

St Bertelina's C of E Primary School

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Date: 23rd July 2020

Time: 3.00pm

In light of current circumstances, we thought it would be useful to have a page dedicated to Coronavirus. This will be the main source of information over the coming weeks. We will do our best to update it regularly and keep you abreast of any decisions we make or any action we would like you to take as parents. Most recent updates will be in **RED**.

As a school we are following advice from Public Health England, as well as Halton Borough Council. The global and local picture is changing daily and therefore our advice maybe outdated very quickly. Please be aware of this.

23rd July 2020

LONDON UPDATE - YEAR 6

We are still awaiting news from the insurance company regarding the reimbursement of your deposits (£50) for London. However, we can now reimburse any further money which had been paid into school. Those families who have paid over and above the deposit will shortly receive a cheque through the post for the difference.

Thank you again for your patience in this matter. As soon as we receive any news regarding the deposit we will contact you.

VOUCHER SCHEME

Today we have ordered free food vouchers for some of our children (ie those children in receipt of benefit related free school meals not children in receipt of Universal Free School meals unless their parent has registered that they too would be eligible).

These families should receive an e-code from Edenred. The e-code is a 16 digit number. Please go on line to redeem the code. You will be asked to choose an e-

card for the supermarket of your choice. Each child is eligible for £90. If you have any queries, please contact www.freeschoolmeals@edenred.com

22nd July 2020

Dear Parents,

Well, the end of a very strange term in school is nearly in sight. This will certainly go down as being a memorable time at St Bert's! I feel sure the children already recognise that they have lived through a period in time which will be part of the history lessons in the future.

I have jotted down below some of the things of which you need to be aware.

1. School closes Thursday 23rd July at 3pm and re-opens on Wednesday 2nd September 2020. Reception and Pre-school children will be making visits to school during that week. You will receive notification of your visit time shortly.
2. There is a 'Parent Master Plan' on the website which details start/finish times and gates to be used next term.
3. Childminders/Link Clubs need to be made aware of the pick-up arrangements on the 'Parent Master Plan'.
4. There is a Covid-19 Home School Agreement which details all the information you need for when your child starts back at school.
5. You should by now have received your child's report by e-mail. This details their class for next year. Please feel free to respond to the report.
6. Your child's current teacher is now busy passing information onto their new teacher ready for September. This transition is a comprehensive and lengthy process but ensures that everybody is aware of important social, emotional, medical and academic needs of each child as they journey through St Bert's.
7. A 'Summer Activity Scheme' is being organised by St Bert's Church and other local organisations. Activities commence on Monday 27th July - hot lunch provided - activities, crafts and sports. No charge. Visit www.stbertelines.org.uk/register for details.
8. The Runcorn & District Foodbank can help support families in need during the forthcoming weeks and months. They are well stocked and can be contacted on 01928 577679/07922072906

9. We are currently liaising with Edenred, the company who run the voucher scheme for free school meals. If everything goes to plan, then families in receipt of benefit related free school meals (not universal free school meals) should receive a voucher for £90 as a result of the Summer Food Fund. Gill will upload the details of how to use your voucher. Any queries, please contact the DfE on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-summer-food-fund>
10. Any children's property left on the premises can be picked up on Thursday 23rd July from 2.30pm onwards.

Today we say a final 'Goodbye' to our current Year 6 children. Each group have visited school in recent weeks and we have had the opportunity to wish them well as they look forward to the next exciting chapter in their life. I hope that despite the lack of 'normal' transition the children enjoy their introduction to High School and make lots of new friends in the process.

Finally, I would like to say a big thankyou to yourselves and your families who have been so supportive in recent months. To say that school life has been a challenge would be an understatement; to say life has been a challenge for us all would equally be an understatement! I hope that life takes on a brighter hue in the near future and that when we return in September, we all feel our spirits have been lifted and that normality, to some degree, has returned.

It goes without saying that our priority in September will be the health and safety of the school community. With this in mind please read our Covid-19 Home School Agreement before coming to school.

We look forward to seeing your familiar faces. Enjoy the summer break. See you in September!

God Bless!

Julie Barron

17th July 2020

Dear Parents,

As the end of the summer term approaches there is a huge amount of information we need to share about the coming days and plans for September. I apologise for the length of this update.

CLOSURE

School will close at 3.00pm on Thursday 23rd July 2020 for all pupils including key worker children. This is your last opportunity to pick up any belongings which have been left in school.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Your child's report will be e-mailed to you w/c 20th July 2020. Along with the report you will find details of your child's class for next year.

ON-LINE LEARNING

As from the end of term there will be no further home learning provided on our website. We are currently exploring the use of other platforms for on-line/remote learning. These will be used in the event of a further lockdown.

MATERNITY LEAVE

As you are aware, Mrs Dix is expecting another baby. We anticipate that she will probably start her maternity leave in September and so she will not have a class responsibility next year. I am sure you would like to wish her well for the future.

CASHLESS SYSTEM

We are currently investigating options available to set up a cashless system in school. Further details to follow.

CLASS STRUCTURE

We have detailed our class structure below. You will notice that we have persuaded Mrs Dippnall to stay with us a while longer than anticipated as she is going to work with Mrs Mackenzie in one of our KS2 classes. We know that you haven't met our new staff but we are hoping to update our website with a couple of video clips/photos so that the children will at least recognise them.

CLASS	TEACHER
Reception	Mrs Katie Davidson
Reception	Miss Hanan Mugbel
Year 1	Miss Sasha Burke
Year 1 / 2	Miss Katie Erne

Year 2	Mrs Kate Burton
Year 3	Mrs Sheridan Moss
Year 3	Mr Craig Ellis
Year 4/5	Mr Charlie Hall
Year 5	Mr Andy O'Neill
Year 5	Mrs Jenny Mackenzie/Mrs Joyce Dippnall
Year 6	Mrs Juliet Wroe

TRANSITION

Transition arrangements for children entering pre-school and reception classes are underway. A separate e-mail will be sent to you to detail the plans for starting in pre-school or reception. This year we will not be having part-time entry into school.

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

As per the government guidance, all pupils are expected to return to school in September; we will be operating under slightly different circumstances but we will be teaching the full National Curriculum. Statutory tests are still planned for the end of the next academic year. Our school day will be slightly different to how it was pre-Covid and of course like many schools, we are continuing with the shorter school day on a Friday for the reasons explained by the Governors. We continue to receive guidance and we are busy formulating plans and completing risk assessments which will be revised periodically.

One of the major changes will be the staggered start and finish times, as well as staggered break and lunch times. Children will be in consistent groups and occasionally these groups (bubbles) will come together, eg at lunch time.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals will continue to be served from September. The menu will be provided by the LA and will be on our website. The usual system whereby KS1 children will receive universal free school meals will continue to operate. Any family in receipt of benefits needs to contact the LA to enquire as to whether they are eligible for free school meals.

UNIFORM/PE KIT

Children will be required to wear school uniform and school shoes. Please see the school website for an order form. Children will also be expected to have white PE kit in school. They also need indoor shoes/pumps.

COVID-19 AGREEMENTS

We will be issuing a COVID Agreement which details the necessary actions the school, parents and children will be expected to take in the future to keep us all safe. Please read this thoroughly so that you are aware of your responsibilities; especially if a case of Coronavirus was to arise in your family.

THE MASTER PLAN

We have detailed a plan regarding start times, finish times, entrances and exits for all children. This is currently being finalised but will be uploaded as soon as possible.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

September is going to be very different to what we normally experience. St Bert's will not be quite the same. We know that children, parents and staff will have very mixed emotions. We are working hard to ensure that our planning for the children focusses not just on the academic side of learning but the whole child - the mental, social and emotional needs they bring with them. Our aim is to make children feel relaxed and happy about coming to St Bert's. If you have concerns, or need any questions answering, then please do not hesitate to contact school (by telephone).

GOODBYES

At this time of the year we always need to say some 'goodbyes'. This year there will be Mrs O'Neil, Sarah and Lucinda who will be leaving us for pastures new. Sarah has secured a teaching assistant post at All Saint's C of E Primary School in the Old Town (our sister school), Lucinda is going to be working as a teaching assistant at Hale C of E Primary School and Helen will be enjoying some quality time at home nursing her husband Andrew following his forthcoming operation. These three staff have shared their talents and attributes and contributed to the St Bert's family in many different ways. I feel sure you would like to thank them and wish them the very best of luck for the future.

WEBSITE

Please keep an eye on the school website where any notifications will be posted, including the Covid-19 Agreement and "The Master Plan".

Regards

Julie Barron
Headteacher

14th July 2020

Dear Parents

Re CHANGE OF FINISH TIME

We are living in very challenging and very difficult times; the 'New Norm' has become the future! St Bert's continues to weather the

storm of change and we are busy planning for September. Hopefully all will progress well and we are looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school.

As from September, communication in school between teachers will be even more difficult due to staggered start times, break times and lunch times. The staff room will have limited availability for only brief periods of time. Teachers will have to be with their children for the majority of the school day and will not be able to visit each other in the way as was previously the case.

In light of the fact that the government have issued guidance which requires us to move flexibly from classroom learning to home learning, we are exploring the different options available for September. Whilst we have been running a dual system, we have benefitted from giving the staff teaching the children of key workers in school the time to support home learning by children finishing their school day earlier on a Friday. This has been immensely beneficial and has allowed staff teams to liaise and communicate.

With all this in mind, the governors have decided to temporarily continue with the earlier finish on a Friday for all children. This will facilitate greater communication between staff and enable remote learning to continue should the need arise due to local lock down. The arrangement will be reviewed periodically and if this is to be considered a permanent arrangement, then interested stakeholders will be consulted as a matter of course.

More details relating to specific start and finish times will be issued shortly by the school. In the meantime, we trust that you are well and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

The Governors

Dear Parents,

Just a brief update to keep you in the picture as to what is happening at St. Bert's.

We have had some of our Year 6 children visit this week and it was a pleasure to see them in school. Over the next 2 weeks we will be welcoming the remainder of our Year 6 and we look forward to sharing quality time with them and saying our goodbyes.

The teachers are currently in the process of writing the children's reports. This year the reports will be sent to parents electronically. The reports will be sent out on Tuesday 21st July to the email address which we currently hold. This e-mail will also give you details of which class your child will be in next year. Please ensure we have your up to date e-mail address in school for this purpose.

Lots of children's belongings and books are still in school. Please see the school website which points out your time for collection. Collection will be at the main school gate. This is a good opportunity for you to see your teacher and to say 'Thankyou' before the summer break.

Finally, please note that we are closing to all pupils on Thursday 23rd July at 3pm. Could we please ask that you keep your eye on the school website where any changes to our plans for September will be notified.

I hope you are enjoying the new freedoms we are being allowed and that the sun begins to shine once more in the near future!

God Bless

Julie Barron

Dear Parents

I hope this update finds you all fit and well. As you are no doubt aware we now have further guidance from the government regarding the full opening of schools from September 2020. We welcome this positive news and we are now putting plans in place to facilitate a smooth transition to the "new normal".

The guidance we are following can basically be interpreted as an extension of what is already happening in school. Health and Safety remains our number one priority for the benefit of the whole school community. Risk assessments will be scrutinised and reviewed and any actions needed will be taken before the children return.

There are lots of different things to consider in addition to health and safety including the curriculum, pastoral support, assessment, contingency planning for outbreaks as well as the logistics of operating a 'pod' or 'bubble' system with 300 children.

During the next few weeks we will be very busy trying to prepare for September amongst supporting the 107 children already in school. We have already started putting together class lists and we are now at the stage of allocating teachers including our newly recruited teachers. Unfortunately, this year the children will not meet their new teacher until September, however we will do our best to make this as smooth a transition as possible when the time comes.

Next week we will be welcoming some of our Year 6 children and we look forward to seeing them in school. All Year 6 children will be taking home their personal belongings as they visit school over the next 3 weeks. Please note that the reimbursements for the Year 6 London trip are currently being processed through our insurance system. Menai payments for Year 5 are also going through the same process.

Any children needing school uniform for September should see the note on our school website.

The teachers are currently writing reports for all the children. This year the report format will be much briefer than usual due to the closure of the school in March. Nevertheless, the teachers were keen to write a report which will reflect where each child was up to in their learning prior to lockdown. Absence will be recorded up to 20th March 2020. The report will also detail the class teacher for next year and will arrive via e-mail. We will keep you updated with our planning.

September will be a different time but nonetheless an exciting time in school. We are looking forward to the restoration of our St Bert's family and you can rest assured that when your child finally comes back to school, it will be a safe, secure and welcoming place where they once again enjoy their school days with their friends!

Thank you again for your ongoing support and kind words; the teachers feel truly valued. God Bless!

- As the summer progresses we see further developments which are pointing towards a much wider re-opening of schools in September. Hopefully all children will return as will most teachers. One teacher has some special news which means she won't be taking a class from September. I wonder if you can guess who that teacher is? Mrs Dix is expecting her second baby and will be beginning her maternity leave in September. We are still awaiting government guidance regarding the return to school but as soon as this is received we will begin to put plans in place for the Autumn Term 2020. We have already started to talk about class groups and possible teachers. How exciting to be thinking about some normality!!

Plans are in place for our September 2020 intake. All families should have received an email and may well have a visit from one of our governors in the near future. Our governors have volunteered to deliver our Welcome Packs this year and I would like to thank them for their ongoing support. Parents of September starters can access a power-point presentation which gives essential information regarding starting school.

Home learning feedback has been very encouraging and apparently the children have loved seeing their own class teacher video. We are hoping to encourage the teaching assistants to do something similar over the next couple of weeks. We have made arrangements for some specific activities to take place for our Year 6 children before the end of term. We would encourage Year 6 parents to respond to the "MOVING ON!" letter (see website) as soon as possible in order to firm up our plans.

Unfortunately, we are reaching capacity as far as the number of children in school are concerned. Under the current restrictions, we are unable to invite Year 1 into school (37 children); however we do have a few places left for keyworkers. Please contact school should you need a place.

Generally, I feel an air of optimism around the school and it has been wonderful to hear children's chatter and laughter, as well as to see their gorgeous smiling faces. Parents have told us they feel happy about the protocols and health and safety procedures in place in school. My only concern is around the social distancing of parents. Could I please remind parents that they need to keep a distance from each other when waiting for children at the

end of the day. No child will be allowed to leave the school premises without an adult, so please don't feel you need to be standing directly next to a gate. Everything may take a while longer but we will all feel safer for following the rules.

I hope you and your family are well and that amongst all the angst of the Coronavirus you have benefitted from special time together which you might not have been otherwise afforded.

God Bless!

- I hope this update finds you all safe and well. Change continues to be the name of the game at St Bert's but thankfully we are all safe and sound here!

Since returning to school following the closure for repair work we have had a sharp increase in the number of children taking key worker places. As we anticipated this is a reflection of the general situation as lockdown measures are eased and businesses are returning to work. We now have 5 pods in operation. Each pod has a maximum of 15 children and has a teacher, a teaching assistant and a mid-day assistant attached to it.

We are currently contacting the parents of pre-school and reception children to gauge the number of children who intend to take up a place (if offered) for Monday 22nd June 2020. Once we have these figures we will have a better idea of what school will be providing from that date. If the take up of places is high, then we will be nearing capacity, however, if it is low we will be able to go on and offer wider opening to other year groups. We perhaps need to point out that if a place is offered and not taken then we cannot guarantee that it will still be there in the future if you change your mind.

Life at St Bert's is beginning to feel more normal as we now have smiley children and lots more laughter around the place albeit that we can't have a hug or stand too close together!

Hoping you all continue to stay safe.

God Bless!

- CHANGE OF PLAN

As has previously been explained our school plan is constantly under review. Following on from the news regarding the increase in the 'R' rate in the Northwest, the school has decided that we will be deferring the entry of our pre-school children. This is in the interest of the health and safety of the whole school community.

The revised date has now been changed to 22nd June 2020. However, this will be reviewed and will be confirmed via the website on Friday 19th June 2020.

We apologise for the change in arrangements and hope that you will be supportive of our decision.

Please ensure you have read the following documents

- **Changes to Home Learning**
- **Key Worker Information**
- **Parent Information Sheet Covid 19 - Return to School**
- **Year 6 Update**

Parents,

First of all, thank you so much for your ongoing support during recent times. I hope your family and friends have succeeded in staying safe and well.

The question on most of our minds - 'Are we going to be having a gradual return to St Bert's commencing June 8th? At this point in time, I remain unsure. I know the government; the unions and the BMA are busy watching the reproduction rate of the virus and this will be key to their decision making as well as other information.

As a school we are keeping abreast of the current guidance and documentation and we are beginning to make plans for a phased return to school - whenever that will be appropriate to our situation. Of course school will not be quite the same at that point; we will have to consider social distancing, new and improved hygiene regimes to avoid cross contamination between home and school, timings for break, lunch, arrival and departure, small groups (bubbles) of children, different teachers taking different year groups, part-time attendance, home-learning for those still at home and many other considerations which will arise, as the situation unfolds.

When the time comes for opening the doors to more children, we cannot guarantee that the school will be 'risk-free'. We will proceed

methodically and with caution. Initially it is likely that only one or two year groups will return. Children by their very nature gravitate towards one another both in class and at playtime. Learning in the Early Years is largely to do with looking, touching and playing with different objects. Teachers are prone to comforting young children when they become upset. School is a place for exploration and freedom within boundaries.

What we can say is that we will do our utmost to manage the risk successfully, some boundaries will be introduced which may not have been present before, so that school is considered to be as safe as possible for your child.

We know that parents will need to consider very carefully whether or not they are happy for their children to return to the school environment. This is your decision and I will not be able to make that decision for you - nevertheless, I will respect the decision you make because I know whatever you decide you will believe that it is in the interests of your family and your child. I hope that eventually you will have the confidence to allow your child to return to school, so that we can support you and your child at that transition time.

So, what next? Well, we await further guidance from the government with regards to whether the conditions for opening to more children have been met. Once we have the 'go ahead' then the governors will decide if it is appropriate to open to other children and hopefully the wheels will get in motion. We will keep you informed as we know more information. Whatever happens, it will only be when governors and staff are happy that we have minimised the risk for children and staff to return confidently that St Bert's will begin to welcome children other than those of key workers or vulnerable children.

I am also enclosing two letters from Halton Borough Council (these can be viewed separately on the Coronavirus Daily Update area) which

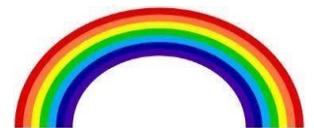
reiterate some of the points I have made and may help to clarify your thinking and answer some of the questions you may have.

Can I ask that all parents continue to liaise with their class teacher regarding home school learning as well as keep an eye on this update which will inform you as soon as any decisions are made.

Keep safe! God Bless!

Julie Barron

- Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement that schools may return on 1st June, I just wanted to reassure you regarding a few facts:
- If asked to open, St Bert's WILL NOT OPEN UNTIL MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2020 at the earliest due to construction work.
- Governors and staff will now begin to plan for a time in the future when we will open.
- The safety of children and staff will be at the forefront of any decision making regarding the re-opening of St Bert's.
- Like you, we find out the government's intentions from the announcements on television. We have many questions as a school and as soon as we have any more information, we will pass it onto yourselves! Keep safe!
- On Tuesday evening, we are asking you to 'Shine a Light' in your front window to mark International Nursing Day, as well as being the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. This act is to recognise the efforts of all nursing staff who are currently taking the coronavirus. Why not do some research about Florence Nightingale and the excellent work that she did as part of your home school learning?
- Just a reminder that as from this week free packed lunches need to be collected on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- As yet we have no confirmation as to when school will re-open. We will inform you of any news as and when it becomes available.
- For the fifth consecutive week at 8.00pm this Thursday evening we are asking the St Bert's Family to join in with the rest of the country in a round of applause in honour of our NHS.
Thank you for playing your part by staying at home and only travelling if absolutely essential. We remain hopeful that by us all being responsible we can protect our much-valued health service. A special thank you to any parents or relatives of children at St Bert's who are employed by the NHS and working so hard to keep us safe - you will never know how grateful we are!
- Just a reminder that as from today (Thursday 9th April 2020) school will be completely closed for the bank holiday weekend and will reopen once again on Tuesday 14th April for the children of critical workers.
- As from today there will be no Free School Meals until Tuesday 14th April 2020.



- As from today 6th April 2020, our cook Zena will be in school on alternate days. Those children who have been picking up their lunch on a daily basis will now need to come on alternate days when they will receive 2 days lunches. So, this week's lunches can be collected on a Monday and Wednesday. Next week (w/c 13th April 2020) they will need to be collected on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Some of you may be querying the new voucher system which is coming into play for children eligible for Free School Meals. At the present time St Bert's will not be operating such a scheme. Any parents who are eligible for Free School Meals for their children (as a result of the benefits they claim) can pick up a packed lunch from school each day. Please contact school if you wish to use this service.
- The school continues to offer child care to critical workers during this national crisis. However, the school will not be offering child care on Good Friday or Easter Monday.
- The teachers will be having some 'downtime' over the Easter Bank Holiday and consequently Home School Learning will not be published on the website until TUESDAY 14th APRIL 2020.
- Just a brief reminder that tonight we would like the St Bert's family to join in showing our appreciation of the NHS. Many of the NHS are making huge sacrifices and putting themselves and their families at risk in order to care and look after those we love. At 8.00pm tonight go into your garden, onto your balcony or open your window to make as much noise as you can to show all workers in the NHS how much we value them during this national emergency.
- Following the announcement from the Government on 23rd March 2020, we are being even more rigorous with our procedures. There is very clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of Covid-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the Government have asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible and asked schools to remain open only to those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread. Even if you are a key worker, you may still be able to ensure that your child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be!

- Unfortunately, we have not had time to draft a newsletter this week. However, the Headteacher's blog section of the website is now live (HOME page, TOP OF PAGE - SCHOOL BLOGS, drop down the menu and click tab for HEADTEACHER).
- As from 24th March 2020 we will not be serving any hot meals for the foreseeable future. Packed lunches will be available on a daily basis.
- As school is now closed, all class teachers will produce work for their children to be uploaded on the individual class page of the school website (this can be found by going onto the HOME PAGE, select CLASSES, then your child's individual CLASS TEACHER PAGE) by each Monday at 12 noon. Parents are asked to support their child in their home learning. We would suggest that parents do their best to get their child into a routine of doing their school activities - especially as we envisage this period of home schooling to go on for several months.
- Teachers each have a school e-mail which can be used to contact them should you have any difficulties or queries regarding the work you have been asked to do with your child. Obviously, this is not an ideal situation, but we know that St Bert's has very supportive parents who will be keen to maintain elements of their child's learning. We would encourage parents to also look for other ways in which they can support their child eg playing games, accessing appropriate websites, baking, reading, watching TV broadcasts, craft activities etc
- Today (Monday 23rd March 2020) the school is open to the children whose parents are key workers. Thank you to those parents who over the weekend managed to source other provisions for their children. Thank you also to those parents who decided to keep their children at home in order to protect them. It is very obvious that the severity of the situation is being taken seriously by all. Thank you for your support.
- If over the next couple of days you are a key worker and you wish for your child to be cared for at St Bertelina's you will need to read and sign our 'Rules of Engagement' which can be found on the Coronavirus Daily Update tab on the school website.
- As from today (Monday 23rd March 2020) we will have only a skeleton workforce in place at school. Please only contact us if absolutely necessary.
- As from today (Monday 23rd March 2020) no parents will be allowed on the school premises.
- Thank you to the parents who have responded so quickly to our request for key worker information. We are currently in the process of sorting the 'care' requests. We will do our best to offer places to all those who genuinely need

the school to support them in this crisis. We may have to prioritise according to the role of the key worker eg NHS workers will be priority. Thank you to those parents who have assured us that they will only take up a place in school when they have no other option even though they are key workers.

- Children who are to be offered a place in school on Monday will receive a letter detailing arrangements and asking for verification of their employment.
- As you will no doubt be aware school will close on Friday for the majority of pupils for the foreseeable future. This will vastly reduce social contact between individuals. As a school have been asked to arrange special provision for the children of key workers in society, as well as any children who are considered to be vulnerable in any way. There is a list available on the Government website as to what constitutes a 'key worker'.
- A flyer has gone home requesting information needed in order to plan for the coming weeks.
- Each morning, during the weeks ahead we will carry out a risk assessment with regards to staffing. I need to warn you in advance that should staffing capacity drop to an unacceptable level, then we will need to close the school. You will be informed immediately should school closure be imminent via the school website.
- Free school meals. We were informed on Tuesday 17th March 2020 by Halton Borough Council that all children who are entitled to a free school meal because the family are in receipt of benefits will still be able to access a lunch (a grab bag) at school during the weeks ahead. We envisage that this may change to a voucher system in the near future. All parents should have contacted the school if they require a 'grab bag'.
- (Please note children who currently receive a universal free school meal in Key Stage 1 will not be entitled to a meal during school closure).
- On Sunday evening at 7pm we are asking all those in our school community to light a candle and put in a window that can be seen by everybody. Hopefully hundreds of people will join together in faith and hope and seek some solace together. Please see www.cte.org.uk/calltoprayer.
- We are hoping to continue to publish a school newsletter each week on a Monday.
- Staff and children to stay at home if unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature (14 days from onset of symptoms).
- Staff or children becoming unwell on site, will be sent home and the whole family should self-isolate for 14 days.

- Anyone living with someone with a cough or temperature should stay at home for 14 days.
- Staff or children with underlying health problems to self-isolate.
- All children, staff and visitors to wash hands upon entering school.
- Any children returning from a holiday abroad need to get permission from our Attendance Officer before returning to school.
- All after school clubs are cancelled.
- All whole school assemblies are cancelled.
- The only meetings taking place in school will involve the school staff.
- All staff to be on the premises for the minimum amount of time necessary.
- Visitors - no external visitors, no external teachers including French, sport, parent helpers and counsellor.
- Mental Health - At times like this it can be very worrying for both adults and children. In light of this, please try not to pass your own anxieties on to your children. Tell them only what they need to know. Try not to sensationalise but be rational. There is an excellent e-book which can be downloaded at www.mindheart.co. Have a look, it might make you feel better too! Another useful website is the British Psychological Society "Talking to Children about Coronavirus".

None of us know what tomorrow will bring, we can only HOPE that we all get through this period in history remaining healthy. Maybe lessons will be learnt and hopefully some good will come out of it all. Already human nature is showing its positive side by some kind individuals offering their help to those less fortunate in our community.

GOD BLESS!