1/2)
Thursday 5th	Y6 Bikeability (2/2)
Thursday 12th	Virtual Governors' Finance Meeting @ 4 p.m.
Friday 13th	Children in Need
Thursday 19th	Virtual Full Governing Body Meeting @ 4 p.m.
Tuesday 24th	Parents' Evening— details to follow.
Thursday 26th	Parents' Evening— details to follow.
Monday 14th Dec	The Wizard of Oz Pantomime
Friday 18th	School closes @ 3.30 p.m. for Christmas
Monday 4th Jan	School re-opens