

Diocese of Brentwood
St Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery
Canon Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 5RR

Head teacher

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1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Children

I hope you had a lovely summer. Were you able to go away on holiday? Whether you went away, or stayed at home, I do hope you had some fun. I took my children to Weymouth in Dorset for a week, such a pretty town. Scarlett, my daughter, had her first 'rolled' ice-cream. Have you had one of those? I had never seen one made before. She tells me it was lovely. Something to try, perhaps?

We are looking forward to welcoming the school community back to St. Bede's on Friday. The staff are in school today and tomorrow making final preparations. We want everything to be 'just right' for you. For Reception's induction information – please see our website.

Over the holidays, the Government has shared with Head teachers that we can go back to life as we once knew it in schools. This is great news. It means:

- we no longer need to keep different year groups apart – our pupils can mix in the playground as they once did;
- we do not need different year groups to start and finish at different times – school will begin at 8.50 am, with the playground gates open from 8.30 am and will finish at 3.15 for Infant children and at 3.20 for junior ones – remember no parking is permitted in the church car park;
- classes will only wash their hands once, before lunch;
- our assemblies will re-start;
- our tables in class will be rearranged into groups, rather than rows;
- we can have play equipment out for you to play with at lunchtimes;
- children can arrive and leave by either the back or front gate – parents, please ensure your child knows which gate they are to use;
- parents can once again come to the school office hatch;
- parents can once again visit us in school for class assemblies;
- children can again share equipment in class.

Some of the things we did differently during the pandemic proved to be good ideas and we will keep doing them moving forward as a matter of course:

- when teachers or I need to speak to parents, or vice-versa, we will routinely do this by phone or Teams;
- homework will only be online;
- we will continue to be paperless wherever possible;
- we will continue to use e-Forms wherever possible;
- parent/ teacher consultations will continue to be by video link;
- children wear PE kits to school on the day of that lesson
- parents are requested not to drive along or park in Canon or Bishop's Avenues;
- during the first half-term of the year, children may wear either winter or summer uniform;
- the Lantern newsletter will not return, instead I will continue to write a weekly letter to all parents – sometimes, two.

There are some additional things happening this year. There will be no reading record books. Instead there will be an online reading app that parents can use – details to follow.

We can start using the bicycle and scooter racks – details to follow.

School Meals

Where children are moving to Year 3 next year and parents wish them to continue to have a school lunch, I would invite you to set up an account with Hungry Minds – you can then order and purchase meals. If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium, then you will continue to receive a free meal. When the children return on Friday 3rd September, we will be using the Week 2 menu.

Should you wish to contact me tomorrow, please email me at gary.nott@redbridge.gov.uk.

Please do enjoy your last day of the summer break tomorrow.

God Bless

Gary

