



Headteacher's Newsletter

01 April 2021

Christian Value for this half term:
Forgiveness

A graphic with a brown background. At the top is a white dove icon in a circle. Below it, the word 'FORGIVENESS' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. In the center is a photograph of two children, a boy in a dark jacket and a girl in a pink jacket, standing outdoors and hugging. Below the photo is a white speech bubble containing the text: 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.' At the bottom right of the graphic, the text 'Colossians 3.13' is written in a small, white font.

too!). It has been fantastic to have everyone back in school again and to be Team St Catherine's in one place. The children have settled in well, and are getting back into the rhythm of school life again.

Our assessments are coming to an end and we have a plan for how we can help children close the gaps that have been created by the pandemic. It isn't all doom and gloom, and there is much to be celebrated in terms of gains children have made from working at home. Our plans are kicking in and we are adapting as we go. Mainly, our focus is on what teachers are teaching in class, because we know that this is the best way to make the progress needed. This 'quality first teaching' is being enhanced with some additional interventions, mainly in the afternoons, for some pupils. As I have said previously, this isn't a quick fix. It is likely that we will be seeing the effects of the lockdown for many, many months and probably years.

A focus that all our teachers have is on improving children's stamina for work—it is taking them longer to complete work than it would have done in September. We are making inroads with this and will continue to pick up the pace when we return after the Easter break.

As we break up today, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and safe Easter break. Thank you to all our families for working with us during school closures. Your help has made our community safer.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the April newsletter.

The last three weeks have been an absolute joy for us in school (and no doubt for you at home

Best wishes,

Mrs Graham

Headteacher



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Which test to do if your child has Covid symptoms

There is some confusion—understandably—on which test to have if your child has Covid-19 symptoms as there are now two tests you will be increasingly familiar with—LFD tests and PCR tests.

LFD tests are the ones which staff, parents, carers and secondary pupils can do at home which give a rapid result in 20-30 minutes. **It is NOT currently recommended for use on primary aged pupils.**

Every day, rapid testing using LFD tests is helping find cases of COVID-19 that Health England wouldn't otherwise know about, breaking chains of transmission and potentially saving lives.

They are an absolutely crucial way to help bring down infection rates and keep them low.

It remains essential that anyone who gets a positive result from an LFD result self-isolates immediately, as must other members of their household, while they get a confirmatory PCR test within two days.

If your child has covid-19 symptoms they MUST isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible.

If you are ever in any doubt on what to do give us a ring in school and we will be happy to guide you.

Parents' and Carers' Consultations

As you will be aware, we have scheduled the parent and teacher meetings for the first week back after Easter. As time is tight, please check in advance that your technology is working properly as we won't be able to hold an alternative meeting should there be problems.

Feel free to join the meeting early—you will be in a 'waiting room' until it is time for your child's appointment. The focus of the meetings will be to discuss your child's return to school, their strengths and the areas for development we will be focusing on. Your child's teacher will also discuss with you how you can support them at home.

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.

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 after Easter that would be fantastic.**

School Grounds Access

We will continue to have our one way system in place for some time to come. This means that for the time being we must restrict vehicles coming on site at drop off and pick up times to those parents/carers who have a disabled badge. This is part of our risk assessment for keeping everyone as safe as possible due to the need to have the one way system on part of the road.

Please also remember to use the walking one way system just outside reception which goes onto the road.

Thank you for your continued understanding.

TV Subtitles and Reading—a reminder

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 Uniform

As we start to get back to 'normal' we ask that all children are in correct uniform. We have noticed that some children aren't wearing a school tie. If your child has lost theirs they can be purchased from the school office. Thank you for your continued support with this.

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 **PCR 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 PCR 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

12 Apr	School reopens for summer term
13+14 Apr	Parent and carer consultations
21 Apr	Class photos
03 May	Bank holiday—school closed
11-18 May	Book fair
28 May	Break for half term
14 June	School reopens

