

Our Vision:
**EXCELLENCE
IN ALL WE DO**



Our Mission:
**TO GROW,
LOVE AND LEARN
FOLLOWING JESUS**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe we have already reached the autumn half-term break! The past few weeks have flown by. I could not be prouder of how well the children have settled into their new classes and routines. As always, there has been so much learning, laughter and collaboration across the school. Thank you for attending Share the Learning, Family Lunchtimes, Parents Evening and for your kind harvest donations. Our local food bank collected all the food this week ready to distribute within our local community.

Team Reception have been taking part in '**The All Together Smiling programme**'. Young children in Cheshire & Merseyside have some of the worst rates of tooth decay in the country. This is largely preventable when children clean their teeth daily. As part of this programme all children have been given a toothbrush and some toothpaste to take home today.

Many of our families are benefitting from us being part of the **DfE's Breakfast Club Early Adopters Programme**. It is from 8.15-8.45am and is completely free of charge - all children receive a healthy breakfast and drink. Please sign up on Arbor if you would like your child to attend.

Our whole school **attendance** is **93.5%** - this is below the national average. Congratulations to Team 4, who have won this half-terms attendance treat, with 96.4% attendance.

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

Under the national rules, all schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other actions like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Please be reminded that these rules are set by the government and any money raised by fines does not come into school funds. Money raised via fines is used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support.

At St Bernard's we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success. Children in the main school have learnt how they can be an attendance HERO.

Let us continue to work together to ensure our children do not miss a moment of their learning. We know that you can have a significant effect on your child's/children's absences this academic year and we would really appreciate your help and support ensuring that they come to school every day so that

they can get the best possible outcomes. We want to work with you to achieve this – **please call or come in if there is anything we can do to support you or your child. We appreciate that every family's situation is unique.**

There will be a **whole school Open Morning** on Wednesday 19th November (9.15-11am). Please pass on our details to anyone you know who is looking for a Nursery or main school place for their child. Thank you to all those parents who completed the recent questionnaire.

Due to members of our school community having a **nut allergy**, we must now make sure we have no nut products within our setting. Those who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties). Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school or put in lunch boxes.

Please do follow us on **Instagram** to see what we have been up to! The children at St Bernard's have so many opportunities and following us will ensure that you are kept up to date with what is happening across the whole school.

All children should come home today with a toothbrush and some toothpaste. These have been given to us as we are taking part in '**The All Together Smiling programme**'. As part of this programme, every day Team Reception have been learning how to clean their teeth and thus prevent tooth decay.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a fabulous half-term break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 3rd November.

Julie Le Feuvre

Headteacher