



Headteacher's Newsletter

07 January 2022

Christian Value for this half term:

Perseverance

PERSEVERANCE

'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'

Philippians 4.13

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the January newsletter.

The spring term has started exceptionally well. It was lovely to see the children when they returned on Wednesday, full of joy and sharing the excitement they had over Christmas.

We are looking forward to watching the children progress and grow this term and are optimistic that schools will remain open throughout the term for face to face teaching.

As you know we have measures in place for when children are having to isolate at home and we will continue to support families as much as we can.

This term's Christian value of perseverance is so appropriate for the challenges we face this term. On Wednesday I shared with the children the story of Derek Redmond, which has been called one of the purest examples of determination and perseverance in Olympic history.

The British runner was favoured to medal in the 400m race at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics but a hamstring injury forced him to pull up during the semi-final. Redmond decided to limp on before his father Jim made his way onto the track to help him continue. Just before the finish, Jim let go of his son and Derek completed the course on his own, prompting the crowd of 65,000 to give him a standing ovation.

Just because we decide to follow Jesus, that does not mean our lives are going to be easy. Rather, as Hebrews 12:1 tells us, our lives are going to be more like a tough race requiring perseverance to complete. However, we do have Jesus there to help us when the times get tough, just as Derek Redmond had his father. Jesus will help us persevere through this tough time, no matter what challenges we face.

Best wishes,
Mrs Graham
Headteacher



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Covid-19



We continue to have cases of Covid-19, and this is now affecting staffing. Staff affected are isolating at home and they are in our thoughts and prayers.

We are actively planning for a rise in covid cases and, as outlined in an email this week, the Virtual School is back up and running for pupils who are having to isolate.

The virtual School can be accessed via the school website's landing page: <https://st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk/>

On Monday each week, it will be refreshed at 8.30am with the full week's learning on there. Teachers will do their best to ensure that whatever learning is going on in school, there will be a similar activity to do at home.

For example, if in Y1 the class are learning about time in maths, there will be equivalent learning about time on the Virtual School. Teachers will use a variety of sources, with much of the provision coming from Oak National Academy.

Teachers will endeavour to deliver all subjects so that children who are isolating have the minimum disruption to their learning.

Please contact the school office if your child is isolating and you do not have access to a laptop/iPad. Paper packs will only be produced as a last resort, as all teachers have additional workload to keep the Virtual School up to date.

We are determined to keep disruption to a minimum, but are fully prepared for whatever comes our way!

Parking Reminder

Traffic on Greenstone Avenue continues to be so much better due to parents parking much further down and walking—**thank you so much**. This makes it safer for everybody.

Some parents are still driving down and finding that they need to turn around. This is especially the case when it is raining. Please help us and residents of Greenstone Avenue by always parking further down and don't chance your arm.

Some clarification is needed regarding **Fernstone Close, the sheltered housing** next to school. It is **PRIVATE PROPERTY**. This means it is **must not be entered for any reason**, unless you are visiting a resident. There are still parents and carers entering to turn round.

Disabled badges: please can anyone accessing the school with a disabled badge have this clearly displayed on their dashboard before entering the school grounds.

Thank you for your continued support.

Eco News



The Eco Committee will be sharing a video they made with the rest of the school this afternoon.

Classes have been tasked with taking on a range of actions across the current school year, and the Eco Committee will be organising some whole school events.

Coming up on the calendar this half term is a Fair Trade bake sale, led by Year 1. Year 6 will be campaigning for parents and carers to switch off engines while waiting, so watch out for this too!

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.

Further information about COVID 19 can be found by clicking this [link](#).

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

As you will have heard this week, the rules around booking PCR tests when there has been a lateral flow device (LFD) test are changing.

From 11 January, people who receive positive lateral flow device test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

If in doubt, please contact school for advice.

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.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Due to the current high rate of coronavirus we have made the decision not to hold any extra curricular clubs this half term. This will be reviewed at half term.

Poor Weather Arrangements

At St Catherine's, we will always do everything in our power to remain open for face to face teaching. We have been known to be the only school in Bolton open when it has snowed! However, this is always dependent on whether staff can get into school and what access is like.

Should we ever be forced to close, the decision will be made as soon as possible. We will inform you via text message and also via social media.

One good thing that has come out of the pandemic is that learning will still continue from home via Microsoft Teams and the Virtual School.

Forthcoming events

12 Jan	Y4 Swimming starts
17 Jan	Y2 Pirate Workshop in school
09 + 10 Feb	Parents' evenings
11 Feb	Break for half term
21 Feb	School reopens



MULBERRY tree
CHURCH OF ENGLAND TRUST