

Headteacher's Newsletter

05 November 2021

Christian Value for this half term:

Trust

The graphic features a purple background with a white circle containing a stylized infinity symbol at the top. Below it, the word 'TRUST' is written in large white letters. A central photograph shows three children in school uniforms; one girl stands on the shoulders of two others, with her arms raised. Below the photo, a white speech bubble contains the quote: **'My God is my strength in whom I trust.'** At the bottom right of the graphic, it says 'Psalm 18.2'.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the November newsletter.

How did we get into November so quickly? The first half term seemed to go by in the blink of an eye!

Last half term we had a quite a number of positive covid cases, something which we just hasn't seen before. Year 2 in particular saw a significant outbreak. We were in communication with public health to ensure that our protective measures were robust enough to prevent it spreading to other classes. We are fortunate that this did not happen, other than through sibling links. We were also asked to have a strict low threshold for covid symptoms, hence why you may have been asked to get a PCR test for them.

Public Health in Bolton asked all schools to increase their protective measures just before the half term as there had been such a spike in cases with school age children. As a school we have introduced face coverings for staff as they move around the school and have stopped collective worship in the hall (this is now back to Microsoft Teams). We aren't sure how long we will have these measures in place.

However, coronavirus isn't stopping us from carrying on with our exciting plans for the school year. We just may need to tweak as we go!

Best wishes,
Mrs Graham
Headteacher

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Data Collection Forms

Please be aware that the school office will no longer be routinely sending home the data collection form each year from now on. This is because quite often none of the data we hold changes.

Instead, the school office will send a text reminder once a term to remind you to let us know if there are any changes to the information we hold (for example changes of phone numbers, address, new contact to be added)

There is an assumption that any data of another person (for example grandparents) you share with us you have gained consent for.

Indian Dancing Event

The Out of School Club will be having a special Indian Dancing event on **Tuesday 9th November**. We have a fabulous Indian dancer who will work with the children after school and create some fabulous dances together. There is no additional charge for this, so children who are booked into club on that day will get to experience this fabulous workshop!

Reception and Year 1 pupils will be having the same Indian dance workshops in the afternoon.

If you would like your child to take part in the workshop after school and they aren't usually in Out of School Club there are limited places available on Parent Pay.

Non uniform day for Christmas Fair

We have moved the planned non uniform day in exchange for donations for the PTA Christmas Fair to Friday 12th November (next Friday!). This is so that we can share some of the donations with St Catherine's Church to help with their Christmas Fair on Saturday 13th November.

We ask that Nursery to Y2 donate sweets and Y3 to Y6 donate bottles. Thank you

Christmas Events



We are in full swing already preparing for Christmas. Due to the outbreaks of Covid in school and the community we are making some adjustments to our usual organisation.

For nativities: We will hold two performances for each of the EYFS and KS1 nativities. However, there will only be 1 ticket per child for each of these performances instead of the usual 2. We ask that adults wear a face covering.

Please do not bring young children with you to sit on your knee. We must keep numbers to an absolute minimum and this will make it fair for everyone.

For Christmas in church: we will only be taking KS2 children and not the whole school. We ask that only 1 adult per child attends this service. Again, please avoid bringing young children to sit on your knee so that we limit numbers.

PTA Christmas Fair **Friday 26th November**: this has been scaled back so that there are fewer stalls, and they will be spread more around the school building. Windows and doors will remain open to keep the building as ventilated as we can. We ask that adults wear a face covering. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

We will still be going ahead with Christmas parties, Christmas dinner day etc as planned.

Christmas jumper day is Monday 13th December. This is also Christmas dinner day. Please don't send any Christmas crackers in with your children, as was the case last year. They create a lot of waste, and pretty much everything goes straight into a bin liner!

Eco Committee



Mrs Graham will be launching the school's new eco-committee, with elections taking place in school next week for the class representative. We are really excited to focus on how we can help the environment and make a difference, in school, Horwich and perhaps even beyond!

Each class will be tasked with exploring part of an environmental review and from there we will be able to create and work on an action plan.

We will be meeting once a half term as a committee in school time and are really keen to have one or two parents on the committee too. If you think that this is something you could help

Holiday dates 2021-22

Please note that children will now **return to school on Wednesday 5th January**, not Tuesday 4th. This is because we had a planned INSET day on Monday 3rd which is a Bank Holiday. Children will still be in school 189 days, the same as all schools this academic year.

Uniform

We have already got lost property which hasn't be labelled. Please can everyone check that all uniform and clothing is labelled—it's a lot easier for us to get things back to the right person if it has a name in it.

In preparation for the colder weather, we are allowing children to wear either a **PLAIN GREY** or **PLAIN BLACK** hoodie on top of their uniform in class (i.e. **no logos, no other colours**). Classroom windows will remain open for ventilation and it will get chilly.

St Catherine's Church Christmas Fair



Parking

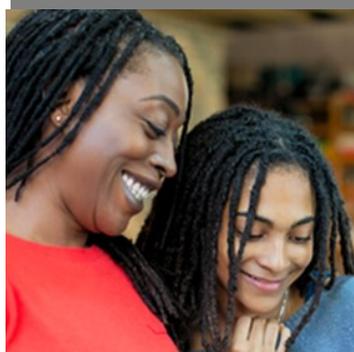
Please can we remind everyone to be mindful that Greenstone Avenue is a very busy place to drive down. Ideally, park at Aldi/Iceland and walk down to school (we have permission to do this).

Cars must not drive into Fernstone Close. This is private property. Please also do not park along the edge. It is clearly signposted.

Please also avoid driving into the school grounds unless you have a disabled badge. It has been much safer for the children since we stopped access last year due to the one way system. We would like to keep it just as safe.

Thank you in advance of your support.

Building Resilience



Some top tips:

Help them build positive relationships with their friends and other adults.

Give them space to spend quality time with their network of friends and loved

ones.

Help them build a positive relationship with themselves and others by letting them spend time doing the things they love.

Help them learn to be independent in their actions and thoughts.

Encourage them to get to know who they are and what values they hold.

Give them lots of positive encouragement and praise.

What to do when you think your child has coronavirus symptoms

If your child becomes unwell in school and displays COVID symptoms we will ask you to collect your child and book a COVID test.

If your child displays COVID symptoms at home/ at the weekend we ask you to book a COVID test and inform us straight away via a phone call or via email out of hours.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. Guidance states that a high temperature is classed as 37.8 degrees and above.
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. Further information about COVID 19 can be found by clicking this [link](#).

If your child develops any of the symptoms above on the weekend please email admin@st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk to let us know as soon as possible.

The safety for both children and adults is paramount. You must make sure we have your most up to date contact information if we need to call you in an emergency or if your child is unwell.

Forthcoming events

08 Nov	Heights and weights for Y6
12 Nov	Y5 Space Camp Non uniform day for Christmas Fairs
19 Nov	Y3 visit to National Waterways Museum
24 Nov	Winners of Railway Poetry competition to Bolton Train Station
26 Nov	Flu vaccinations PTA Christmas Fair
08 Dec	EYFS Nativity AM and PM
09 Dec	KS1 Nativity AM and PM
13 Dec	Christmas jumper day Christmas dinner day KS2 parties
14 Dec	Infant panto in hall
15 Dec	KS2 to Octagon for Peter Pan Nursery Christmas parties
17 Dec	KS2 Christmas service in church Break for Christmas