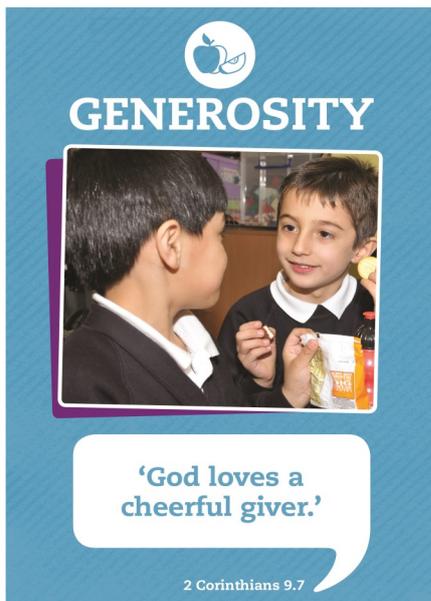


Headteacher's Newsletter

05 October 2020

Christian Value for this half term:

Generosity



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the October newsletter. It has been an unusual start to the new school year hasn't it. What comes across strongly is the wonderful sense of community in us all pulling together to make things work as well as they can for our children.

It's fantastic to see you all in the mornings and at the end of the school day. Our systems are working well, although we are looking to tweak them further still in order to make them work better. Our biggest challenge at the moment, as with all schools, is stretching our staffing when staff are having to isolate. Lunchtimes are a real 'pinch point' and so Mrs English-Mather and I

are meeting to thrash out how we may be able to start using the hall more at lunchtimes. As it stands teachers are stepping in when dinner ladies are not able to be in school in order to ensure that our systems still work. Teachers need a break from the children to eat their own lunches as well as prepare for the afternoon so we're looking to see logistically how we can move to a more 'normal' lunchtime. It would also help with dinners being hot.

Year 3 delivered a wonderful Harvest celebration last week. Thank you to all those of you who were able to donate money to support sponsorship of a child in India. It is much appreciated. We are aware of some issues with the quality of sound and will look at how we can make more use of microphones for future recordings.

We have put in place new play equipment which the children are loving having out at breaktimes. It is keeping them busy and engaged! We're going back to the 70s, 80s and 90s with some of our playground games—the children are loving 'elastics' (French skipping for the posher ones amongst us) and have had some great conversations in the staff room reminiscing about rhymes we used to say ourselves when playing this. Some staff have been teaching their classes these rhymes and so the legacy will continue!!

As always, the staff at St. Catherine's wish you well and pray that all in your families stay safe and healthy.

Best wishes,

Mrs Graham

Headteacher



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Uniform

A reminder to check that your child's uniform is all labelled. We've had a few instances of uniform not being labelled and it's hard to get this back to the correct pupil when it goes missing. Please have a good look to see what needs labelling. A sharpie pen will do the job just as well as a sew in or iron on label.

Please can I also remind you that bobbles etc must be either school colours (purple or grey) or neutral—brown, black, white. No other colours.

Thank you for your support with this

Car Park

For the most part the avoidance of using the car park to drive into is going well. This is necessary to ensure that our one way system isn't compromised. I know it is frustrating, especially when it's raining or you're on the last minute, but we do need everyone to stick with it. The exception is for anyone with a disabled badge where the disabled person is in/will be in the car.

Mr Morris is doing a fabulous job as traffic warden to ensure the grounds remain safe. He has had a few parents/carers challenging him—he is just doing his job to ensure that we all do what is asked of us. Please don't take it out on him when he asks you not to drive in. Any problems please email us (admin@st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk).

Parents' Evening

Parent Consultations will be via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October. There will be a small number of phone call slots available to families who cannot access Teams. We will be finalising arrangements for this in the next few days. Booking a time slot will happen in the usual way and you will receive a link via text message to book your time.

Secondary School Applications

If your child is in Year 6 they will transfer to secondary school in September 2021. This is an important time for children and parents/carers. Bolton Local Authority manages and co-ordinates the school admission process for every secondary school in Bolton (apart from independent fee-paying schools) and schools in neighbouring areas. A booklet is available on Bolton Council website which is designed to help you with the process of applying for a school place. It sets out the basic process to be followed and provides important information on the admission criteria. . If you live within the borough you will need to complete the online application form to express a preference for a school in Bolton or a school in another Local Authority. The process is relatively simple and straight forward and an e-mail offer will be sent in March 2021. You can express a preference for up to three schools.

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2020. Offer emails will be sent out to parent/carer on 1 March 2021.

Poetry Competition

Bolton Station Community Rail Partnership are running a poetry competition that we would love our children to get involved in.

The theme is 'The Journey' - this can be a real journey or a personal one.

8 selected winning poets from across all age categories, will have their poems printed and mounted on the pillars of Bolton railway station platforms. 50 poems will be selected to form an anthology – free to all selected poets. There will be an exhibition of illustrated poems from the under 25 category in P5 – the art gallery on Platform 5.

Please email your entries to admin@st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk by **Friday 23rd October** with 'Poetry Competition' in the subject heading of the email.

We're looking forward to seeing your fabulous entries!

Urban Outreach

Urban Outreach is a Christian charity providing food for households in crisis; and person-centred support for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable adults and young people in Bolton.

They are currently running with a catchphrase 'the power of one' - the idea being that the one thing that 'you' donate can make a massive difference when it is put together with lots of other individual donations.

Their food-based projects benefit from the generosity of many schools, churches, organisations and individuals who collect and donate food – both at harvest time and throughout the year. Many public places in Bolton have one of their “Grub Tubs” where people can deposit their food donations. We will be collecting food for Urban Outreach on Friday 9th October. Food can be dropped off in the ‘Grub Tub’ we are leaving under the canopy by the main entrance of school.

Mr Kruczek, dad of Olivia in Year 5, will collect all donations and get them to the Urban Outreach food hub in Bolton.

If you are able to support this wonderful charity your donations of food will be very much appreciated.

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.

If you are unable to access a home test kit for your child and cannot get to a drive in centre please contact school. It may be that we can provide your child with one of our allocated home test kits.

Please note that we can only provide test kits for pupils and this is only when they are showing symptoms.

Out of school hours please contact us on admin@st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk

Celebrate!

Our children and staff are absolutely brilliant! They are an absolute joy to have in school and what used to be unusual has become quite normal to us. On the way home this evening lots of children said thank you for a lovely assembly (delivered by Microsoft Teams of course!). Parents and carers are appreciate and helpful too and when we all work in this way we shine! St. Catherine's is a wonderful learning community and everyone is doing their best and more to make this challenging time a really positive one. Thank you!

Forthcoming events

8 Oct	Flu vaccinations
20 and 21 Oct	Parent Consultations
23 Oct	Break for half term
2 Nov	School reopens
3 Nov	Virtual Open Day for new reception children
4 Nov	Individual photos (TBC)

