

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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Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope you are well.

I am sorry I did not write to you at the end of last week. I had a safeguarding issue arise on Friday afternoon and I had to focus my attention upon that. Fortunately the matter was resolved, but not before 8.30 that evening. It meant too that I could not speak to the children via Google Classrooms before they went to their weekend. I missed doing this.

We have a shorter week in school, this Friday being a Teacher Training Day. Staff will be exploring what is expected nowadays when history and geography are inspected by OFSTED in a primary school. There is a significant emphasis on ensuring all subjects in a primary school are taught exceptionally well – not just reading, writing and maths. Mrs Dayson is responsible for the teaching of history across our school – Mr Newman leads geography.

COVID 19

If a child or adult at our school displays any of the three key symptoms of COVID 19, we have been told they must go home. In the case of a pupil, we have been instructed by the government that they must wait in isolation. We are using our Prayer Room to give us this space. A member of the support staff, wearing PPE, waits with the child, who should then have a PCR test without delay. Such a test is not mandatory, but the child cannot return to school for ten days following the onset of symptoms unless they are in possession of a negative test result. The parents of sixty-seven children this term have been asked to see that their child has a PCR test. All but two of these children were taken for such tests and we greatly appreciated parents' efforts to help us keep the school functioning by their actions. Ten children subsequently tested positive. I am pleased to say all these children have now returned to school.

School Council

We will be launching our new school council after half-term. Both Mrs Dayson and Mrs Roberts will be working with the children. Last year, our council had a disrupted year, which was a great pity. We are looking forward to implementing as many as ten suggestions that come from the children over the course of this school year.

Here are our new councillors: **1S - Kai and Leiana Year; 1M - Joshua and Tressa; 2L - Olivia and Alexander; 2D - Sofia and Theo; 3B - Shari and Pete; 3C - Antonina and Joshua; 4A - Gracelyn and Luke; 4K - Oliver L and Logan; 5G - Taiwo and Faith; 5S - Ruby and Kammaluna; 6N - Enehita and Grace; 6C - Joshua and Arianna.**

Reading At Home

We know we have high expectations of parents supporting their children with reading at home. We ask parents to read with their children five times a week and we acknowledge this is more than some schools ask for. We set this target because we know the difference it makes to children's progress with all subjects in school. We are very grateful indeed for your support. If you were not one of the 122 parents last week supporting your child five times, I would ask that you start next half-term doing so. As I understand it last week and this, teachers in the junior school have been asking children to read during some of their free time during the school day when this was not done at home. This was only ever intended as a short-term solution: children need their time in the playground to unwind and teachers need a break at lunchtime to grab some lunch. However it was felt by staff that we needed to do something. We currently have a very small number of children who are not supported by a parent at all. I was a little taken aback to learn this. Mrs Roberts and I will meet with the parents of these children during November, so we can understand their thinking better.

Parental/ Teacher Consultations

Moving forward, these will always be on the Thursday evenings in weeks 2 and 4 of November and March each year. So this year we will be scheduling appointments for Thursday 11th and 25th of November, 4.00 to 7.00 pm. We will release the booking system after half-term.

Zig-Zag School Entrance Markings

Please do not stop your car on these to drop or pick up your child. The zig-zags are there for a reason.

2D's Assembly

We thoroughly enjoyed 2D's assembly yesterday. The children spoke clearly, sang beautifully and conveyed a strong message regarding heroes. The Y1 children who joined us sat beautifully. It was great to welcome Father Sean, who enjoyed himself.

Back Gate

The back gate is now shut at 9.00 am each morning. Were you to bring your child to this gate later, you would need to bring them to the main Office.

Sports Clubs

Next half-term, I am so pleased to say that we will offer five clubs – three after school, two before. We will publish details soon. There will be a charge for each of these clubs, as they will be run by private coaches, vetted by the school. Children who are eligible for a free school meal because of a current low income can attend a club free of charge should they gain a place.

Choir

Our choir will begin to sing again after school on Mondays after half-term. This is fantastic news! We have so missed having this.

I hope you have a wonderful week.

**God Bless
Gary**