



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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## Newsletter – April 2021

*"Jesus said: I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live," - John 11:25*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a happy and restful Easter break. It is always uplifting to have the sunshine with us. It has been wonderful to hear the children laughing and playing out in the open and making the most of the field.

### **Mr. Findlay**

I am privileged and excited to share the news that Mr Findlay has decided he wishes to retire and embark on new adventures. He will complete his teaching career at St Bernadette's at the end of the summer term. I am sure you will join me in expressing heartfelt thanks and wish him the very best as he moves on to new and exciting things, including a very well earned rest!

### **Summer Uniform**

I would like to say how smart the children have looked returning to school in their summer uniform the details of which can be found here <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/uniform/> Unfortunately we will not be allowing the gingham playsuit to be worn as school uniform as it has proven too difficult to take off when going to the toilet.

## Ongoing Covid-19 Restrictions

I know from having conversations with some of our parents that there is increasing frustration about the ongoing restrictions in school around Coronavirus and the safeguarding of our children, staff and families. Whilst we do understand the implications and inconveniences caused by some of the arrangements, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that many of the restrictions are imposed upon us at Government level and are designed to keep us all safe – the very last thing any of us wants is a third lockdown and the return to remote learning!

With regard to children developing symptoms, we are told that we cannot accept a negative Lateral Flow Test result. These tests are only to be used when a person is asymptomatic. When an individual has symptoms they must self-isolate along with their family, seek a PCR test and await a negative result. This means that siblings cannot come into school if their brother or sister has symptoms, neither can children come into school if a parent has developed symptoms. We will always advise on the side of caution with the aim of keeping everyone safe and school open.

In regard to staggered opening and closing times, I believe that these are here to stay for the time being at least. Whilst lockdown rules are easing in other aspects of day to day life, the rules around schools and social distancing remain the same. We have listened to your requests in the morning and staff have been outside to supervise siblings arriving earlier than their bubble opens.

We have had a request to supervise the playground at 'pick up' time and I wanted to explain why we are not able to supervise adults social distancing in the afternoon. All teaching and support staff are busy in school, teaching and supporting children. To remove them from this role to undertake supervision of adults would have a significant and negative impact on the learning of your children. I therefore politely request that you maintain social distancing and refrain from close contact while on school premises.

In order to mitigate the inconvenience caused, we will be trialling the following changes to the morning and afternoon routines from Monday 26th April:

| <b>Start 8:45am &amp; Finish 3:00pm</b> |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | Enter   | Collect   |
| <b>Apple Class</b>                      | Apple class gate  | Apple class gate  |
| <b>Elm Class</b>                        | KS1 gate and using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate            | External Classroom door using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate |
| <b>Beech class</b>                      | External Classroom door using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate | External Classroom door using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate |
| <b>Sycamore Class</b>                   | Main office entrance  | Main office entrance  |

**Start 8:55am & Finish 3:10pm**

|                         | Enter   | Collect   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Oak Class</b>        | KS1 gate and using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate            | External Classroom door using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate |
| <b>Eucalyptus Class</b> | External Classroom door using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate | External Classroom door using one way system exit via Hawthorn gate |
| <b>Willow Class</b>     | Main office entrance  | Main office entrance  |

Both Front Gates (pavement access), will now be monitored by staff from 8:30. Children or families will not be permitted onto school premises before 8:40am unless accessing breakfast club. Please do not arrive early.

I hope by lessening the gap for those are affected most by the staggered start and finish times, we can continue to work together to ensure the safety of everyone. Let's us hope we are well on the way to normal sooner rather than later.

Please take care and stay safe

God bless

*Mrs. Shoulder*