



St Bernard's NEWSLETTER

December 2020



What a term! Thank you so much to all parents for your support since the school fully reopened in September. Despite really challenging circumstances, there is so much to celebrate and all staff are so proud of your children for the way they have adapted to change and routine in school. It has been a joy to see high quality learning going on across the school and we're delighted with the steps in progress the children are making. Key priority areas this term have been basic skills with a big emphasis on reading. We have then reintroduced other subject areas and it's been wonderful to see children making links across subjects. In spring, we will look to build on pleasing gains in these areas and continue to reintroduce wider connector learning.

Our school team has worked incredibly hard to get the children back up to speed this term and I can't thank every member of staff enough for their commitment, flexibility and resilience. As always, they will continue to support your children and instill in them a love of learning. I'm sure all parents and guardians will join me in expressing your thanks to them.

As the term comes to a close and we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, now is the time to stop and reflect. The children have enjoyed many prayerful, collective worship sessions in class and although we haven't yet been able to come together face to face as a full school community, we have still enjoyed virtual sessions together. There have been so many thoughtful reflections from the children, thinking about the positive changes they can make in preparation for the coming of Jesus.

So far in our Advent preparations, we have lit the candles of hope, love and joy. Considering the challenges we have all faced in 2020, we look forward to 2021 in hope. Let's make 2021 a year to remember for all of the right reasons and continue to strengthen the strong bond between home and school. For now, enjoy a peaceful and relaxing break together, remembering and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed in the new year.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

Mr Jevons



Christmas closing arrangements

We'd like to remind parents and guardians that we will be closing slightly earlier than usual on Friday 18th December.

TR T2	T6 T3	T1 T4 T5
1:50pm	2:00pm	2:10pm

If you have siblings, come at the earliest time slot.

Staying safe over Christmas



There have been a number of children informing staff that they have been enjoying sleep overs or regularly going to other children's households. Please ensure you keep your child, yourselves and the school staff as safe as possible, following guidance stringently and not mixing beyond your own bubbles.

Please continue to follow all government guidance in order to stay safe. The following guidance below explains what to do in the event that your child develops Covid-19 symptoms in the run up to or over the festive period.

Christmas Test and Trace Arrangements-Public Health guidance

Parents should continue to notify the school if their child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or is asymptotically tested (tested when they don't have symptoms) in the final week before the Christmas break.

Notifying the school of a positive test result

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 and has been tested or was asymptotically tested (tested when they don't have symptoms) and the results do not arrive before the school closes for Christmas, please email: sjevons@stbernards.cheshire.sch.uk as soon as the results arrive.

Notifying the school if your child develops COVID-19 symptoms after the school closes for Christmas on Friday 18th December

Notify the school if:

- Your child develops symptoms or is asymptotically tested (tested when they don't have symptoms) before 2:00pm on 20 December 2020 and;
- Your child was in school in the 48hrs prior to the symptom on-set (or test if they have been tested but don't have symptoms).

You do not need to notify the school if:

- Your child has not been in school in the 48hrs prior to the symptom on-set (or test if they have been tested but don't have symptoms).
- Your child develops symptoms or is asymptotically tested (tested when they don't have symptoms) after 2:00pm on Sunday 20 December 2020.

Testing

We would like to remind parents that children should only be tested if they develop any of the three COVID-19 symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

They should not be tested asymptotically (when they don't have symptoms) unless they are part of a study or have been advised to do so by a Consultant in Public Health.

*Stay Safe
and
Healthy*

Returning to school in January 2021

The school does not need to be notified if your child is required to self-isolate during the Christmas holidays. However, if your child is required to isolate and will not be in school on the 5th January 2021 when the children return, please contact the school on 4th January 2021 (staff INSET day) outlining the reason why they are isolating and the date they will return. We will then update our attendance records and look to support you with home learning.

Test and trace arrangements when the school re-opens in January

From school reopening for pupils on the 5th January 2021 onwards, the normal test and trace procedures will apply, and parents should contact the school to notify us if their child develops symptoms of COVID-19.

Advent



In this special season of Advent, the children have been completing a number of activities. All families should have received an angel to put in your windows at home and the children will also shortly receive a 'make your own' crib to do at home with a short reflection. Miss Reid and Mrs Brickland have been working exceptionally hard with the children to create short videos for parents of the children performing. We'll share these with you when final editing has taken place. It has been fantastic to hear many of our favourite carols and songs ringing out from classrooms over recent days.



Christmas Services

The following church services are available over Christmas:

- Christmas Vigil mass 5.00 pm at Our Ladys
- Christmas Vigil mass 8.00 pm at Our Ladys
- Christmas Day mass 9.30 am at Our Ladys
- Christmas Day mass 11.00 am at Our Ladys

Each of these Masses will be limited to 80 people and will be by pre-booking only; people will not be able just to turn up. Pre-booking will be essential, and will be available from this Monday, 14th December.

From Monday coming, please call: 0151 355 1255 (Preferably between 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday if possible) or Email: parishol@rcchep.co.uk Everyone must be seated 15 minutes before the beginning of Mass. Please leave a contact number or email, and do please let us know if you have to cancel so that your place can go to someone else.

Meet the governors

In this edition, we'd like to introduce you to one of our parent governors

Parent governor - James Ellison

I'm 35 years old, and work as Sales Director for an Automotive Spare Parts manufacturer. I'm married to Danielle, and currently have 2 children at St Bernard's, in T3 and TR and a third on the way very soon - so if I look tired in January, feel free to bring coffee!



Outside of work and school our family enjoys all things outdoors, particularly going for days on the beach or in the woods with our Border Collie, Ted. I'm proud to be part of the St Bernard's community as a parent governor and look forward to helping the school grow and develop over the coming years.

Attendance

In the last newsletter, we shared the good news that the school was achieving our attendance target of 96%+. We delighted that average attendance across the school has continued to rise and is 96.62% as we finish the autumn term. Huge congratulations to our children and families who have enjoyed excellent attendance and we hope this continues into 2021. Every day in school counts, even more so given the amount of time children have missed this calendar year and as you'll already be aware, improving attendance is a key priority for the school.

Please remember that any family holidays planned for spring or summer term time will not be authorised and could result in fixed penalty notices being served by Cheshire West and Chester.

Number of children achieving 100% - 112

Team Reception - 96.85%

Team 1 - 94.57%

Team 2 - 95.97%

Team 3 - 98.67%

Team 4 - 97.13%

Team 5 - 96.89%

Team 6 - 96.20%

Whole school - 96.62%

One of the highlights this term has been our Drum Fit sessions. The children are absolutely loving keeping fit and exercising in a fun way.



New Books for KS1

At St Bernard's, we love reading. We have purchased some brand new home reading books for our KS1 classes. It is great to see so many families reading at home with their children. Don't forget to record the reads in their reading records so your child can make their way up the Reading Rainbow.



St Bernard's in the community

Thank you to all those families who have raised money for the Countess of Chester Blue Skies appeal. Your decorated collection boxes look fantastic and all your donations are going towards a fantastic cause.

Other news...

Curriculum

We have had another fantastic half term jam packed with learning. From creating monsters in DT to exploring the Solar System. If you visit our Twitter page you can keep track of everything that is going on in school.

www.twitter.com/StBernardsep

