



# Headteacher's Newsletter

02 March 2021

Christian Value for this half term:  
Forgiveness

**FORGIVENESS**

**'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.'**

Colossians 3.13

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the March newsletter.

It seems like March has come around very quickly (for us in school anyway. Whether it

feels like that as a home schooling parent is another question!). We have been preparing for all of our wonderful children to return next week as it seems like forever since we have all been together. Christmas is like a distant memory and so we are very excited to see everyone again on Monday.

In terms of our arrangements things will feel and look as it did in the autumn term. We have not needed to change the protective measures we have had in place since September. Last week I sent home the arrangements we have in place as a reminder of how things work.

In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading within school we ask that you all continue to follow the government guidance on social distancing as well as wearing a face covering whilst on the school grounds.

Please be on time to drop off and pick up at your child's class's allotted time—this will help us to keep bubbles separate. We also ask that you don't congregate on the school playground to chat to other parents and carers. We know that you will have missed the contact with other adults but this is a sacrifice we must make in order to keep the children and staff in school. We have been extremely fortunate that we have only needed to close two bubbles since the pandemic started and it would be heart-breaking to have to do so again.

Within this newsletter you will be able to find out about our plans for the reconnecting with the curriculum as well as the part we need you to play as parents and carers in that recovery process.

See you on Monday!

Best wishes,  
Mrs Graham  
Headteacher



## CONTACT DETAILS

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### Reconnect Curriculum

There has been much talk in on how children will need to catch up for their lost learning. There is no magical fix, and certainly not a quick one. We can't put six months of learning back into the children with no significant extra time. The work needed to be done is long term, but we are determined that at St. Catherine's we will move swiftly to assess where children are at and take actions to drive learning forward.

Our strategy for reconnecting the children with the curriculum is based on the following:

- Planning out what's important in the time we have left this academic year
- Assessing the children and drilling down to identify specific gaps in knowledge
- Consolidate learning using the most effective teaching methods
- Plan and deliver interventions for individuals and groups
- Work with parents and carers so that together we support our children where they need it most
- Prioritise early reading so that doors are open to all children's academic success

We are committed to getting back to where our children should be academically with the curriculum. We believe that this will take years rather than months but by working together we will have the strongest roadmap possible.

### Parents' and Carers' Consultations

We have rescheduled the spring term's parent consultation meetings for Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th April 3.30—6.00. These will take place via Teams (or phone call if this isn't accessible to you). The focus of the meeting will be to discuss your child's return to school, as well as share with you our assessments and how you can support your child while they are on their reconnect journey.

As you will have read in this newsletter we have a clear structure in place for the children's return, but we need your help in working together to support your child in that journey. Teachers will send home the relevant materials you will need in advance of the meetings and these will be discussed so that you understand how best to support your child.

### Lateral Flow Tests for Parents and Carers

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. **As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.**

The following people in England will have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them as schools reopen:

- secondary school pupils
- primary and secondary school staff
- **households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils**
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary staff

Primary school pupils will not be asked to test at this time.

#### **How to get a rapid lateral flow test**

#### **Collect test kits**

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

The nearest collection points are Moor Lane and Merehall in Bolton.

<https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

#### **Order home test kits online**

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Almost all staff in school conduct LFD tests. We have a routine of testing on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. **Please help us by also joining in with this regular testing** so that we can pick up asymptomatic cases and limit the spread in school as well as the wider community. **If you can test before we reopen on Monday that would be fantastic.**

### TV Subtitles and Reading

You may have heard in the news some interesting research regarding the use of putting subtitles onto TV programmes that children are watching.

There is strong and growing evidence that subtitles improve reading skills.

Subtitles cause automatic reading behaviour among children and adults—just like when as an adult watching tv your eyes are automatically drawn to reading and you find it hard to ignore the subtitles the same happens for children.

A key finding of eye-tracking research on subtitling, which studies the automatic reading behaviour of children and adults, is that viewers who have some decoding ability just cannot ignore the subtitles and will exhibit automatic reading responses. The primary conclusion is that almost all viewers who are beginning, struggling or good readers, will automatically engage with subtitles. Subtitles just cannot be ignored.

Universally, children love to watch cartoons. PlanetRead found that struggling readers cannot but attend to subtitles on animated stories and evidence shows that it has an impact on reading ability.

Ultimately, whilst this doesn't replace the vital importance of listening to your child read regularly and sharing stories with them it seems to be a very simple way of 'tricking' them into reading even more. A bit like hiding vegetables in the spaghetti Bolognese, and that's got to be a good thing.

### School Ipad and Laptop Returns

If we have loaned you an ipad or laptop during lockdown these MUST be returned on Monday 8th March. They are needed for us to deliver the full curriculum, and we need a quarantine period of 48 hours before getting them back into circulation around school. Please make yourself a reminder note.

### 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](mailto:admin@st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk)**

### Forthcoming events

8 Mar	All pupils return to school
1 Apr	Break for Easter
12 Apr	School reopens for summer term
13+14 Apr	Parent and carer consultations
21 Apr	Class photos

