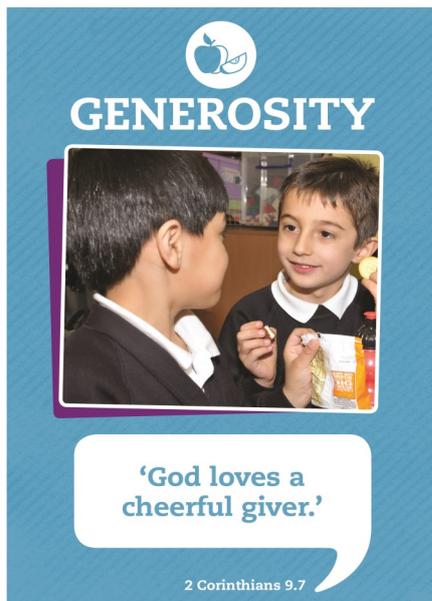


# Headteacher's Newsletter

11 September 2020

Christian Value for this half term:

**Generosity**



Dear parents/carers,

A very warm welcome to all established and new parents and carers to our school.

Our newsletter goes out at the beginning of each month as well as being posted on the school website.

The newsletters will help keep you informed of news and school events. If you don't already do so, it is worth following us on Facebook and/or Twitter as we are busy posters and tweeters and you'll be able to see exactly what we get up to during the day.

We have had a smooth and positive return to school after the extended closure for most pupils. Our planning is working well, although

we have, of course, needed to tweak a few things. Dinner times are proving quite challenging (very young children eating rice with a fork at a table on carpet was a visual feast!) We will continue to tweak our plans as we go.

In order to help us ensure that all our children are safe it is vital that parents do not come into the school building with their child. The exception to this rule is to nursery parents, and reception parents who may bring in their child this week and next week only.

The priority of school staff at the beginning and end of the school day is the children's safety. Therefore staff will not take any verbal messages or engage in discussions with parents at the door so that they can concentrate on ensuring that the children come in and get to the right place and leave with the right people.

Can parents please be reminded that any matters or concerns related to occurrences in school should be brought to school staff to deal with. We always aim to make time to listen carefully to any issues or concerns, and will respond appropriately. All our decisions are made with the best interests of the children and the school, based on many years of experience and ongoing professional training. We are very fortunate to have such a positive relationship with parents to allow us to support families and children, regardless of their needs, and it is important that we continue to work openly and honestly with each other.

Thank you for supporting the school throughout this academic year and for supporting the gospel values that the school aims to promote.

Best wishes,

Mrs Graham

Headteacher



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## What to do if you have concerns

At St. Catherine's we very much have an open approach – if there is anything that is worrying you or your child, or if you have any comments or suggestions on how we can make things even better please do not hesitate to come into school to talk to us. In the first instance your child's class teacher should always be your first port of call if you have any concerns about your child as they know them best. You can contact your child's class teacher via the main school office.

If for any reason you are still unhappy please see Head of Infants or Head of Juniors, Mrs English-Mather or myself.

Some useful staff names to know:

Mrs Graham – Headteacher

Mrs English-Mather – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Lightbown – Assistant Headteacher and Head of infants

Mrs Leather – Assistant Headteacher and Head of juniors

## Virtually Meet Us

We will be holding 'Meet the Teacher' sessions on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd September at 4.00—5.00pm as follows:

Tues 22nd: Rec, Y2, Y4, Y6

Weds 23rd: Y1, Y3, Y5

This is an opportunity to virtually meet your child's teacher, find out more about what the children will be learning this academic year, how you can support your child best at home as well as have the chance to ask questions. Meetings will take place using Microsoft Teams and we are getting your child's log in you next week along with instructions on how to join Teams. We look forward to seeing you on screen!

## Uniform

The children are looking wonderful in their uniforms—walking around the school today the children looked so smart and together we look like an amazing family.

Governors have a very clear uniform policy which is available on the school website. The policy is clear regarding the following:

Only one small pair of stud earrings may be worn. These must be removed for PE (it is better that your child doesn't wear them on PE days as they need to be able to remove them themselves).

Socks must be dark grey or black (no racy colours under trousers please!)

School shoes must be black. We do not allow trainers.

Long hair must be tied back and hair accessories, eg, hair bands and bobbles should reflect the school colours or be neutral.

Nail polish is not permitted

Thank you for your continued support.

## Home Learning

We are busy preparing our 'Learning Together' booklets which outline what your children will be learning about this term and also when PE days are etc.

English and Maths are a big focus for us and we need your support in ensuring that each child builds their confidence and recall of key skills. Please support your child and us by working on reading, spelling and maths at home. We ask that your child reads every day (and certainly a minimum of 3 times per week).

Our curriculum has a huge focus on knowledge across the subjects. 'Knowledge Organisers' will be emailed for years 1 –6 with a handy guide on how to use these at home

Children who do not read regularly generally do not make the same rate of progress as children who do. It is the single most important thing that you can do for your child academically so please support them in this.

### Pick up and Drop off

It has been a hectic start to term, with lots of new procedures in place. Thank you for getting on board with these so quickly. It's made our job so much easier.

We have created a 'keep clear' path across the part of the playground where infant parents and carers wait—please ensure this isn't blocked as clear access is needed to get to the junior playground easily.

Thank you too for creating lines in the morning prior to the class being admitted. It would really help for now if infant parents wait on the right hand side (rather than the left) of the fence as this will give clear access across to the junior playground.

With us all working together we are making the school as safe as it can be.

### What to do when you think your child has coronavirus symptoms

If you think your child has coronavirus symptoms:

- Your child mustn't attend school
- Your child should get a test
- Your whole household must self-isolate while waiting for the test result
- You must inform school immediately about your test result—positive or negative

**Your child must not return to school until they have a test result.**

At the time of writing this newsletter there have been positive cases in 6 nurseries, 15 primary schools and 3 secondary schools in Bolton. It is therefore increasingly likely that we will be affected at some point in the near future. Although we have robust plans in place to support children's education if we need to close a bubble, we would of course prefer to avoid this by ensuring that we all are doing our bit to protect everyone.

### Chair of Governors

After a significant number of years as chair of the local governing body Revd Behrend has stepped down so that he can focus more on his role as Chair of the Mulberry Tree Trust. He will continue to serve on the local governing body, so we will benefit from his knowledge and support. He has been a fantastic Chair and has served the school with passion, generosity and wisdom throughout his time. On behalf of the staff and children I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' to Revd Behrend for his outstanding service to school as Chair.

Ms Christa Norton is our new Chair of Governors. She has served on the LGB for a number of years and has a wealth of experience she brings from outside of education. We are looking forward to working with her over the coming weeks and terms.

### Forthcoming events

15 and 16 Sept	Meet the Teacher meetings via Teams
16 Sept	Music service start working with children in Y1/2/3
1 Oct	Harvest Festival—more information to follow
2 Oct	SCHOOL CLOSED for training
8 Oct	Flu vaccinations
20 and 21 Oct	Parent Consultations
23 Oct	Break for half term

