



St Benet's Catholic Primary School
St Benet's Way
Ouston
Chester-le-Street
Durham
DH2 1QX

Website: www.st-benets.durham.sch.uk

Email: stbenets@durhamlearning.net

Telephone: 0191 4105857

'A happy and holy place of learning
and the centre of a thriving community'

Head teacher: Mrs C Young
Acting Deputy Head Teacher: Miss S Loughlin
School Business Manager: Mrs D Finley

Thursday 9th December 2021

Re-introduction of Class Bubbles from Friday 10th December

Dear Parents,

Due to the rise in Covid Cases in children in our school community over recent days as well as numerous conversations with our local public health team, from tomorrow our children shall be return to class bubbles until the end of term. Nursery and Reception shall be in their separate classrooms but shall act as one bubble (due to the smaller numbers in classes). We are hopeful that such measures will only be in place until we break up and that from Monday 10th January, school life shall return to normal.

Our school community adopted to the bubble system extremely well during 2020-2021 and I know that our children will act brilliantly with this short-term measure. Below are further details about the routines from tomorrow. There won't be a great deal of change from some of the procedures that were put into place last academic year.

- **Lunchtimes/Playtimes** – As the children shall be back in bubbles, they will have a set time to have their lunch in the hall as well as time outside. When they are playing outside, the children shall be playing in separate zoned areas. Year 3 enjoy eating their lunch in the classroom so they will continue to eat their lunch there until the end of term, to support space in the hall.
- **Arrival and Departure Times** – we are not imposing staggered start times because the children arrive at such different times on a morning and they all enter the school building through their own classroom doors. However, we are moving back to different departure times and as the school playground is a large area, children shall be collected from the main gates again (as we did last year – Years 3-6 the main entrance gate and Years 1-2 from the infant/staff car park gate). Siblings will be brought out at the earliest time again (ie: if you have a child in Year 6 and Nursery, both children shall be brought to the gates for 3:10pm)

Year Group	Departure Time
Year 6 / Year 2	3.10pm
Year 5 / Year 1	3.15pm
Year 3 / Reception	3.20pm
Year 4/ Nursery	3.25pm





St Benet's Catholic Primary School
St Benet's Way
Ouston
Chester-le-Street
Durham
DH2 1QX

Website: www.st-benets.durham.sch.uk

Email: stbenets@durhamlearning.net

Telephone: 0191 4105857

*'A happy and holy place of learning
and the centre of a thriving community'*

Head teacher: Mrs C Young
Acting Deputy Head Teacher: Miss S Loughlin
School Business Manager: Mrs D Finley

Pantomime

As we are now in bubbles, the advice from public health is that we do not attend the upcoming pantomime. We cannot transfer the tickets to another performance after Christmas without this being extremely costly to parents, so the pantomime has been postponed until next Christmas, December 2022. As you can imagine, this is not a situation that any of us want as our children have missed out on the pantomime for two years now, so we are going to find a theatre company to come into school in the new year to deliver an in-house pantomime to all children. School will pay for this. Any parent who has already paid for the pantomime shall be refunded via ParentPay.

Our Year 6 children are invited to St Leonard's to watch their pantomime on Tuesday 14th December and we are conscious that they will miss out on the pantomime trip in December 2022. As they shall be travelling on a bus in one bubble and sitting in a socially distanced manner for the duration of the pantomime, the children shall still attend.

It has been a very challenging week in school and I sincerely thank those parents who have recognised this and sent supportive emails and passed on positive comments. It is extremely disappointing that our first real outbreak of Covid has occurred right before Christmas and some events have been disrupted, but as always we will do our best for our children. Our Year 3 children have been superstars adapting to their new regimes with smiles on their faces.

We have liaised closely with the local public health team at all times this week who approve of all decisions that we have taken, therefore I trust that you will understand why we have had to implement such measures. Should anyone have any concerns, please email the school at stbenets@durhamlearning.net.

With good wishes,

Catherine Young
Head teacher

