



Headteacher's Newsletter

01 December 2020

Christian Value for this half term:

Compassion

COMPASSION

'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'

Colossians 3.12

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the December newsletter.

We have had some wonderful feedback regarding the Christmas events which will be taking place over the next few weeks. The fun has already started, with doors around school being decorated by staff and children. Staff are fiercely competitive—in a healthy way! - and are

going all out to win 'Best Dressed Christmas Door'. The photographs will be going onto our Facebook and Twitter page on Wednesday and we will be inviting parents, carers and the school community to vote for their favourite via a Survey Monkey link on Thursday and Friday morning. The winning door will be announced during awards assembly on Friday afternoon. Please support us by voting!

Next Friday the children will be able to wear their own home-made Festive Hat and each class winner will get a prize. Get creative!!

We have such a busy few weeks ahead of us and we are praying that none of the class bubbles needs to isolate. Please continue to support us by wearing face coverings while you are dropping off and picking up, and by letting us know if anyone in your household is showing symptoms of Covid-19 and needs to get a test. Remember, whilst waiting for any test results for someone in your household your child must not attend school.

It has been a long term for all of us in school. The simplest things have become harder while we maintain as safe an environment as we can for everyone at St. Catherine's. Staff are exhausted and will be looking forward to time away to recharge their batteries when we break for Christmas.

On behalf of all the staff, Trustees and Governors of St. Catherine's I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Graham

Headteacher



CONTACT DETAILS

St. Catherine's CE Primary School
Greenstone Avenue
Horwich
Bolton
BL6 5SJ
01204 332636
office@st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk

Admissions

Primary School applications for children who are due to start Reception in September 2021 are 'live' and the online application process ends on January 15th.

All parents and carers of children due to start school in September should have received a letter from Bolton Council with details on how to apply online. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to telephone the office.

Visits to School

Please can we remind parents and carers that you must not 'pop into' the main entrance unless by invitation. This is one of our protective measures to help keep school as safe as possible for children and staff.

Communication with school can be made either by email using the admin@st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk address or by telephone. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Festive Fridays

For the next 3 Fridays we will be having 'Festive Friday' in school. Children can come wearing a festive jumper instead of their

usual school jumper (the rest of school uniform remains the same). If your child already has a Christmas jumper they can wear that, or maybe they have a red or green jumper they could wear.

If your child would like to jazz up their look with some tinsel—maybe in their hair—they could do that too!



Festive Hat Competition

On Friday 11th December as well as wearing a festive jumper children can wear a home-made festive hat. Be creative—think tinsel, lights, bright colours!

There will be prizes for the best festive hat in each class as well as a staff prize too!



Infants and Bags

Our infant cloakrooms are very small and we have to squeeze in 90 children's coats and bags. It is for this reason that we cannot allow anything other than a book bag—which goes in each child's tray—and a draw string PE bag for PE kit. At the moment, PE bags aren't really needed as children are coming to school wearing their PE kit although you may choose to use the PE bag for a spare change of clothes in case of any accidents.

Please do not send your infant child to school with a rucksack or similar. Thank you for your understanding in this.

Christmas Dinner Day

On Monday 14th December it is Christmas Dinner day. Traditionally, at St. Catherine's this day is also Christmas Jumper Day too. Although we are having Festive Fridays we'll still have this day as Christmas Jumper Day too. Please don't go and buy one specially.

This year we ask that children DO NOT bring Christmas Crackers. We had already made this decision last year, when we saw that almost everything went straight in the bin.

Christmas Parties

When it is your child's Christmas Party day they may come to school in their own clothes. Please bear in mind that they will be playing out as normal so make sure they will be warm enough!



Your child will need a 'party plate' on party day. As the children will be eating their school dinner or packed lunch as normal that day don't go overboard with piling it high. More savoury than sweet is best—we know this from experience!

The party plate might have:

- A sandwich (maybe cut into a tree shape?)
- Some crisps
- A sausage roll
- A cake
- A drink carton

The plate and food can be all put into a named carrier bag and your child can arrange it themselves at their table.

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

Forthcoming events

3 Dec	Voting for best Christmas Door competition opens via Twitter and Facebook
4 Dec	Festive Friday
8 Dec	Y2 recording Nativity
9 Dec	Nursery recording nativity
11 Dec	Festive Friday Festive Hat competition—wear your home made festive hats! Y4 carol singing 2.45pm in junior playground. Join us!
14 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner Day Year 1 and 2 parties Year 6 carol singing for sheltered housing on Greenstone Avenue
15 Dec	Year 3 and 4 parties
16 Dec	Nursery and Reception parties Horwich and Blackrod Schools' Christmas Concert
17 Dec	Christingle, led by Collective Crew
18 Dec	Festive Fun Day Christmas Service, led by Y5 End of term
4 Jan	School opens for Spring Term



MULBERRY tree
CHURCH OF ENGLAND TRUST