

# St Bernard's NEWSLETTER

September 2020



On behalf of the team at St Bernard's, I hope everyone is well and that you've enjoyed memorable family time together over the summer. We're all very much looking forward to seeing you all again when school opens on Thursday 3rd September and we're delighted to be welcoming back all year groups after such a disruptive spring and summer term last academic year. 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 particularly excited to be welcoming our new Team Reception children from Monday 7th September. It was lovely to meet them in July during their transition visits and I'm sure they'll all settle into life quickly as they start their journey at St Bernard's.

Our first priority as we open for the new term is the safety of everyone in our school community. A stringent risk assessment is in place and is constantly being reviewed in relation to guidance received regarding Covid -19. Returning to school after such a long period away will bring mixed emotions and feelings. Supporting the well-being of our children and families has always been a key priority and we're here to continue to ensure that children are excited and ready to return to school.



Later in the newsletter, I've included some 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.

Our next key priority is re-igniting the wonderful passion for learning that your children have. For many, September will be the first time your child has experienced live teaching and learning with their teacher in a long period of time. We're looking forward to each team reconnecting with each other and enjoying lessons together. Basic skills and reading will be focus areas throughout the year but we're excited to rekindle 'botherdness' about learning through the outstanding creative curriculum we offer.

I'd like to revisit the message from the July newsletter to thank all families for the incredible support they have shown the school throughout challenging circumstances. We are a wonderful community and the relationships between home and school make St Bernard's a special place to be. I'm really looking forward to building on this in 2020-21 and welcoming you back into school safely, including for coffee mornings and class assemblies.

In the next newsletter I'll update you with the exciting plans we have for the coming year, including celebrating the school turning 50! However for now, please support us in ensuring that your child has a smooth transition back into the school and read the safety measures outlined carefully.

Thanks for your ongoing support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Mr Jevons

# September full opening - safety measures

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.



## Preventing infection



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 (COVID-19)

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

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. Timings and entry / collection points are as follows:

## Staggered drop off and pick up times

YEAR GROUPS	DROP OFF	COLLECTION	WHERE
Team Reception	8:50 am	3:15 pm	Class Doors
Team 1	8:45 am	3:10 pm	Class Doors
Team 2	8:50 am	3:15 pm	Class Doors
Team 3	8:50 am	3:15 pm	Hall Doors
Team 4	8:45 am	3:10 pm	Hall Doors
Teams 5 & 6	8:40 am	3:05 pm	KS2 Doors

For parents of children in Teams Reception, 1, 2, 5 & 6, please follow the one way system in and out of the playground gates. For parents of children in Teams 3 & 4, please enter through the main gate but then exit through the car park which will be supervised for safety by Mr Turner our caretaker. 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.

***We also politely request that parents and guardians don't gather around the railings outside the school gates to ensure that all parents and children can enter and exit at a safe distance. 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 in September. On PE days, children will 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.

## Class bubbles



We're delighted that full classes of children can reconnect and come together for learning. However, your child 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 2 to 6 eating their lunches in their classrooms. Hot lunches will be delivered to classrooms at designated times. Children in Teams Reception and 1 will eat in the hall with each class kept separate from each other. Children on packed lunches are permitted to bring their own lunch box into school. Please ensure their name is clearly labelled on it.

## Breakfast and afterschool 'fun' club



Breakfast and after school provision will resume 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. 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 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.

Covid -19 has caused so much disruption to normal school life but as a community we are determined to get cracking with learning again. We look forward to working together and making 2020 -21 a special year for you and your children.

# Other News...

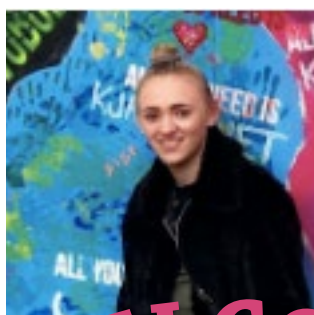


## Staffing update

Over the summer holidays Miss Marsden has secured a position of Provision Manager in our Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and will be leaving St Bernard's after 10 years of wonderful service to the school and wider community. Her position will start in September and is a great opportunity for her. I'm sure all parents will join me in thanking Miss Marsden for everything she has done to support so many children and families.

We have a number of new trainee teachers joining our team in September who will be based at St Bernard's for the autumn and summer terms. They can't wait to get started and learn from the fantastic teaching team we have. Joining us are:

Miss Bethany Wilson  
Team 2



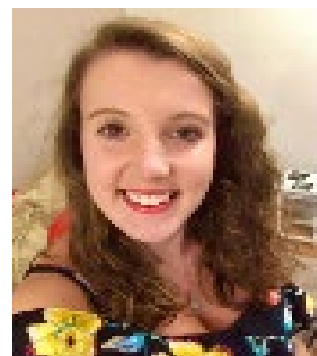
Miss Lauren Bullimore  
Team 3



Miss Sophie Penfold  
Team 4



Miss Laura Ellis  
Team 5



**WELCOME!**

## Parent Coffee Morning



Mr Jevons and Miss Reid would love to invite you to our first parent coffee morning of the year on Wednesday 16th September at 9am. It will be a socially distanced affair in the school hall, following all our school guidelines. Parents will be asked to wear masks when you come into the hall as you would when entering for class assemblies etc. Once sat at a table socially distant from others, masks can then be removed so that you can enjoy your coffee! We are looking forward to sharing with you the exciting things we have in store for this school year. For those of you who would like to attend virtually, a Zoom link will be sent out via text.

**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.

***This year, all funds raised will go towards new playground equipment.***

If you would like to join the PTA then please visit our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2477280365684118/>

Or email Beverley West to join the PTA Whats App Group- [beverley32.west@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:beverley32.west@hotmail.co.uk)

