



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

'Doing our best for God'

Date: Thursday, 10 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, we have had a visit from the Local Authority Covid-19 Stewards. They have been patrolling many of our Blackpool schools to support and observe our procedures and to see how the school community has responded to the restrictions and procedures put in place, not just by the school, but by the DfE and the LA. The team have reported that we have a very robust and organised system and were very impressed, especially where we have certain areas that are narrower to navigate and other factors which include a High school opposite us.

They did report speaking to some parents and encouraged them to:

- wear masks to keep everyone safe
- to remember to keep to the designated lines per family
- To leave the area straight away once they have dropped off or picked up their child
- To remember to keep their children close to them, especially at the back of school, as they had noticed children going into the road and running around.

They also reminded school:

'Please note that Covid-19 Stewards do not have any enforcement powers and are purely there to advise members of the public on the wearing of masks and the need for social distancing.'

The team are here until we finish on the 18th December so if you are concerned or have issues please feel free to have a chat with them.

Thank you to our school community who continue to support us by following our procedures so that **'we are all kept safe.'**

You may have read the recent communication from the DfE, asking that all schools who would still be in school, the week beginning the 21st December, to arrange to finish school on the 18th December or as some local Blackpool schools are doing, on the 17th December. Having consulted with the Diocese, LA and our Chair of Governors, we plan to keep to our holiday timetable and **finish on Friday 18th December @ 2.00 pm.**

- This will support parents with pre-existing arrangements, especially those that are working
- It will enable us to complete all the planned activities arranged for the children
- Be in line with our other Catholic Primary and High schools.



Devonshire Road, Bispham, Blackpool FY2 0AJ

Tel: 01253 353461

Email: admin@stbernadette.blackpool.sch.uk

Web: <https://st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk>

Head Teacher: Mrs Alexis Satterthwaite



However, as you can imagine, our school community is on tenterhooks, as we do not wish any bubble to be sent home at the last minute, which will have a devastating effect for many over the Christmas period. In order to limit the risk, we have been in discussion with Our Director of Public Health, Dr Arif Rajupura. We are asking that as from tomorrow, any child with any of the lower threshold symptoms to be kept off school until they are feeling better:

- aches and pains
- sore throat
- sickness or diarrhoea
- headache
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Obviously, we are always adhering to the most important symptoms of COVID-19:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

If you are unsure or concerned with regards to symptoms, please contact 119 for advice.

As you will no doubt be aware, there is a possibility that children and staff may have to go into isolation during the Christmas holiday. During these unpredictable times we must make plans and take additional measures.

We will be monitoring the School Administrator Account twice a day during school time, from the last day of school up until Thursday, 24th December so that we contact children and staff if they may have been exposed to the virus whilst at school and this will mean, that if your child tests positive for COVID-19 you must inform us. After Thursday, 24th December the track and trace system will take over so there is no need to inform school. Please note, we will only be responding to correspondence relating to information of a confirmed case and subsequent support.

Please email admin@st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk with the following information.

- Name
- Class
- Date of onset of COVID symptoms
- Date of positive test
- Last date in school
- Mobile phone number we can contact you on

You will have probably realised that this means you may receive a message during the Christmas holidays to say that your child needs to isolate. I truly hope we will not be in this position, as everyone certainly needs some good cheer and rest.

Stay safe,

Alexis Satterthwaite

Head Teacher



Devonshire Road, Bispham, Blackpool FY2 0AJ

Tel: 01253 353461

Email: admin@stbernadette.blackpool.sch.uk

Web: <https://st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk>

Head Teacher: Mrs Alexis Satterthwaite