

St Bernard's

NEWSLETTER

October 2020



On behalf of the team at St Bernard's, thank you to all families for a really successful transition into the new academic year. The weeks are going by quickly and the way the children have settled into new routines and systems has been exceptional - we're all really proud of them and we hope you are too. Life in school is a little different but we are finding innovative solutions such as virtual assemblies to make school feel as normal as possible. Our Team Reception children are now in full time and they have all made a wonderful start to life at St Bernard's.

It has been fantastic to catch up with many parents at the start and end of the day and all staff really appreciate the support and thanks you are sharing with us. Our strong home - school relationship is essential in order for your children to thrive and as always, we're committed to working with you to achieve our vision of excellence in all we do.

As the term progresses, the safety of everyone in our school community remains a key priority, especially with an increasing infection rate in our region. Our stringent risk assessment continues to constantly be reviewed in relation to guidance received regarding Covid-19. Earlier this week, we requested that all parents now wear face coverings when entering the school grounds. Thank you for your support with this. We are all aware of the disruption isolation or closure of a class bubble for a period of time will cause and wearing face coverings is a necessary step to reducing the risk of infection. We know that some people are exempt from this rule. If this 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.

The learning we are starting to see from the children is really pleasing and it is a joy to walk around the school and see all children so well engaged and enjoying their lessons.



As mentioned in the previous newsletter, reading and basic skills continue to be a key priority but week by week, we are beginning to re-introduce our wider curriculum areas. Some of the learning being produced presently is wonderful and we're already seeing steady progress in a short period of time. We've captured some of this below and we're very excited about curriculum opportunities for the children on the horizon.

Attendance levels across the school are pleasing at the moment and there is good communication between home and school regarding illnesses and steps to take. 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 later in the newsletter.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support and we look forward to achieving lots of success with the children over the coming weeks.

Mr Jevons

Home learning strategy

We are sincerely hoping that home learning will not be needed but as a school community, we must be prepared so that learning time is not lost. Children in KS2 have been reintroduced to google classroom and know how to log on. Log in details for apps such as TTRS, Spelling Shed etc...are also in place. In the event of your child not being able to attend school, we will continue to communicate all plans clearly and in a timely manner.

Much of our home learning strategy will include online learning. From previous parental surveys, we are aware of families who may not have access to a device and have taken the necessary steps to support. If your circumstances have changed over the summer, please speak to Mr Jevons or Miss Reid who will be able to advise further.

The following scenarios outline the strategy that would take place if needed:

A child or family member is waiting for a test due to displaying symptoms. If the child is well enough, then the following will take place:

- Children continue to read daily, access ebooks, Numbots, TTRS, Spelling Shed etc...
- TR,1 and 2 to access Oxford Owl Phonic videos daily
- School will keep in touch with the family and offer support where necessary.

Scenario

A

Scenario

B

A child has to isolate for 14 days due to a positive household test.

- Home learning will be published on Google Classroom for children in Teams 2 to 6 or Tapestry for children in Teams Reception and 1.
 - Parents are encouraged to engage as much as possible with the tasks set to prevent learning time being lost. Staff will understand that parents may be juggling homeschooling and work and we will not overburden families with learning activities.
 - A set of tasks will be published for children to choose from.
 - The class teacher will be available via email to respond to any concerns between 3:30-4:00pm.
- **online 1-1 teaching will not take place as the class teacher will still be teaching the rest of the cohort in school.

Our local Public Health team direct us to close a bubble due to a positive test for a child or staff member.

- When bubble closure is announced, children will take an exercise book home to complete tasks in.
- The class teacher is available throughout the closure to support the children and families with learning.
- The class teacher will create the following Zoom recordings / live sessions:
 - A daily maths session following our Maths No Problem scheme (resources accessed on google classroom)
 - One weekly reading session - Pathways to Read (resources accessed on google classroom)
 - One weekly prayer and RE session (resources accessed on google classroom)
 - One weekly spelling session (resources accessed on google classroom)
 - Daily read of class novel - LIVE via zoom
 - Children encouraged to access ebooks, Numbots, TTRS, Spelling Shed etc...

**Other than the class novel and reading session, all other sessions are recorded so that parents have the flexibility to access them during the day whenever they can.

Scenario

C

Other News...



Staffing update

It is with sadness that I have to announce that Mrs Pulford will be retiring later this term. Mrs Pulford attended St Bernard's as a child and has worked here for as long as she can remember! The support Mrs Pulford has offered to countless families over the years has been exceptional and the impact she has had on the children will live with them forever. Over the coming weeks, we will be thanking Mrs Pulford for her incredible service to the school community and wishing her well for the future. She's informed me she's looking forward to enjoying her garden and putting her feet up! I'm sure all parents will find the opportunity to thank her before she retires.

I also have to announce that our caretaker Mr Turner will be leaving St Bernard's at the end of this half term. He loves the school but wishes to embark on a new venture of becoming a handyman as well as looking after his dancewear shop in Liverpool. Mr Turner brings energy and laughter to the team and we'll all really miss him. A new caretaker will be joining the school in due course.



Curriculum

We have had an amazing start to the school year. The children have come back ready to learn and have enjoyed many brilliant experiences.



BRIGHTEN UP this HARVEST and BUILD a BRIGHTER WORLD

This year we are going to celebrate Harvest in our class bubbles. On the 9th October each class will be holding a harvest celebration for the children to support CAFOD in their coronavirus response.

"Access to clean, fresh water is a fundamental human right that must be defended." Pope Francis

But what if you had no water for handwashing? **We are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 which will then be sent to CAFOD to support this very important cause. Your child can put their voluntary donation in a class box when they enter the classroom.**

What our donations can buy:

- £80 can install a permanent handwashing station in a village under lockdown.
- £10 can install a tippy tap handwashing point in a rural village.

Our first parent's evening is nearly upon us and conversations with class teachers will take place on the 13th and 14th of October. A separate letter with further instructions for booking your time slot will be sent home in addition to this newsletter.

Parent Coffee Morning

Mr Jevons and Miss Reid would love to invite you to our second parent coffee morning of the year on Thursday 22nd October 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.



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.

We will be having a PTA get together on Thursday 15th October at 5pm. This will be virtual and a link will be text home to parents. Please bring any innovative ideas of how we can raise some money for school in the current restrictions. We look forward to seeing you.

