



St Gabriel's C.E. Primary School

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City of Westminster LA
Diocese of London
Headteacher: Rebecca Anson

Website: www.stgabrielsprimary.co.uk

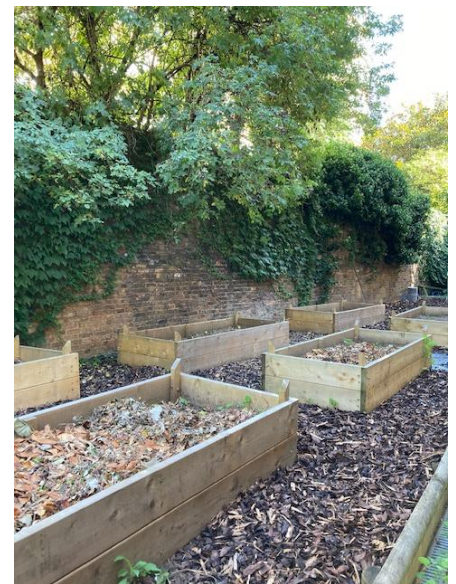
Email: office@stgabrielsprimary.co.uk

Wednesday 6th September 2023

Excellence with Compassion

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to a new school year. We are really looking forward to the year ahead!



As you will see from our lovely new playground markings and football surface, we have been very busy over the summer holidays.

To the side of school, we have made great progress in developing our orchard area and Mr Eamon has spent some of the holiday painting our Year 2 classroom; we have also

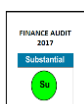
developed our school kitchen with new kitchen equipment to help us to support another local school in providing school dinners for their pupils. We are also in the process of fitting new drinking fountains in the playground.

You may also have seen 2 of our pupils on Newsround over the holidays. If you missed this, please do check out our website and follow the link to see Rina and Lucas on the BBC!

Newsround!



<https://www.stgabrielsprimary.co.uk/gallery/>



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated. You may have seen in the news, that some schools have had to close some school buildings and take their learning on line whilst this issue is addressed.

We wanted to inform you that **we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings** and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub. I hope that this offers reassurance.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Now that all children (Reception – Yr 6) are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal, we are finding that not as many parents (who may be entitled) are applying for Free School Meal status. If you are unemployed and you are in receipt of certain benefits you may be eligible for further financial assistance. We would encourage parents to apply for Free School Meal status as there are other additional benefits. These potentially include a school uniform grant (for Reception children starting in September 2023 and for Yr 6 transitioning to secondary school) and in recent years, families in receipt of FSM have received supermarket vouchers over school holidays. In addition, school receives £1455 (2022) per child entitled to FSM. This helps immensely, with school providing additional support to children. The links is available on our website: www.stgabrielsprimary.co.uk/useful-links/ or via the following link: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/education/free-school-meals/apply-free-school-meals>. Paper forms are also available from the office.

Family assembly

This week, as the children settle in to their new classes they will be looking at our value for this term, which is Friendship. Next Thursday (14th), we will have our first family assembly of the year and we look forward to parents and cares joining us. At this assembly each class will be sharing what friendship means to them. Whilst Reception class will also be looking at friendship together this week, Reception class will not be joining us in assembly for several weeks as they settle in to their new class and routines.

'Meet the Teacher' Meetings

Your child's teacher is always available in the playground at the beginning and end of the day, but there will also be an opportunity over the coming week, for you to more formally meet your child's class teacher and hear more about the class and what your children will be learning about over the coming months. Apart from reception class, these meetings will be at 3.40pm in your child's classroom and will be on the following days:

Reception: 12.30pm Friday 8th September
Year 1: Tuesday 12th September
Year 2: Wednesday 13th September
Year 3: Wednesday 13th September
Year 4: Monday 11th September
Year 5: Thursday 14th September
Year 6: Monday 11th September

We hope to be able to provide a crèche during these times. Additional information about your child's class, is also available in the class newsletters, coming out on Monday.

Breakfast and Afterschool Care

Breakfast Club is starting again this term, at a cost of £3 for half an hour. As before, this is payable in advance. Children can then join fitness club at 8.30am for free. After school care will be continuing as normal and is available from 3.30 – 5pm.

Both breakfast club and afterschool care will start again on Monday 11th September.

Uniform

During the pandemic we introduced the wearing of PE kits all day on PE days and whilst we found that it meant we had more time for PE, we believe it is more hygienic for children to get changed. In addition, we want our children to look as smart as possible every day.

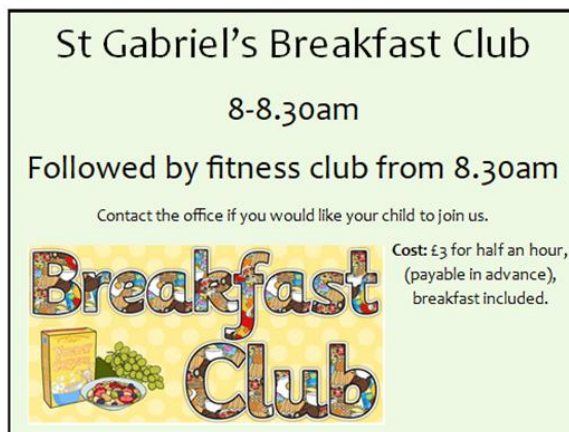
We are therefore, going back to wearing school uniform every day. On PE days, children can bring their PE kits in to school. Every day we expect children to come into school looking smart. Children should wear black school shoes and only wear trainers for PE. If children wish to wear trainers at break time (if for example it is their football day) that is acceptable, however children would be expected to change back into school shoes for the classroom. We want to discourage the wearing of trainers to school.

We would also like to encourage children to wear ties. Both traditional ties and elasticated ties are available for under £5 from the school office.

If a child would like to wear a head covering as part of religious practice, we ask that this is in white, black or grey.

Hoodies and denim jackets are not part of school uniform and should not be worn to school.

St Gabriel's Uniform consists of:



Daily Uniform	PE Kit
<p>Minimum expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey trousers/shorts • Grey skirt/dress • (Blue gingham dress in warmer weather) • Grey cardigan or grey V-neck jumper • White shirt or white polo shirt • Yellow and black St Gabriel's Tie (traditional or elasticated) • Black school shoes <p>Other additional items purchasable through school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Gabriel's blazer • St Gabriel's back pack is also available (KS2) • St Gabriel's book bag (KS1) 	<p>Minimum expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow St Gabriel's polo shirt • Black shorts/black jogging bottoms or black leggings • St Gabriel's fleece (<i>plain black sweatshirt as an alternative</i>) • Trainers (preferably black) <p>Other additional items purchasable through school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Gabriel's Draw String PE Bag • St Gabriel's water bottle • St Gabriel's summer cap

We are also very aware of the increased financial burdens on families at the moment. Because of this, St Gabriel's has always kept the number of 'branded' items on our uniform list to a minimum. As you will see from the above, the highlighted items on the 'minimum expectations' lists are the only items carrying the St Gabriel's logo. When families sign the home school agreement, part of this included reference to ensuring children come to school in the correct uniform. However, if school uniform is an issue for your family, please do come and see myself or the office and we are absolutely more than happy to support families with uniform as much as possible. We have both nearly new second hand items of uniform and brand new donations, which we can share with families. We may also be able to access further support from other sources.

We thank you in advance for your support in this.

Homework, Google classroom and school devices/laptops

We aim to make homework as minimal and as relevant to our children as possible. Whilst reception class is slightly different, all children are expected to read at home daily and fill in their reading log, there are spellings that go home and there may be a short maths activity (e.g. times tables or maths facts that need to be learnt off by heart). Key Stage 2 classes also complete Genius homework. Genius homework is not compulsory, but many children have enjoyed taking part in this each term and sharing their projects with their class, or the rest of the school.

It is important that children remain familiar with the use of **Google Classroom**. We never want our children to be in the position they were during the first lockdown where children could not access online learning because they didn't know how or did not have the devices to do so. If for any reason at all school has to close, we want our children to be able to access a device and access online learning immediately. Therefore to ensure all of our children and adults do not lose the skill of accessing Google Classroom and to ensure children can pick up online learning immediately (should the need arise), we are only going to be issuing spelling and maths homework on Google Classroom. Paper copies will not be going home. If you do not have a device at home, we have lap tops or tablets available to loan. Please ask the office. If you find this a challenge at home, talk to your child's teacher, they can help to show you how to access it, or we can enrol your child into homework club.

Attendance

This is a regular item in newsletters. However it is an incredibly important item. We would ask that parents please make a note of the term dates available in the accompanying letter. We will not be able to authorise any holidays in term time. The government are being very clear on the expectations of schools to ensure that children are in school. Parents are at significant risk of receiving a penalty notice if they take their child out of school, particularly if this has happened on a previous occasions.

Children's overall attendance will also be more closely monitored. It is the aim that all children should have an attendance of at least 96%. If a child's attendance drops below 90%, parents and carers receive a letter from school. If this continues to fall, a second letter is sent home. If we continue to see no improvement, an attendance contract is put in place to explore ways we can support a child to improve their attendance. One of the ways in which support may be sourced is through a referral to Early Help.

For those children with 100% attendance, we will be issuing certificates at the end of the term. A whole class also receive a certificates if 100% of the class are in school and will receive a gold star if 100% are in and on time. Once the class has received 9 gold stars they will receive a £50 cheque to spend on the class. Last year classes used their cheques on fun activities of their choice, such as parties, film afternoons and trips.

Dates for this half term:

September	October
Meet the teacher meetings – please see above Mon 11th Peter Daniel working on history project with Yr 6 Wed 13th : Yr 6 school journey to Sayers Croft Thurs 21st Yr 6 visit to parliament 5pm Full Governing body Meeting Mon 25th first swimming for Yr 3 Fri 29th : visitor for Yr 4 – sustainability workshop	Thurs 5th Nasal Flu for all year groups Tues 10th : Parents Evening Wed 11th Parents Evening Fri 13th : Louise Wannier children's author visiting Yr 1 and Yr 3 Wed 18th Individual photos Fri 20th : break up for half term Mon 30th School starts – children in school (last day of term Thursday 21st December)

Please do refer to our website for further information about St Gabriel's: www.stgabrielsprimary.co.uk

Please visit our Twitter page to see some of the exciting things that have gone on at St Gabriel's recently! To follow us on Twitter: @GabrielsSchool .

With very best wishes

Rebecca Anson
Headteacher