

# St Bernard's NEWSLETTER

March 2021



On behalf of the team at St Bernard's, I hope everyone is well. We're all very much looking forward to seeing you all again when school fully reopens on Monday 8th March and we're delighted to be welcoming back all year groups after such a disruptive start to 2021. Our school team can't wait to have all children back so that they can do what they do best and we're ready to support you all in the best way we can.

We're proud of the children for how they have continued their learning either in school or at home during this period and thank parents and guardians for all of your support. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the staff have been incredible and have worked tirelessly to ensure all children have access to high quality education. This term, we have supported children of key workers and those classed as vulnerable on site and the number of children in school has been higher than national averages.

Our approach to opening fully on the 8th March will be similar to the approach we used back in September. Our key priority as we fully reopen is the safety of everyone in our school community.

Our stringent risk assessment is in place and is constantly being reviewed in relation to guidance received regarding Covid-19. Later in the newsletter, I've included some reminders and key information for all parents and guardians regarding the systems we have in place. If you have any questions regarding plans, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The teaching team are very much looking forward to reconnecting face to face with all children and enjoying full class live teaching again. Basic skills and reading will continue to be focus areas but we're also very excited to get cracking with our outstanding creative curriculum. There are lots of opportunities on the horizon and we'll keep you updated with developments.

Over the lockdown period, St Bernard's issued a large number of devices to families to support learning at home. As your children return on Monday, please bring these safely to school. Miss Reid and myself will be available at the front of school to collect them from you and we'll record that they have been returned in their original state.

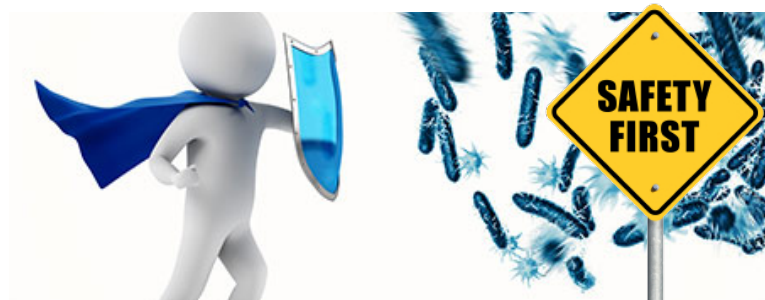
Please read the safety measures outlined below carefully and we look forward to seeing you all again shortly.

Mr Jevons



# March full opening - safety measures

## Preventing infection



To reduce the risk of infection, there are a number of safety measures in place. Please work in partnership with us to keep everyone safe.

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- they have [one or more coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- a member of their household (including someone in their [support bubble or childcare bubble](#) if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to [quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area](#)
- they have had a positive test

Pupils must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

[For full government guidance provided to schools please click here](#)

Please follow government guidance. Children from different households should not be mixing outside of school in each other's houses.

## Staggered drop off and pick up times

To limit the number of adults on site at one time, we have a staggered drop off and collection timetable in place. To support families with siblings, one drop off and collection time will be provided to prevent parents waiting. This will be the drop off and collection time of the oldest sibling attending school.

To limit the number of people who are on site, please ensure only 1 parent comes on site to drop off or collect your child. Unless you are exempt, we politely request that parents continue to wear face coverings when on school premises. This is to keep yourself, other parents and our staff safe. Timings and entry / collection points are as follows:

YEAR GROUPS	DROP OFF	COLLECTION	WHERE
Team Reception	8:50 am	3:15 pm	Class Doors
Team 1 & 2	8:50 am	3:15 pm	Class Doors
Team 3 & 4	8:40 am Hall Doors	3:10 pm	KS2 Doors
Teams 5 & 6	8:40 am	3:10 pm	KS2 Doors

For parents of all children, please follow the one way system in and out of the playground gates. We request that all parents **exit through the car park** which will be supervised for safety by Mr Jevons and Miss Reid. **For everyone's safety, please do not gather outside the hall doors or outside of the school gates. Please do not congregate on the yard.**

All parents and guardians will need to continue to follow distancing measures around the school grounds, especially when waiting to collect your child at the end of the school day.

*School staff will be on hand to support and supervise entry and exit onto the school grounds.*

## Hygiene systems



Our existing hand washing and school cleaning system will continue. Children will be required to sanitise their hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day. If you'd like your child to bring some hand cream to prevent hands becoming sore then this is absolutely fine. Please ensure that this is labelled with your child's name.

We have a stringent cleaning system in place with shared areas such as toilets being cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day. Children in Teams 1-6 will have their own learning equipment provided by school and will be regularly wiping down their work areas during the school day. Any frequently touched surfaces or resources will be cleaned often.

As always, we will promote the **'catch it, bin it, kill it'** approach, with plenty of tissues available in each classroom for the children to use.

## School uniform and PE kit



We expect all children to return in full school uniform. On PE days, children will continue to be allowed to come in sports clothing to prevent the need for changing spaces. Please ensure that this clothing is practical and sensible, including appropriate footwear such as trainers and jogging bottoms and sweatshirt if the weather is cold. We will confirm PE days by the end of this week on a separate letter.

## Class bubbles



We're delighted that full classes of children can reconnect and come together for learning. However, your child still won't be allowed to mix with children in other year groups. This makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible. To support this, children will be restricted with where they can go in school and when out on the playground or field. Our staggered lunch system and supervising staff will support them with this. This will also include children in Teams 3 to 6 continuing to eat their lunches in their classrooms. Hot lunches will be delivered to classrooms at designated times. Children in Teams Reception, 1 and 2 will eat in the hall with each class kept separate from each other.

## Breakfast and afterschool 'fun' club



Breakfast and after school provision has been open throughout this period but will resume for all children at the usual times. Further information regarding this is provided on the school website. However, due to children from more than one class bubble being present, children will need to distance themselves from those not in their year group as much as possible. Our staff will support the children with this. Drop off and collection will be via the hall doors.

## Accessing the school office



Our school office has been closed to parents since the start of lockdown and measures are in place to keep our staff safe. If you have any queries, please look to phone the office and speak to the team in the first instance. For the time being, please only come to the office if it is absolutely essential or has been pre-agreed. If you do need to come in, you will be required to wear a face covering and will need to sanitise your hands on entry and exit. Although this is a situation none of us would like with the open culture we have at St Bernard's, we must continue to put everyone's safety first. Thank you for your understanding with this.

# School rules

As all children return, we will be revisiting our school rules and updating our policy to ensure that children's behaviour and conduct is outstanding. Children must follow adult instructions for safety at all times.



## Lent 2021

As outlined in a letter last week, we are now in the period of Lent. We will reflect with the children throughout this time, focussing on how we can all become closer to God in the build up to Easter. We are supporting Cafod's 'Walk for Water' campaign and are asking for any voluntary donations from sponsored walks. As always, thank you for your support with this as we do our bit as a school community to help those less fortunate than ourselves.



## Kitchen update

We're delighted to announce that by the time the children return on 8th March, our school kitchen will have been refurbished with new cooking equipment. Our school cook Mrs Edgar and her team can't wait to get using it and are looking forward to making tasty, healthy meals for the children.



# Other News...

## Meet the governors

**Mrs Ralph**



Hi I'm Susan Ralph and I'm proud to be a Foundation Governor at St Bernard's Primary. I became a Governor almost 2 years ago after Mr Moor persuaded me! I am currently a Headteacher at St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School, Wirral and have been Head there for 8 years. I became a teacher in 2001 and throughout my career I have worked predominantly in Key Stage 1 and Early Years. I am passionate about Early Years and think the importance of early childhood education can't be overstated. I have worked as an Early Years Lead teacher for Wirral and also an EYFS Moderator.

When I am not busy in school I have two gorgeous primary age children and a husband at home who keep me very busy! We love to go for family bike rides and "welly walks" and we are also football mad in our household!

Being a Governor at St Bernard's is an absolute privilege. I love seeing the enthusiasm, passion and drive of the whole school community and it is great to hear about the great learning and opportunities that take place on a daily basis. I often pinch some of the wonderful ideas of things happening in your school to take back to my own!

## Staffing update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Morgan back to school following her maternity leave with baby Milo. Mrs Morgan will be job sharing with Mrs Suddaby in Team 4 alongside Miss Yeoman. Mrs Radford will continue to teach Team 1. Since September, Miss Dixon has been supporting Team 4 and has done an incredible job. She will leave this role at Easter and we thank her for everything she has done for the school throughout this period.

**Miss Dixon**



**Mrs Morgan**



Throughout lockdown, our trainee teachers have been a huge asset to the school and have supported children's learning both on site and at home. We're looking forward to supporting them in their development during the rest of the term and beyond.



**Miss Ahn**  
Team R



**Mr Sloan**  
Team 2



**Miss Bullimore**  
Team 5