

# St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

## 21st September 2023 Newsletter



### SCHOOL MASS

Thank you for coming to our first school Mass of this academic year. It was so uplifting to see so many of our new children to Nursery and Reception and their parents come forward for a special blessing from Brother Lixson. As always, it was wonderful to see our children from across the school at Mass and a special thank you to our children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who read, altar served and sang so beautifully. Thank you too for the generous offerings for the Bexley Food Bank. Our next school Mass is Sunday 15th October at 10:30am.



### TEACHING ASSISTANT

We are advertising for a teaching assistant, required to start as soon as possible. This post is on a fixed-term contract until July 2024. Please see the attached job advert. **The closing date for applications is at noon on Monday 25th September 2023.**

### SWAP YOUR FOOTWEAR FOR OUR SCHOOL FOODBANK

We are inviting you to wear your trainers to school (with your school uniform) on **Friday 22nd September**. In return for being able to wear your trainers, we are asking you to bring an item or items for our school food bank. Our supplies have reduced and we would like to be able to offer groceries again this year. Thanks for your support in advance.



## MEET THE TEACHER MEETINGS

This year we will be holding 'meet the teacher curriculum meetings'. Each meeting will be half an hour and will be held twice with a recording of the information made available on the website. Please see below for times -

|                                    |                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 25th September at 2:40pm    | Swans<br>Swallows<br>Penguins<br>Puffins<br>Kestrels<br>Woodpeckers |
| Tuesday 26th September at 9am      | Sparrows                                                            |
| Tuesday 26th September at 10am     | Robins<br>Nursery                                                   |
| Wednesday 27th September at 1:15pm | Swans<br>Eagles<br>Jays                                             |
| Wednesday 27th September at 1:45pm | Kingfishers<br>Hawks<br>Flamingoes<br>Owls                          |

## REMINDER OF SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

A reminder that we have a window between 8:30am and 8:50am when children can arrive for school. The start of the school day stays the same, with **the school day starting promptly at 8:50am** with the register being taken in class at this time. Please note the following collection times at the end of the day:



- **Nursery and Reception** will be dismissed at **3:10pm**.
- **Years 1-6** will be dismissed at **3:20pm**.

## CLUBS FOR 2023-2024

Clubs will be resuming for the autumn term the week beginning 11th September 2023 and finishing the week beginning 4th December 2023. These are now live to book on mychildatschool.

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> Please note places are limited.

| Day       | Club                       | Year Groups | Time      | Venue     | Cost               | Spaces |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--------|
| Wednesday | Mixed Football             | 5 & 6       | 3:20-4:30 | In school | £60<br>12 sessions | 6      |
| Friday    | Boxing Fun<br>Fitness Club | 3, 4, 5, 6  | 3:20-4:30 | In school | £60<br>12 sessions | 4      |

## SPANISH AFTER SCHOOL CLUB IN THE ANGELUS CENTRE

The Spanish after school club started again on Wednesday 13th September in the Angelus Centre from 3:30 to 4:45pm for children from years 2 to 6. Email [sophiechaise@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sophiechaise@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

## RECEPTION APPLICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2024

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 you can now apply for a place in Reception September 2024. Please pick up an application form from the School Office or download from our website: <https://www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk/admissions>. Signing dates at Our Lady of the Angels can be booked via the following link: <https://www.olaerith.org.uk/appointments>

Details of our Open Sessions can be found below:



## St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

### RECEPTION 2024 ADMISSIONS

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 and you would like to apply for a place at St Fidelis in Reception for September 2024, it is important that you submit your application soon.

Parents and carers will need to collect and return a supplementary form to the [School Office](#) (as well as completing the [Bexley](#) online form) by the closing date of **15 January 2024**).



The school open mornings/evenings for admission to Reception for September 2024 will take place at the following times:

- |                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| • Friday 3 November 2023         | 9:30am        |
| • Thursday 16 November 2023      | 9:30am        |
| • <b>Monday 20 November 2023</b> | <b>5:00pm</b> |
| • Friday 24 November 2023        | 9:30am        |
| • Wednesday 6 December 2023      | 9:30am        |
| • Friday 12 January 2024         | 9:30am        |



Each tour will begin promptly and last approximately 1 hour. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet the Head of School, Catherine Quirke, and some of our fantastic Year 6 pupils who will be delighted to show you what our school is like and what we think makes our school unique.



**Compassion, Challenge, Excellence: bringing children to Christ through education**

[www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk](http://www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk)    [admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk)    01322 337752

# St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

## Safeguarding and Child Protection



St Fidelis welcomes the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of families in our school. We learn a lot from each other and we embrace the opportunity to share our different backgrounds. We recognise that approaches to being a parent can vary within families, ethnic groups and communities.

British society acknowledges and affirms cultural diversity but children, whatever their cultural background, always have the right to be protected from physical, emotional and psychological harm. Anything that causes harm to a child, whether part of a cultural or faith tradition, is never acceptable. Practices that may be culturally acceptable in some countries are against the law in the United Kingdom.



Our school is committed to safeguarding and child protection of children who are at risk of abuse or neglect. The school has a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of children. If the school has serious concerns regarding any child's welfare, these will be referred to Social Services.

The school works hard to establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are confident to talk and are listened to. Miss Quirke, Mr Kennor and Mrs Atherton share responsibility for safeguarding and child protection for all pupils.

If you have concerns there are always three routes available to take to raise these:

- Speak to Miss Quirke, Mr Kennor or Mrs Atherton by making an appointment through the school office.
- Contact Children's Social Services directly at Bexley, by ringing 0208 303 7777.
- Contact the Police, by ringing 101 (non-urgent) or 999 (emergency).

For further information, the school's policy is available to download from the school website.

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Catherine Quirke</b><br><b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>                      | <b>Ben Kennor</b><br><b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>                     | <b>Deborah Atherton</b><br><b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>                 |

### Boundaries

We all know that children test our limits at times. We set 'boundaries' about what we expect of our children and family. If these boundaries are too loose and parents are inconsistent, children can become confused. If they are too harsh, then children do not develop their own sense of responsibility. Think about the rules in your house and explain these to your children. Give them a chance to discuss the rules and to know when things might change. For instance, during school days you may expect a fixed bedtime but at weekends this could be later or negotiated.

### Consistency

It is important that children have routine and predictability. They need to know that there are consequences for how they behave. Rewarding positive behaviour is generally more effective than punishing challenging behaviour. Praise and encouragement are powerful tools for developing good habits. However challenging your child's behaviour is, it is important to be as consistent and fair as possible.

Your children need your attention and support. Young children should never be left on their own or in the care of other children. If you need help with childcare you can ask the Family Information Service for advice (see reverse).

### Diversity

The rich cultural diversity in our community is reflected in the way families bring up their children. Approaches to being a parent can vary within families, ethnic groups and communities. British society acknowledges and affirms cultural diversity but children, whatever their cultural background, always have a right to be protected. Anything that causes harm to a child, whether part of a cultural or faith tradition, is never acceptable. Some practices that may be culturally acceptable in some countries are banned by law in the United Kingdom.

1. Get to know your child
2. Listen to your child
3. Be as positive as you can
4. Keep the rules simple
5. Be consistent
6. Reason and discuss matters with your child
7. Provide positive opportunities
8. Agree sanctions with the child
9. The behaviour is bad – not the child
10. Ask for help

If you have any questions about this leaflet or any of the issues it raises, do not hesitate to contact social workers responsible for the care of children in Bexley, both West and East Child Care Teams are currently based at the Civic Offices on 020 3045 7777.

For more information please see:

AFRUC's Manual on Child Protection for Parents in the UK available at: <http://www.afruca.org/publications/manuals/>

NSPCC's Encouraging Better Behaviour available at: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different format, please call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications/Graphics. The reference to quote is 603924/2.16



Listening to you, working for you

[www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have been really fortunate to come back to school with the sun and the warmth. A reminder that children can stay in summer uniform until October half term, if the weather should still be warm enough. We would like all children in their winter uniform by 31st October, when we return after half term.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM

We have **second hand uniform available for free**. This can be collected from St Patrick's room on the KS1 playground at the end of school on Wednesdays and Fridays.

## ASSEMBLIES

Here is a list of all the class assemblies which we have this half term. Please note these are always on a Friday, starting promptly at 2:45pm. Parents are more than welcome to attend their child's class assembly which will be held in the school hall.

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Friday 22nd September | Year 5 Flamingoes  |
| Friday 29th September | Year 4 Puffins     |
| Friday 6th October    | Year 3 Kingfishers |
| Friday 13th October   | Year 2 Jays        |
| Friday 20th October   | Year 6 Woodpeckers |



# St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

Bexley Road

Erith

DA8 3HQ

Email: [admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk)

Tel: 01322 337752

Website: [www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk](http://www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk)

Executive Head Teacher: Mark Hannon BEd MEd NPQH

Head of School: Catherine Quirke BA(Hons) MBA NPQH

**TEACHING ASSISTANT  
BEXLEY SCALE 5 POINT 051-054  
£13.21 - £13.43 per hour  
Fixed term contract until July 2024  
Required to start as soon as possible**

**Hours are: Monday - Friday:**

**8:30am-3:30pm**

We can offer you:

- Opportunity to work as part of a skilled team committed to the development of every child
- Children who have immense potential
- An environment that is amply resourced and well designed

For an application pack, please contact the school office:

[admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk). Alternatively the pack can be downloaded from the school website: [www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk](http://www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk).

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

**Closing date:** Noon Monday 25th September 2023

*The school and all its personnel is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.*

*This post is considered to be a customer-facing position; as such it falls within scope of the Code of Practice on English language requirement for public sector workers. The school therefore has a statutory duty under Part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016 to ensure that post holders have a command of spoken English sufficient for the effective performance of the job requirements. The appropriate standards are set out in the person specification. These will be applied during the recruitment/selection and probationary stages.*



Yours sincerely,

*Mark Hannon*

Mark Hannon  
Executive Head Teacher

*Catherine Quirke*

Catherine Quirke  
Head of School