ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RCP SCHOOL

Headteacher's Note

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 11th September 2020



KEEP CALM we SURVIVED THE FIRST WEEK!



Dear Parents,

We have got to the end of our first full week in school and I am sure everyone is ready for the weekend. I have to say that the children have settled beautifully back into school routines and they are working very well in their class bubbles.

This week we have been inducting our new reception and nursery pupils and they too are have been very settled. A special thank you to the parents who have accompanied the children for their stay and explore sessions especially for respecting and adhering to the wearing of facemasks, meeting outside and additional handwashing and hand sanitising. We are really looking forward to seeing the children in school next week for their first days and a full week. On Monday we have decided to admit the children to school via the large blue gates as the nursery steps get rather congested and we want their entry to school to be swift so that last minutes nerves don't have time to develop. We hope that our new children will be very happy at St John's and we look forward to getting to know each of them and watching their character, personality and confidence develop.

God Bless
Mrs McKeating



NEW YEAR MASS with Bishop John Arnold

Many of the classes joined Bishop Arnold this morning for Holy Mass which was live-streamed from Salford Cathedral.

The Mass was recorded and is available on demand from the link below. It can be viewed in any web browser from any computer.

https://www.churchservices.tv/salfordcathedral

Thank you for your prayers

I would like to personally thank you all for your prayers for one of our parents who was affected badly by the corona virus and was on a ventilator for a prolonged period of time and was extremely poorly. I am delighted to report that he has now returned home to recuperate and his health is improving daily. Please keep all families who have been affected by the virus in your prayers.



Calling all Year 6 parents…Secondary School Admissions

Application Deadline 31st October 2020



St John's is very lucky to be a feeder school to two Catholic High Schools. Usually at this time of year we would invite both schools into St John's to do a presentation for our Year 6 parents to help them in making their final choice of secondary school for their child and to assist them with the process of application. As both St Augustine's and Blessed Trinity are Catholic schools you will **need to submit a supplementary faith form to both schools in addition to completing your online application.**

ST Augustine's Billington

Please use the link below to navigate you to St Augustine's website. Here you will find information about admission arrangements for this year as well as the supplementary form which can also be completed and returned electronically. The website will be updated shortly with further virtual open evening resources.

https://www.sarchs.com/parents/admissions

Blessed Trinity College, Burnley

Please use the link for our Blessed Trinity's Admissions section

http://www.btrcc.lancs.sch.uk/index.php/admission-arrangements

There is also a virtual tour of the school on the following link https://blessed-trinity-rc-college--a-voluntary-academy.vr-360-tour.com/e/NgUBcsMrMhA/e?hidelive=true&show_thumbnails=true

The website will be updated with further details of the our virtual open evening in due course.

Changes to the ordering of school meals

In order to support our aim to make the office cashless and to reduce time spent in class organising meals each day we have modernised our systems. Please note the important changes below.

- It is ESSENTIAL that **all school meal choices are booked via the parent pay system,** even if there is no fee to pay as your child is entitled to free school meals or a universal free school meals (Pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2).
- All meals must be booked one day in advance.
- Unfortunately you can not book a meal if the account is in arrears and in this case you would need to provide a packed lunch until the arrears are cleared.
- Full guidance notes on Parent Pay are available on the school website under the Parents category.
- If you have not activated your Parent pay account please contact the school office for a reminder of your login details.

If you have never actually enrolled for Pupil Premium funding before as your child was already receiving a free universal school meal each day it would be worth checking to see if you are eligible. Simply call 01254 220710 to check. All you need is your national insurance number. Please refer to our school website for further information. You will find Pupil Premium in the key information section on our school website.



Homework

The children will come home with an exercise book that they will be able to utilise for homework activities. Theses books **will not** be returned to school and must be kept at home.

The children do not need a laptop to complete their weekly work but may use one if it is available to them. The children just need to have access to the internet. All work will be set and returned electronically and some of the activities such as Education City and Times Table rock stars will be able to be completed on phones, tablets and many other devices.

The children's work will be set on their class page as it was during lockdown. The children may type their answers onto the school blog or take a photograph and email it to the class teacher. We are wanting to keep utilising this method of setting and collating work so that we are fully prepared in the event of partial or full school closure.

Maths Homework

Maths homework will be set weekly and will vary each week.

English Homework

Weekly homework will be activities focussing on either phonics, grammar, punctuation or spelling.

Homework Club

Please be award that unfortunately the homework club is not able to run at the moment as we are not able to mix class bubbles.

READING BOOKS

The children from classes 1-6 will be bringing their first reading book home tonight. Each teacher will give the children clear expectations about the frequency of changing the books. All classes will be operating a quarantine system where the books returning from one household will be quarantined for 72 hours before they will be sent to another home. This may mean a slight delay in our usual frequency of changing readers. If you are waiting for a new reading book please utilise other books in your home and nurture the love of reading with your child.

Mass Times

Sunday Masses are still suspended at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Fr Allen is now doing some week day masses for Parishioners



St John the Baptist RC Church
Tuesday 15th September at 6pm
Friday 18th September 10am

St Augustine's RC Church
Wednesday 16th September 6pm

St Mary Magdalene's RC Church
Thursday 17th September at 7pm



COVID-19 UPDATE

We are still surrounded with the effects and impact of COIVD-19. The changes we have put in place are purely to keep the children and staff as safe as possible in school. It also means that if we are in a school. It also means that if we are in a position of responding to a positive COVID-19 case we will be able to operate a quick and partial closure of the school.

At the moment we are working in the knowledge that lots of children will get poorly and not all of these minor illness' will be Covid related. We expect that lots of families will need to have a Covid test over the coming months and **we will only react and contact school families in the event of a positive case.** Please inform us if you are awaiting results from a Covid test.

If someone tests positive we will ask parents to share the following information

1. **First day of the symptoms**
2. **Test Date**
3. **Reference Number**
4. **Result date**
5. **List the known contact on the first day of symptoms and the previous two days.**



Know contacts are defined as:

Direct close contacts: Direct face to face to face contact with a case for any length of time, including being coughed on or talked to. This will also include exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.

Proximity contacts: Extended close contact (within 1-2m for more than 15 minutes) with a case.

SCHOOL ACTIONS WE WILL FOLLOW IN THE EVENT OF A CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASE

1. Inform parents from the relevant bubble and ask them to collect their child and book a Covid test.
2. Children from that bubble will then need to isolate for 14 days until they can return to work. Member of their family do not have to isolate unless their child then tests positive.
3. Resume home learning routines.

Following a 6 month period of school closure, a further closure is the very last thing that I want to implement on our school community. Please help me in keeping our school fully open. **Please observe and adhere to the current government guidelines** so that we can reduce the risk of spreading the virus, safeguard our children's education and keep our school family safe.