



Headteacher  
Mrs D Shoulder

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and carers,

We would like to reassure our children and families that your health and safety is always paramount in any decisions we make at St Bernadette's. The decision to close our school on Sunday was by no means an easy one to make. However, it was necessary in order to keep all members of our school family safe and well. We understand the frustration that some of our parents have felt concerning the amount of information we were able to communicate to you regarding the reasons and context for the decision that was made, but this was necessary to protect the privacy of those affected.

Please be assured that it was not our 'bubble system' that failed but a series of unavoidable events that led to the temporary closure of our school. We understand that the children have had significant disruption to their education since March of last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic and as a school, we have been very fortunate up until now to have avoided bubble closures. It is always our intention that where we can open safely, we will.

Over the past few days, we have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to facilitate a faster return to school, even if the opening can only be a partial one. We have ensured the school has been thoroughly deep cleaned after the positive cases. We have reorganised staff in order to welcome back as many bubbles as possible and we have further updated our risk assessments.

In order to further mitigate the risk of transmission in our school, especially when faced with the new 'Delta' variant which we know is more transmissible than the previous variants and where we know that community transmission of the Delta variant is rising in our region - [Details - Lancashire County Council](#), we implore you to sign up to the regular lateral flow testing programme for families who have children of school age. Our staff regularly test and as a result, early positives can be followed up and either confirmed or not with a PCR test. Lateral flow tests can be ordered on the following link: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

We are pleased to confirm that school will partially reopen on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June for the following bubbles:

- Apple Class
- Oak Class
- Elm Class
- Beech Class
- Eucalyptus Class
- Willow Class

School **will remain closed to children in Sycamore class and their siblings**. Staff who have children in that class will also be self-isolating at home.

We hope to have all members of our school community back with us on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June providing they are well enough. We would ask that you keep those people in your prayers and call for a speedy and full recovery. Thank you to the families who have sent well wishes and support.





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We would like to thank our school staff especially for their flexibility and dedication in swiftly being able to switch to remote learning and daily 'Teams' meetings, to ensuring the deep clean could take place and that we are able to provide lunches for the bubbles returning.

Going forward, we must continue to insist that social distancing measures are strictly followed: face masks remain compulsory on school grounds and a 2m distance is required between people from different households. Class drop off and pick up times will remain the same and the route through school continues to be a one way system.

We would ask that you continue to be vigilant and if your child is unwell in any way, that you keep them at home. Different variants are exhibiting different patterns of symptoms, including those similar to a cold; headache, runny nose, sore throat and stomach aches as well as those already highly publicised: - temperature, new persistent cough and a change to the senses of taste and smell. We all need to be cautious to minimize the risk of future closures.

If in any doubt, please organise a test. Lateral flow tests can only be used for asymptomatic cases and therefore a PCR test is required for anyone showing symptoms.

As part of our Covid risk assessment we continue to work closely with Mrs Hodgson regarding both breakfast club and after school club provision. Our risk assessment determines that children attending either BC or ASC must remain in their school class bubbles, of which there are seven. Taking this into consideration it has been determined that we will not be able to offer breakfast club provision until September. After school club remains open and will be open from this Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June. If you wish to book a place for your child at ASC you can do so by emailing [stbernadetteslancafterosc@gmail.com](mailto:stbernadetteslancafterosc@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in this matter.

Stay safe and God bless,

Dr J Grabowski, Chair of Governors

Mrs. D Shoulder, Headteacher

