



Seek the Lord!

The justice and integrity of God flows throughout the whole of creation. God's generosity knows no bounds, and sometimes – as Jesus shows us in Sunday's parable – it is too much for human minds to comprehend. Quite simply, God's ways are not our ways.



Dear Parent/Carer

Second successful week back!

As we reach the end of our second week back from lockdown, we would like to thank you personally for your cooperation and support. All students have adapted to the new systems in place very quickly. This mature response has ensured that students are all in timetabled lessons. We are delighted with their behaviour, conduct and positive attitudes to learning. Well done St. Catherine's students!

The following are a few reminders for the weeks ahead;

Attendance - Considering that we are operating in the strangest of times. I must congratulate all students and parents/carers for very good attendance. We must maintain this standard, but please remember not to send your daughter to school, if she has COVID symptoms or is in a household that should be isolating. If you have any questions about this please get in touch.

Face coverings - The vast majority of students bring and wear their face coverings everyday. It is essential that your daughter does this unless she is exempt. From Monday, we will be treating missing face coverings in the same way as we would with uniform or other essential equipment. We advise cloth face coverings and for your daughter to have a number of these at anytime in case she loses one.

Water - We advise you to continue sending your daughter in with enough water for the day, but we have now made provision for the filling of water bottles in emergencies.

Cleaning and Hygiene—Our cleaning team are working throughout the day to ensure that students and staff are safe at school. We have employed more staff to clean the site and also manage movement around the building. Please speak to your daughter about the importance of disposing of litter and face coverings in the most appropriate way.

Yours faithfully

Ursula Norbert – Headteacher and Nick Watkiss Executive Headteacher

Year 11

Students had vaccinations this week. They were very calm indeed! Congratulations

Gospel reflection

[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.

In Matthew's parable, those who worked all day grumbled because the underemployed are made "equal" to them. Jesus made it clear that people's worth is not to be measured in terms of their capacity for economic production. They are all equal as persons. Pope Leo XIII, writing back in 1891 about the condition of the working class, echoes this aspect of the parable. Those who cannot find work and those who cannot work because of pandemic or disability or visa restrictions share similar experiences.

Their needs are no less urgent than the needs of those who have productive and well-paid employment. Minimal Universal Credit might address their basic material needs but are less than effective in addressing the underlying issues of human dignity.

Parables yield meaning differently in different contexts. We may want to consider the corrosive effects of "envy". Faced with the growing disparity between rich and poor in our world, we may wish to raise questions about the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the landowner. Those who are conscious of the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as those ineligible for benefits, may come with questions about "generosity" offered from a base of power over against equal access to the world's resources. In the face of pandemic and of climate crisis, many of those who used to be safe in economic terms now find themselves with huge debts and diminishing security.

As we celebrate this third Sunday of the Season of Creation, we might accept the invitation of Sunday's gospel story to live in ways that promote quality of life for everyone of Earth's inhabitants.



Family Connection

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously.

Question time and observation

Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons with the reflection

- ◆ Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favorite food at dinner or dessert?
- ◆ Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another?
- ◆ Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made.

Prayer

Dear Lord

Please help us all to treat each other fairly, as we would like to be treated, so we can start to reflect a little bit of God's Kingdom here on earth. God of heaven and earth, in this life and the next you are with us. Thank you for protecting us and guiding us as we journey towards you.

Amen



PE uniform

Girls should wear full PE kit on the days they have PE. If they have the long sleeved jacket and track suit trousers they should wear that over their t-shirt and shorts.

If they only have t-shirt and shorts, they should wear their blazer and kilt over their PE kit for travelling to and from school.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE Headteacher AND EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2020





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Dear Parent/Carer

Please see below a very important letter from **Public Health England** regarding COVID-19, seasonal flu and the common cold. Please do spend the time reading this letter from Bexley.

Public Health Bexley
Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street
Bexleyheath DA6 7AT
020 8303 7777
www.bexley.gov.uk



Dear Parent/Carer

This letter highlights the recent updates on managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community. Not all of it relates directly to parents and carers but is nonetheless it could be useful for you to be aware of.

Here's the [link](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#main-changes-since-this-guidance-was-last-updated) to the updated guidance for full opening for schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#main-changes-since-this-guidance-was-last-updated>

The following key information has been updated:

- ◆ **Managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community**
 - Schools can contact the dedicated advice service introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. This can be reached (by schools, not parents/ carers) by calling the DfE Helpline on **0800 046 8687** and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case. Schools will be put through to a team of advisers who will inform them of what action is needed based on the latest public health advice.
 - The advice service will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. If, following triage, further expert advice is required the adviser will escalate the school's call to the PHE local health protection team.
- ◆ **The framework for supporting transport to and from schools**
 - Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and pupil groups will tend to be consistent under return to school measures. Therefore, wider transmission risks are likely to be lower.
 - From the autumn term, local authorities will not be required to uniformly apply the social distancing guidelines for public transport, on dedicated school or college transport. However, distancing should still be put in place within vehicles wherever possible. This will help to both minimise disease transmission risks and maintain consistent reinforcement of public health messaging to children and staff, particularly at the point where they are leaving school and heading back into the community each day.
 - In accordance with advice from PHE, from the autumn term, local authorities should advise children and young people aged 11 and over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport. This does not apply to people who are exempt from wearing a face covering on public transport. More information on this can be found at the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#).

P.T.O



◆ **Use of face coverings in schools**

-Universal use of face coverings is not recommended in all schools. Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances. Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering.

-In areas where local lockdowns or restrictions are in place, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils (in years 7 and above) in areas outside classrooms when moving around communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain such as corridors.

◆ **Actions for all schools and local authorities with regards to recording attendance and absence**

- School attendance is mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age

- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

◆ schools and local authorities should:

- Communicate clear and consistent expectations around school attendance to families (and any other professionals who work with the family where appropriate) throughout the summer ahead of the new school year.

- Identify pupils who are reluctant or anxious about returning or who are at risk of disengagement and develop plans for re-engaging them. This should include disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people, especially those who were persistently absent prior to the pandemic or who have not engaged with the school regularly during the pandemic.

-Use the additional catch-up funding schools will receive, as well as existing pastoral and support services, attendance staff and resources and schools' pupil premium funding to put measures in place for those families who will need additional support to secure pupils' regular attendance.

-Work closely with other professionals as appropriate to support the return to school, including continuing to notify the child's social worker, if they have one, of non-attendance.

◆ **Physical activity in schools**

-Outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising natural ventilation flows (through opening windows and doors or using air conditioning systems wherever possible) distancing between pupils and paying attention to cleaning and hygiene. This is particularly important in a sports setting because of the way in which people breathe during exercise. External facilities can also be used in line with government guidance for the use of, and travel to and from, those facilities

-Schools should refer to the following guidance:

- [guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation](#) and guidance from [Sport England](#) for grassroots sport advice from organisations such as the [Association for Physical Education](#) and the [Youth Sport Trust](#) .



-guidance from Swim England on school swimming and water safety lessons available at

[-returning to pools guidance documents](#)

[-using changing rooms safely](#)

Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular and extra-curricular activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so. Schools should consider carefully how such arrangements can operate within their wider protective measures.

◆ changes to SEND legislation

The temporary changes to the law on the timescales for EHC needs assessments and plans, which give local authorities and others who contribute to the relevant processes more flexibility in responding to the demands placed on them by coronavirus (COVID-19), will expire as planned on 25 September 2020. Further information on the temporary changes to the law on EHC needs assessment and plan processes is available at [changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Covid19 symptoms:

Anyone experiencing one or more of the symptoms outlined below should follow the government's guidance on self-isolation and access a coronavirus test within 3 to 5 days of onset of symptoms either via the NHS online portal or by dialling 119. If the test is negative the child and the family can stop isolating and return to school/ work if they feel well enough.

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

We appreciate the ongoing difficulty in securing testing appointments. If you can't immediately get a test appointment, please persist, new tests become available regularly.

Diarrhoea/ vomiting in children during this season is most commonly associated with viral gastroenteritis, though it may also be a minor symptom of Covid-19. However, at this point diarrhoea/ vomiting is not included in the symptoms which are required to obtain a test for Covid-19. If a child has symptoms of diarrhoea/ vomiting they must be excluded from school immediately for a duration till 48 hrs after their symptoms resolve.

Cold symptoms:

Your child may come to school and will not be sent home with: one of the following:

- a blocked or runny nose
- a sore throat
- headache

We continue to ask students to practise safe social distancing and hand hygiene. We also ask that they wear face coverings for the entire journey if they are travelling to school by bus (see details above in transport and use of face coverings). We thank you for your continued support of the schools and the steps we are taking to strike a balance between safety and education.
Yours faithfully

Dr Anjan Ghosh—Director of Public Health

London Borough of Bexley