



Headteacher's Newsletter

02 November 2020

Christian Value for this half term:

Compassion

A graphic with a purple background. At the top is a white circle containing a heart with two hands shaking. Below this, the word 'COMPASSION' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath is a photograph of two young children sitting on a blue wooden bench outdoors. The child on the left is wearing a dark jacket, and the child on the right is wearing a white jacket. Below the photo is a white speech bubble containing the text: **'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'** At the bottom right of the graphic, the text 'Colossians 3.12' is written in a small, white font.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the November newsletter.

Last half term was a joyful 7 weeks of returning to school and settling back into some of our old routines and introducing some new ones.

The children have been fantastic and have loved being back together. The smiles on their faces have kept us all going and if ever it felt

like we were facing an impossible task at times we just had to look at the children's faces to remind us that the tremendous efforts the staff team were putting in was absolutely worth it.

Of course we have now returned from half term with the news that a national lockdown is coming again this week. Whilst schools will still be open (and we are delighted with this) we do need to redouble our efforts to ensure that we keep the whole school community as safe as possible.

We will now be asking any adults who are dropping off or picking up to wear a face covering. This is because physical distancing of 2 metres is not always possible whilst waiting to hand over or pick up children. physical distancing is not always possible,

Physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene are the most important and effective things we can all do to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Face coverings are not an alternative to any of these other precautions but will bring further strength to the measures we all have in place.

Asking for anyone over the age of 12 to wear a face covering while in the school grounds is something that we have resisted as it is almost impossible for us to manage. However, with your continued support I am hopeful that this will also become normal practice for everyone.

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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Face coverings

As of tomorrow we are asking anyone dropping off/picking up to wear a face covering. Physical distancing is one of the most important and effective measures you can take whilst on our grounds. We are mindful that this isn't always possible as so many people are on site at the start and end of the school day so wearing a face covering will help bring further strength and help prevent the spread of the virus.

One adult per child

Please can we remind you that no more than one adult comes on site to drop off and pick up. This keeps numbers of adults low which means that we have less crowding.

Thank you for your support in this.

Social distancing

We know that dropping off and picking up times are also a time where you would traditionally catch up with friends. Please help us to keep incidences of the virus to a minimum by socially distancing from other adults. When you have collected your child please leave the school site straight away so that groups do not form. Thank you.

Parents' Evening

It was an unusual situation to be in where all the parent and teacher meetings took place virtually, with the vast majority taking place using Microsoft Teams. Feedback has been positive and we are thrilled that they were as successful as they were. Of course we would always prefer to meet face to face, as well as give you the opportunity to look through books but this was the next best thing! Thank you for the part you played in making this work. We are flexible and responsive as a community!

Virtual Open Day

We will be holding a virtual open day for prospective reception parents tomorrow (Tuesday 3rd November) at 9.15am and again at 1.15pm.

We cannot have visitors to school to look around at the moment so we have developed information and videos which are available on the school website. These can be accessed from the school website (in parent information/admissions info). In addition this the virtual open morning and afternoon sessions will be a chance to listen to me talk about St. Catherine's and for parents/carers to ask me any questions they have.

Water Bottles

Please can we remind parents and carers that we only allow water in children's water bottles and not squash etc. There have been a small number of instances recently where children have been bringing in flavoured juices. We need everyone to follow the rules so that they are fair for all children.

If your child has a medical need which means they need something other than water we can always accommodate these. Please contact Mrs English-Mather via the school office to discuss any needs your child has.

Operation Encompass

St. Catherine's is committed to safeguarding children and offering support to our families. We work with Operation Encompass to work with the police to support families who have experienced domestic violence.

The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in or witness to a domestic abuse incident. Domestic abuse impacts on children a numbers of ways. Children are at increased risk of physical injury during an incident, either by accident or

Operation Encompass continued...

because they attempt to intervene. Even when not directly injured, children are greatly distressed by witnessing the physical and emotional suffering of a parent.

Encompass was created to address this situation. It is the implementation of key partnership working between the police and schools. The aim of sharing information with local schools is to allow 'Key Adults' the opportunity of engaging with the child and to provide access to support that allows them to remain in a safe but secure familiar environment.

Following the report of an incident of domestic abuse, by 9:10am on the next school day the school's Key Adult will be informed that the child or young person has been involved in a domestic incident. This knowledge, given to schools through Operation Encompass, allows the provision of immediate early intervention through silent or overt support dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

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

Children in Need

Mr Mistry is planning a themed day to support this year's Children in Need which is on Friday 13th November. Please look out for more information which will come via email from Mr Mistry.

Forthcoming events

3 Nov	Virtual Open Day for new reception children
4 Nov	Individual photos
13 Nov	Children in Need day

