

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Mrs S Clarke
Headteacher



2nd November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school after half term. It has been lovely to see the children today and have them back in the classrooms. As I have mentioned in previous letters – we feel very fortunate after the events of the past year to be open for your children and operating on a near normal basis for the most part. Unfortunately, we can't seem to get away from the news and are often bombarded with facts and figures about Covid cases being on the rise once more, the overwhelming number of families impacted by this and of course, the affect it has upon our cherished NHS.

As a staff, it is our express wish that school continues to be open and have discussed measures we can take to mitigate the potential risk of spread of infection within school and the wider community. We have therefore made the difficult decision to implement the following restrictions with immediate effect:

1. **Face coverings:** staff have the option to wear face coverings in communal areas within school and when working closely with children if they feel comfortable with this. We would also ask that parents wear face coverings wherever possible when coming on to the school yard.
2. **Social distancing:** we would ask that parents maintain social distancing when dropping off/collecting your children and exit the premises quickly to avoid congestion at key points of the school day. We appreciate that there is limited access into/out of school – but if we work together, we can hopefully avoid having to implement a one way system in/out of school and/or different exits for different classes.
3. **Events/Assemblies/Liturgical Prayer:** whilst we will still have a calendar of events in school, unfortunately we will not be inviting parents to these at this time. Where these do happen in school, the children will be kept in their classes and spaced out in the hall, as they currently are, when we meet for Liturgical Prayer each week.
4. **Nativity:** we have taken the very difficult decision to record the Nativity this year instead of inviting parents to see their children perform. There will be no cost involved for parents of children involved in this, who will receive a DVD of it.
5. **Parents Evenings:** to minimise face to face contact, we have taken the decision to host our parent/pupil consultations via telephone. The school office have already notified parents of children in each class of their respective times etc.
6. **Educational visits:** we will not be scheduling any trips/visits this half term to minimise time spent on buses/transport and or in different public locations and therefore exposure to potential infection.
7. **Visitors to the school:** we are trying to minimise visitors to the school and would therefore ask that parents do not come into the school office without an appointment unless there is an absolute emergency. Any visitors coming into school to facilitate workshops and support children will be expected to adhere to our social distancing measures.

8. **Additional hygiene:** staff have reminded children and will continue to remind them of the importance of sanitising hands and washing them thoroughly – using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' regime.
9. **Children/adults displaying symptoms of Covid or deemed close contact with positive case:** in-line with our risk assessment, we would ask that any child/adult in school displaying any symptoms of Covid, or are deemed a close contact of a positive case, we would recommend a PCR test in-line with government advice. We would ask that this result is shared with school at stbs@stbs.bwcet.com so we can help NHS test and trace wherever positive cases arise.
When children do display symptoms in school, we will ask parents to collect their children in order that they can have a PCR test.

We hope that the points outlined above will help in continuing to keep our children and members of our whole school community as safe as possible during these uncertain times and hope that as parents you will continue to support us as you have done so.

Sports Ambassadors

Thank you to our Year 6 Sports Ambassadors, who have measured up and chosen new storage facilities for our PE equipment. Whilst this will be a long project for them, it will certainly make equipment more accessible to all children! They will be working with Mrs Holtham across the year to audit resources, recruit our Sports Organising Crew etc. Hopefully, this means they will leave a lasting legacy to our pupils for years to come!

Remembrance Month

St Bede's School book of Remembrance is now open. Whilst we would have loved parents to come in and sign the names of loved ones they wish to remember in person, we would ask that you email school with a dedication instead and we will ensure this goes into the book. We will pray for everyone named each week during our Liturgical Prayer.

Poppies will continue to be sold until the Royal British Legion come to collect the donation boxes etc. Children can continue to bring monies into school for these if they wish, and will be given the opportunity to get them at the end of each school day before leaving.

COP26

'Eyes of the World' really are on us as world leaders meet in Glasgow. Pope Francis tweeted, 'This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities, what we value, what we want, what we seek and replan our future, committing to plan in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. The time to act and act together is now!'

His words really are quite pertinent given our current climate emergency. Children will be focusing on aspects of this tomorrow and how each of us can make a difference in order to save our world. They are able to wear their own clothes tomorrow – with a green theme if they have them!

Mission Statement

Work on our school mission statement has been ongoing since September, with input from staff, governors and the Director of Ethos from Bishop Wilkinson Trust. I will be sharing this with the School Council for their

input over the next week with the hope of sharing it with yourselves and the remainder of our school community as we launch it. Watch this space!

EYFS

Miss R Barber will be working in Class 1 alongside Mrs Penfold for the next half term. She has already been working closely with Mrs Spratt and your children for some weeks and will provide consistency for the children during Mrs Spratt's planned absence.

Attendance:

Whole school attendance last half term was 95.41%. Our target is 97%. Well done to Class 1 who had attendance of 97.55%

What's On!

Please see the 'What's On' notice for Autumn 2. It outlines a few things that will be taking place over the next half term.

Advance notice – additional bank holiday: Governors have agreed that the additional bank holiday for the Queen's Jubilee will be on 22nd July 2022. Therefore, school will close for all pupils at the end of the day on 21st July 2022. This is a change to the advertised dates.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a wonderful week and half term ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions – we are always happy to try and help.

With every best wish as always,

Mrs S Clarke
Headteacher