

# St Bernard's

# NEWSLETTER

## November 2020



On behalf of the team at St Bernard's, I hope everyone enjoyed the half term break and that everyone is well. The children have returned refreshed and are continuing to make pleasing progress. This half term, we are re-introducing connector lessons and the children are enjoying learning new knowledge and skills. Some examples of learning are included later in the newsletter.

As face to face whole school gatherings for assemblies or celebrations are not permitted at present, we have now got into a routine of virtual assemblies during the week. We're committed to ensuring that Covid-19 doesn't disrupt key events which makes St Bernard's the place it is. Each Team continues to pray together daily and we join as a community for our virtual learning awards each Friday. Miss Reid regularly reads to the whole school whilst the children enjoy a biscuit. To mark Remembrance, Team 6 produced a beautiful display and video for the rest of the school to engage with. We also celebrated Children in Need virtually and will engage in virtual whole school assemblies for Anti-Bullying Week. With Advent and Christmas approaching, initial plans for whole school events are included later in the newsletter.

As mentioned in previous newsletters and especially given the current national lockdown we are in, the safety of everyone in our school community remains our key priority. Our stringent risk assessment continues to constantly be reviewed in relation to guidance received regarding Covid-19. I'd like to remind all parents that face coverings need to be worn when entering the school grounds unless you have provided myself or Miss Reid with an exemption reason. Thank you for your support with this. If the exemption rule applies to yourself, please take extra precaution to distance yourself from others when you come onto the school grounds. Please remember to only enter the school office if absolutely necessary. If you are coming into school, you must wear a face covering.

Please remember that if your child is ill or displaying symptoms of Covid-19, you must not send them to school. This is also the case if anyone in your household is displaying symptoms. In both cases, a test will be required and must be returned as negative before your child can return to school.

Whilst in school, if your child becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and you'll be advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus.

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

In the event of your child having to stay at home to await a test result or isolate, our home learning strategy will begin. This is outlined in our October newsletter available on the school website.

To enable you and the children to know more about our school governors, each monthly newsletter will contain a 'meet the governor' section. We hope you find this useful in order to get to know who is who.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support and we look forward to achieving lots of success with the children in the run up to Christmas.

Mr Jevons

# Attendance

I'm delighted to inform you that we are currently achieving our target of 96% +. Current attendance figures per class are provided. Please note that these figures do not include Covid related absence such as isolation. Every lesson is essential for your child's development, even more so given the amount of learning time lost due to the previous lockdown. Please ensure that your child is in school at their designated time so that they can get cracking with their first lesson. As a school we are closely monitoring and tracking the attendance of all pupils alongside our Educational Welfare Officer and there will be review meetings for parents where a child's attendance falls below an acceptable level for reasons other than Covid.

Number of children achieving  
100% - 122

Team Reception - 96.2%

Team 1 - 93.2%

Team 2 - 95.2%

Team 3 - 98.9%

Team 4 - 97.1%

Team 5 - 97.1%

Team 6 - 95.4%

Whole school - 96.1%

Let's keep up the great work and increase this further!

## Meet the governors

In this edition, we'd like to introduce you to our Chair and one of our foundation governors. Our governors are an integral part of our school and they are kept fully up to date with the amazing things the school is doing.

### Chair of Governors - Mrs Letissier



I am a French teacher at a secondary school in Chester, where I also lead the sixth form. Back in the day, I taught French and German at Stanney High School.

I am married and have two grown-up children who are now both teachers too, one in primary and one in secondary.

I have lived in Ellesmere Port for most of my life and have always been affiliated to St Bernard's school, as a pupil, a parent and as a governor. In fact, I was there the day the school opened in 1971, in my pram as my mum dropped my brothers to school. St Bernard's is in my DNA and it is a source of pride to be involved with such an amazing school.

### Foundation governor - Mr Hotchkiss



I am 66 years old and retired. I have lived in Ellesmere Port all my life. I have been married to Pauline for 47 years and we have two children, Alan and Cathy, and a grandson Michael. I am an active member of our parish.

I worked at the Shell Refinery and then lately the Essar Refinery for 43 years, starting as a Process Operator and finishing as a Data Analyst in the Refinery Scheduling department.

I was part of the training organisation and this involved organising and delivering training to various skill groups.

Out of work I was a member of the Scout Association for over 30 years. I have recently retired as a Cub Scout Leader.

I believe passionately in education and that is why I became a foundation governor of St Bernard's. I believe that all our children are important and should have equal access to learning. In the time I have been a governor I am impressed with the way the school engages with the children and the way the children respond.

# Other news...

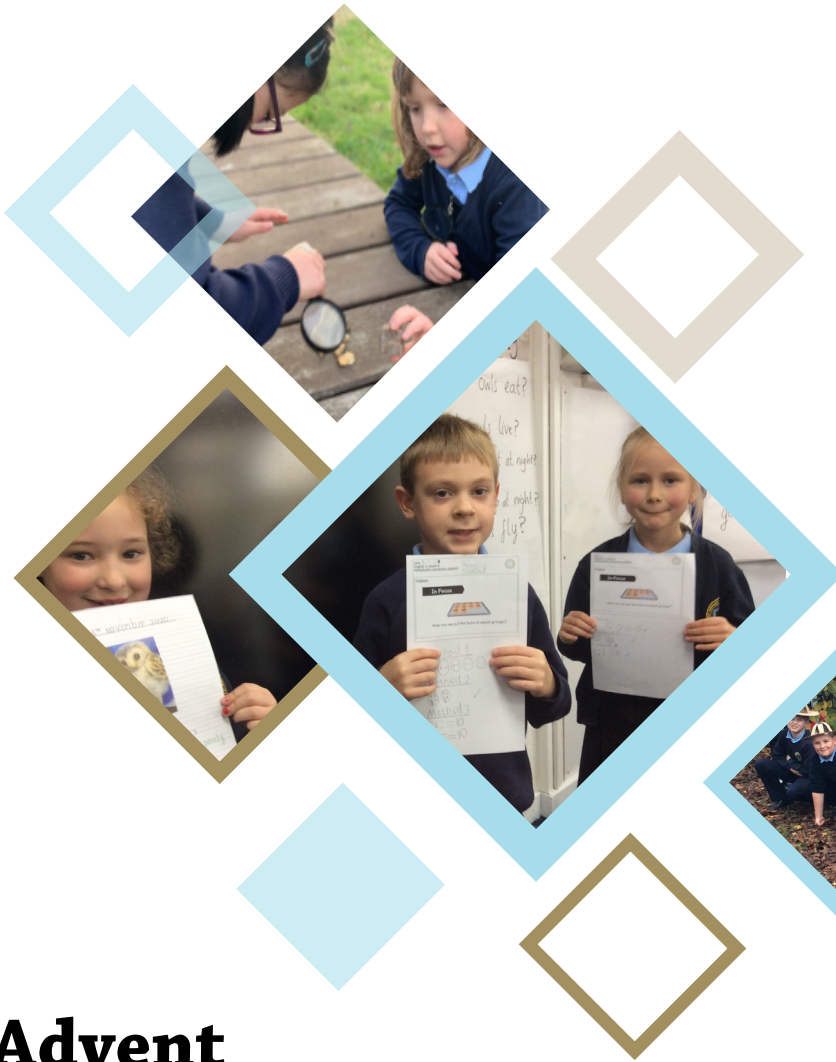
## Staffing update

We're delighted to welcome Mr Horsefield to St Bernard's as our interim caretaker. Mr Horsefield has extensive experience of working in schools as a DT technician and caretaker and has made a great start to life at St Bernard's.



## Curriculum

All our year groups continue to make great progress with their learning. On our [Twitter page](#) you will see lots of pictures of the children engaging in exciting learning experiences. In the Connector 1 newsletter, you will find more information about what children from T1-6 are learning. EYFS learning can be found on Tapestry.



## Advent

We are determined not to allow Covid to disrupt our Advent and Christmas activities and celebrations in school.

In normal circumstances, classes would come together to hold Advent assemblies. With current restrictions, assemblies for Advent will take place in class and all children will still experience prayer and preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

We would usually have our KS2 carol service and KS1 Nativity in the hall for parents. This year, parents can't come to us but we can come to you (albeit virtually!) We are hoping to produce both a KS1 and KS2 short video for parents of their children performing carols and poems for you to enjoy.

In our December newsletter, we'll share more plans including Christmas dinner.



# Christmas shoebox appeal

It is at this time of year that we start creating our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We usually do this as a class and collate all the items together to create shoeboxes in school. Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to do that this year. So we are asking if possible for families to create their own shoeboxes at home to send into school.

Please click on this link to see what goes in a shoebox- [shoe box items](#). We can print the labels for your box in school if you don't have a printer at home. Alternatively you can create your own shoebox online. [Online Shoebox](#)

## Parent Coffee Morning

Mr Jevons and Miss Reid would love to invite you to our third parent coffee morning of the year on Thursday 3rd December at 9.30am. It will be a virtual event and the Zoom link will be text out to parents. We look forward to seeing you all with a cuppa and a slice of cake.



## Children in Need

Huge thanks to everyone who donated towards the school's Children in Need appeal. Collectively, we have raised £180 from our non-uniform day. Well done to everyone!



### **Come and be part of the fantastic team of parents and family members at St Bernard's Primary School.**

The main role of the PTA is to build strong working relationships among parents, teachers and the local community, in support of the children. This can include recruiting and coordinating volunteers and organising fundraising events. It provides parents and teachers with the opportunity to exchange views, work together and to develop mutual trust and confidence.

**In a world where everyone's time is precious, joining a PTA can be a daunting prospect. But anyone can get involved, even if you only have a small amount of time available.**

