

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrating life and learning

OCTOBER, 2020

REFLECTION FAMILY PRAYER TIME



During these challenging times, let us become a community of prayer.

Let us keep each other lovingly in our minds and hearts. The Lord will strengthen us with the gifts of his Spirit – Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Good Judgement, Courage, Wonder and Reverence and we will come together again renewed in faith and love and ready to live our faith more fervently than ever.

May God Bless you and your families

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.

*And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Amen

MESSAGE FROM MRS. TIERNAN

I would like to begin the newsletter for the end of the first half term with a huge THANK YOU. I always count my blessings - each and every day - and give thanks for the position of responsibility and servitude afforded to me. As a school community, we are weathering the storm with peace and tolerance; humility and gentleness; dignity and compassion. We are sacrificing some of our most basic needs yet still show forgiveness and mercy. We are blessed by our Mission :

We are a celebrating community, living the Gospel Values, committed to educating children in the light of the Catholic Faith.

We journey together so that we
“Might have life - life in all its fullness”.

John 10:10

Have a restful and relaxing half term holiday. Stay safe and well. Keep in touch via the school email link on the website should anyone in your family test positive for Covid-19 so we can offer assistance and support. We look forward to seeing our pupils back in school on Monday 2nd November.

WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Covid-19 is doing everything it can to dampen our spirits; but at St. Bede's Catholic Junior School we stand as one to support those families in our community who have experienced a bereavement, ill-health, loss of income or job and even those who may be lonely as they cannot see family and friends in the same way anymore.

The staff and children are missing the community feel of our school: no coffee mornings, no face to face assemblies, no discos or film nights, no Rejoice in Song and even... no swapping lessons to move to English and maths groups.

We were especially saddened when we realised that we will not be able to host our annual Christmas Bingo, which is a fabulously festive affair on a dark winter evening and is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community of all ages.

It is hoped that the Christmas Raffle is still a fantastic opportunity to win one (or more!) of our amazing prizes. Tickets are £1.00 a book and are available from your child's class teacher or the office staff. All monies raised will be used in our school community to support those of our families in need. Whilst recognising that as a country, we are far more privileged than those in the developing world (such as through our CAFOD day), we also realise the pressures families are under during the pandemic, such as being furloughed on less money, or even made redundant and want to support them as much as possible.

‘He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart.’
Isaiah 40:11



ATTENDANCE

If your child is too ill to attend school, please ring and leave a message on the answerphone, preferably before 8.30 am.

If you have not contacted the school on the first day of absence by 9.15 am, then a member of the school staff will try to contact you. This is not a good use of resources but your child's well-being is of paramount importance. Staff wish to ensure that your child is safe with you and has not been abducted or involved in an accident on the way to school.

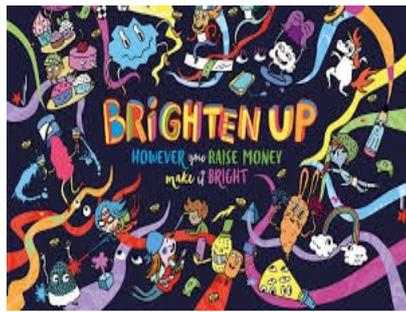
If the school is unable to make contact a home visit will be made by Mrs. Harrington to ensure your child, and you, are safe and to ascertain the reason for non-compliance with school policy.

In these uncertain times it is interesting to note that attendance for the first six weeks of term is slightly higher than the same period last year; 97.75% compared to 97.18% and we have noted a decrease in the number of children absent due to diarrhoea and vomiting. This may be due to increased hand washing and the additional cleaning regime introduced in school and we will continue to monitor this trend throughout the year.

School Matters!



CAFOD CORONA VIRUS APPEAL



On Friday, 2nd October, we had a fundraising day to support CAFOD care for some of the poorest families across the world. Clean water is a fundamental human right. The corona virus pandemic has highlighted the fact that many of the communities CAFOD provide aid to do not have access to a basic resource we all take for granted.

Thank you to everyone for participating, we raised a magnificent £311.30.

NUT ALLERGY

At St. Bede's Catholic Junior School we strive to provide a safe learning environment for all pupils. It has come to our attention that some of our children have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts/nuts. This allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of peanut/nut products, cross contamination and breathing nut dust in the air.

Since this condition can be life threatening, we are asking all members of the school community for their help in minimising the risk to these children by:

1. Not giving children nuts or nut products in their packed lunches. This includes peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts;
2. Asking children not to share their packed lunches;
3. Not sending cakes or food items containing nuts into school for birthday celebrations, sales or events.

Due to the severity of the problem, it is important that all parents/carers carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of allergic reaction to these children. I realise this is a significant change in school policy but it has been introduced due to the specific allergies of some pupils as we take all reasonable steps to keep all of our children safe.

Please note: where a member of staff notices a pupil eating a nut product, the product will be removed politely and the member of staff will explain why this has to be done. A message will then be sent to the parent/carer to explain what has happened so they are fully informed and to remind them of the procedures listed above.

All school meals provided by Halton Borough Council's Catering staff are nut-free.

SATCHEL ONE: 'SHOW MY HOMEWORK'

The school has recently invested in 'Satchel One' with the 'Show My Homework' function. Some parents/carers, with children at Saints Peter and Paul or Wade Deacon will already have the app as this is the program that both schools use. If you have not already done so, please download the Satchel One App (this is a free App) to receive notifications related to your child's homework etc. The App is easy to navigate and accessible to all. Teachers have activated the accounts of children who had not logged on by 13th October and all children are now able to access their homework on any device, eg laptop, desktop PC or tablet.

Please click on the link below to view a short video explaining how to use 'Show My Homework'.

<https://teamsatchel.wistia.com/medias/1x7nnmlskh>

Should there be any issues regarding access to technology or the internet, please contact the School Office or Mrs. Tiernan as there are contingencies in place for weekly homework and in the event of a bubble (or more) being sent home.



PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL MEALS

The school meals are delicious and represent excellent value for money: £2.50 per meal. Halton School Meals Service insists that school meals are paid for in advance. Meals must be booked and paid for in through the School Gateway app and should not be paid for retrospectively.

I understand that family life can be busy and payments can be over-looked; however, last week the outstanding arrears were over £900. Halton Borough Council is notified at the end of each half term of individual arrears. However, the school is liable for the debt until all arrears are settled. If you are experiencing financial difficulties and are unable to pay please speak to Mrs. Tiernan.

There are no Universal Free School Meals in the Junior School so meals, need to be purchased in advance. Should you need any further assistance, please contact Miss Glover in the school office .

ENTITLEMENT TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents/Carers now have the ability to apply online for free school meals (FSM) for any child attending a Halton School. Please click on the link below to register:

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

Once you have completed an application we will be able to check your child's status. The system will regularly check the status of all pupils not entitled to FSM so, if your circumstances change, the school will be advised without you having visit Halton Direct Link to make an application.

Please register, even if your child does not have school dinners, as the school receives additional funding to support those pupils eligible for free school meals.

COMMUNICATION VIA SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school website is constantly evolving and being updated. The 'Parent/Carer Information' tab contains lots of useful information, for example, term dates, school menu, copies of letters sent home, etc.

You can also log onto our website via the School Spider App on your mobile phone or tablet. When you login you will see the most recent posts to the website. If you have more than one child at our school, click on the name shown and it will show you a dropdown list of any other children associated to you. To login please follow the instructions below:

- Install and open the app
- Select St. Bede's Catholic Junior School, Widnes from the dropdown menu
- Enter the username and password emailed to you on 14th October

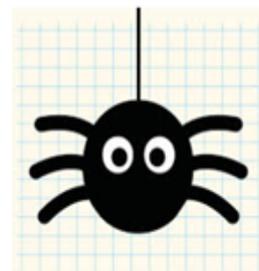
To ensure that you alerted whenever the website is updated please go to your phone settings and select Apps:

- Select School Spider
- Scroll to App Settings
- Select notifications and turn App Notifications on.

By turning on notifications you will receive an alert whenever an email or message is sent. We are then able to send smartphone messages free of charge; currently the school is charged for every text message sent.

You will also receive an alert whenever the website is updated.

Please contact the school office if you didn't receive an email containing your logon details or if you need assistance setting up the App.



COVID-19 RELATED ABSENCE: A REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

What to do if ...	Action Needed	Return to school when
<p>My child has Covid-19 symptoms:</p> <p>HIGH TEMPERATURE – this means you feel hot to touch on chest or back</p> <p>A NEW <u>CONTINUOUS COUGH</u> this means coughing continuously, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours</p> <p>A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE, you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL - CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <p>Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days</p> <p>Get a test.</p> <p>INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULT</p> <p>EMAIL A SCANNED COPY TO: sec.stbedesjunior@halton.gov.uk</p>	<p>The test comes back negative</p>
<p>My child tests positive for Covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL - CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <p>Agree an earliest date for possible return - minimum of 10 days</p> <p>Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days</p> <p>Bubble isolate—home learning packs will be distributed</p>	<p>They feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks or longer</p>
<p>My child tests negative</p>	<p>CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <p>Discuss when your child can come back to school (same day/next day)</p>	<p>The test comes back negative</p>
<p>My child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19</p>	<p>FOLLOW USUAL SCHOOL ABSENCE POLICY PROCEDURE</p>	<p>After 48 hours following last bout of sickness/diarrhoea if this is the cause of the absence</p>
<p>Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL - CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <p><u>Self-isolate the whole household</u></p> <p>Household members to get tested</p> <p>INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTS</p>	<p>The test comes back negative</p>
<p>Someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL - CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <p>Agree an earliest date for possible return - minimum of 14 days</p> <p>Home learning packs will be distributed</p>	<p>The child has completed 14 days of isolation</p>
<p>NHS test and trace has identified my child has been in close contact of someone with symptoms of confirmed Covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL - CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <p>Agree an earliest date for possible return - minimum of 14 days</p> <p>Home learning packs will be distributed</p>	<p>The child has completed 14 days of isolation</p>
<p>We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine</p>	<p>Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</p> <p>When returning from a destination where quarantine is needed agree an earliest date for possible return - <u>minimum of 14 days</u></p>	<p>The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed</p>
<p>We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL - CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <p>Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</p> <p>Home learning packs will be distributed</p>	<p>School inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school</p>
<p>My child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <p>At home support your child with home learning packs provided by school</p> <p>Your child will need to isolate for 14 days</p>	<p>School will inform you when the bubble will be reopened.</p>