



Headteacher's Newsletter

04 January 2021

Christian Value for this half term:

Courage



'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

Joshua 1.9

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the January newsletter.

It's wonderful to be back after the Christmas break, but with everything that is going on nationally I do wonder how long this will be for.

As we know, in large parts of the country control of the infection is beginning to be incredibly challenging. In addition, there is still a lack of understanding regarding the new strain of Covid-19 and this has created worry for both you as parents and carers and us as staff. We all worry about transmission of the virus and what more we can do as a nation to get it under control. My hope is that the government share with us all a clear battle plan which will enable us to keep schools open in the long term.

Please be assured that we are doing everything we possibly can as a school to keep everyone as safe as possible in the current circumstances. Obviously, social distancing just isn't possible given the large numbers of children we have in each room. What we do instead is ensure that bubbles keep as separate as they can and where possible they don't mix, we have frequent sanitising and washing of hands and we have enhanced cleaning.

As the government's approach changes so we will change too and of course I will keep you updated as swiftly as I can. Inevitably, there will be times where decisions will need to be made with short notice. However, your continued support and understanding throughout the autumn term has been spectacular and as a school community we really do reflect our motto of 'Learn Together, Shine Together'.

Our Christian value for this half term is courage, and it has never been more appropriate. So let us be strong and courageous together. The Lord our God is with us.

Best wishes,
Mrs Graham
Headteacher



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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.

Staggered start and finish times

As you know, our start and finish times are staggered at the beginning and end of the school day. It is easy to forget that this is a protective measure to keep the children separate.

We need your help with this by ensuring that:

- Children are on time so that they are not entering with other bubbles
- You are on time for collection at the end of the school day

Towards the end of the autumn term some children were arriving late/leaving late and this caused problems with mixing. Now, more than ever, we need this to work every day for the sake of infection control.

Snowy weather

We seem to have our own microclimate around school and it is still very snowy and icy. The children have had a fabulous time outside enjoying snow play at break time and lunchtime today. Snowmen (and a snow family) were being constructed with determination!

It's worth having a look to check if gloves and hats have names in them and if not, put them in! Children are notorious for not recognising their own belongings and have no concept of how much these things cost!

In the event of very bad weather forcing school to shut we will contact you via text message at the earliest opportunity.

Hi Viz

We are delighted to have received hi viz jackets for all the children in the main school from Aptus Utilities and these are



coming home with your child tonight. Most of them will have been labelled with your child's name but please have a check and get it written in if that's not the case.

Aptus Utilities' School Road Safety Campaign is an annual campaign which aims to raise awareness about the importance of being SEEN and SAFE on the streets during the darker days of autumn and winter. Normally, after the clocks go back in October they visit schools to talk to children about the dangers of darker roads at this time of year. This year due to the pandemic they are unable to visit so instead they have recorded a video presentation, all of our children have watched it today.

We hope you make good use of the hi viz jackets when walking to and from school!

Latin

Salvete omnes!

As you may remember we delayed the introduction of Latin into the curriculum in September. Teachers will now be teaching Latin for 30 mins per week from this week in the juniors, with some introductions to the family featured in the Minimus books in Year 1 and 2.

The love to Latin is driven by research we have undertaken in how to help close the vocabulary gap which children have, as well as prepare them for the curriculum at secondary school where technical language they are introduced to comes from Latin. We're excited to see how it goes!

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

5 + 6 Feb	Bikeability for Year 6 pupils
9 + 10 Feb	Parents' evenings (to be delivered via Microsoft Teams and telephone)
9 Feb	Safer Internet Day
12 Feb	Break for half term
22 Feb	School reopens for second half of spring term
1 Mar	School nurse in school—puberty
2 Mar	Chemlab science assembly

