

St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

18 September 2026 Newsletter



MR ROBINSON - WINNER OF NATIONAL AWARD FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This week, there was some very exciting news as it was announced that Mr Robinson has been awarded Primary School Music Teacher of the Year by Classic FM.



Mr Robinson is an exceptional music specialist teacher within our school community, across the London Borough of Bexley in his role as Primary Lead School for Music in the South East London Music Hub and nationally through his preparation of his students to sing as part of the King's inaugural Christmas speech a few years ago.

We know that our music curriculum surpasses the expectations of the primary national curriculum for pupils from Reception to Year 6, developing children's musical and singing skills to levels well beyond those typically found at the end of the primary school phase. Colleagues from other schools frequently visit St Fidelis to learn more about the provision Mr Robinson has put in place.

Mr Robinson has developed a musical culture in school that encompasses all children with our award winning junior choir, our five steel pan groups, our orchestra, our djembe drum group and our infant choir.



We are very grateful for how Mr Robinson continues to impart a love of music and joy throughout our school. Congratulations Mr Robinson - we know you very much deserve this award. We all wish you the best for when you go to collect your award at the Royal Albert Hall in London, next month.

SCHOOL MASS

Our first school Mass will take place on **Sunday 20th September at 10:30am** in Our Lady of the Angels. We hope that everyone will come along- as ever we will be collecting for the local food bank for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. The children should bring these donations to the front of the church before the beginning of Mass. Our new Nursery and Reception children will receive a special blessing during the Mass.



NURSERY READING CAFES

Across the year, there will be opportunities for our Nursery parents to come and read at one of our reading cafes. The dates for this term are shown below. On the day, just come to the Nursery gate as usual. We hope to see you there.

Friday 25th September	8:50am to 9:20am or 12:20pm to 12:50pm
Friday 9th October	8:50am to 9:20am or 12:20pm to 12:50pm
Friday 6th November	8:50am to 9:20am or 12:20pm to 12:50pm
Friday 20th November	8:50am to 9:20am or 12:20pm to 12:50pm
Friday 4th December	8:50am to 9:20am or 12:20pm to 12:50pm

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

www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk

admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk

01322 337752

RECEPTION READING CAFES

Across the year, there will be opportunities for our Reception parents to come and read at one of our reading cafes. The dates for this term are shown below. On the day, just come round to the school office. We hope to see you there.

Friday 25th September	8:50am to 9:20am
Friday 9th October	8:50am to 9:20am
Friday 6th November	8:50am to 9:20am
Friday 20th November	8:50am to 9:20am
Friday 4th December	8:50am to 9:20am

RECEPTION 2027-2028

If your child was born between **1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023** you are now able to apply for a place in Reception, starting September 2027. To apply for a place at St Fidelis you must return one of our Supplementary Forms and also apply directly with Bexley via the Eadmissions portal, no later than **Friday 15th January 2027**. Below are our current open events:

- Friday 25th September 2026 9:30am
- Friday 16th October 2026 9:30am
- Monday 19th October 2026 5:00pm
- Friday 13th November 2026 9:30am
- Monday 23rd November 2026 5:00pm
- Friday 27th November 2026 9:30am
- Friday 4th December 2026 9:30am
- Friday 8th January 2027 9:30am

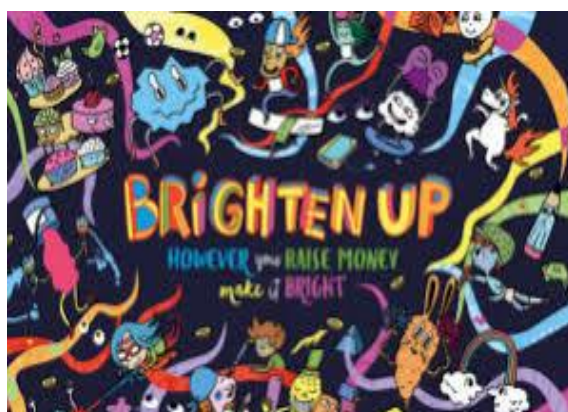
SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

On **Wednesday 7th October** the photographers will be in school to take photographs of all children. Please make sure our children look really smart on this day, wearing their full school uniform.



BRIGHTEN UP THE WORLD NON-UNIFORM DAY

On **Friday 16th October**, we will be having a “Wear something bright” non-uniform day to raise money for CAFOD’s Harvest appeal. Sadly, due to poverty and injustice, this harvest will not be bright for millions of children and young people around the world who will miss out on food, clean water and even on going to school. However, we are going to do something to help. Please donate £2 through My Child At School and wear something bright!



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, Mrs Atta, Mr Hannon, Mr Kennor and Mrs Phelan share responsibility for safeguarding and child protection for all pupils. Mrs Aromolaran is the link governor for Safeguarding.

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

- Speak to Miss Quirke, Mrs Atta, Mr Hannon, Mr Kennor or Mrs Phelan 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).

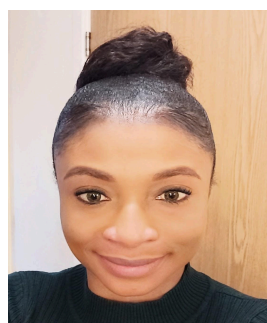
For further information, the school's policy is available to download from the school website.



Miss Quirke
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Hannon
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Atta
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Atherton
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Kennor
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



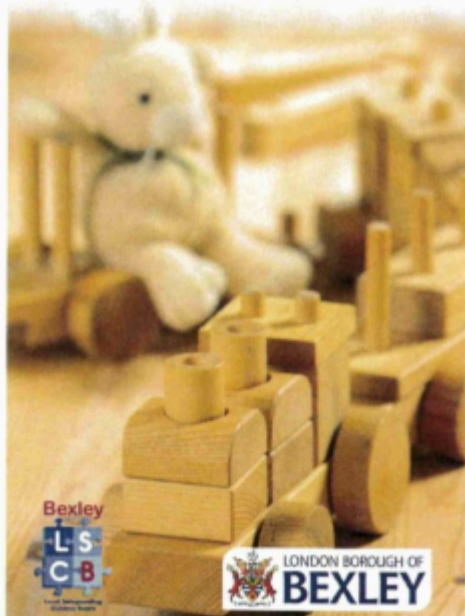
Mrs Phelan
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Ms Aromolaran
Link Governor for Safeguarding

Disciplining Your Children

A Guide For Parents



Listening to you, working for you

www.bexley.gov.uk

Child Protection – What's it got to do with you?

Parents and carers want the best for their children. They help their children by giving clear and consistent messages about their behaviour. Sometimes parents can respond too harshly to situations and a child might suffer an injury or emotional harm as a result of the methods used. In some circumstances this may result in a referral to Children's Social Care and Police who may be called to investigate. This results in great stress for the whole family.

The aim of this leaflet is to support parents and carers to feel confident in managing their children's behaviour and to seek advice if they are having difficulties.

The Law – how it applies to you

UK law protects every child up to the age of 18 years from cruel and abusive treatment by their parents or carer. It is against the law for a parent to use physical punishment on their child that causes marks.



Positive Parenting

1. Have clear, simple rules and limits
2. Listen to your child
3. Lead by your own example
4. Praise and reward good behaviour
5. Be consistent
6. Reason and discuss matters with your child
7. Provide positive opportunities
8. Agree sanctions with your child
9. Criticise the behaviour you do not like, NOT your child
10. Ask for help before you feel overwhelmed



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



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

LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY

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SWIMMING POOL

We are delighted to be able to offer swimming, here on our KS2 playground, for the third time. The swimming pool is here for 5 weeks and the children are having a great time so far. Thanks to parents and carers for ensuring the children have their swimming kits with them on their designated swimming days.

TEACHING ASSISTANT VACANCY

We are currently advertising for a fixed-term contract teaching assistant to start as soon as possible. If you are interested in applying please download an application form:
www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk/vacancies Please note the closing date for applications is Monday 12th October at 12 noon.



Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mark Hannon in black ink.

Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Handwritten signature of Catherine Quirke in black ink.

Catherine Quirke
Head of School



St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

Bexley Road

Erith

DA8 3HQ

Email: admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk

Tel: 01322 337752

Website: 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
39 Weeks of the Year
Fixed-term until July 2027
Required to start As Soon As Possible**

Hours are: Monday - Friday:

8:15am-3:45pm

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. Alternatively the pack can be downloaded from the school website: www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Closing date: Monday 12th October at 12 noon

*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.*

St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

Admission to Reception - September 2027



If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 you can now apply for a school space in the Reception class starting in September 2027.

Who are we?

St Fidelis Catholic Primary School is an outstanding school that offers:

- A broad and balanced curriculum
- Specialist teachers for music and physical education
- High expectations of pupil behaviour
- Excellent results
- A great education.



As a Catholic school, we place a central emphasis on the moral development of every child. We welcome applications from Catholic, Christian, and families of other faiths that are supportive of the ethos of our loving community, where God and the uniqueness of every individual is at the heart of everything that we do.

How do I arrange a visit?

Our open day events are a great opportunity to spend an hour with us as a school and provide a valuable opportunity to see the school in practice (9:30am open days) or to hear from the school's senior leaders (5:00pm open days). Each open day event starts promptly at the times set out below:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| • Friday 25 September 2026 | 9:30am |
| • Friday 16 October 2026 | 9:30am |
| • Monday 19 October 2026 | 5:00pm |
| • Friday 13 November 2026 | 9:30am |
| • Monday 23 November 2026 | 5:00pm |
| • Friday 27 November 2026 | 9:30am |
| • Friday 4 December 2026 | 9:30am |
| • Friday 8 January 2027 | 9:30am |

Where can I find out more?

Our school website is a great source of further information in the first instance. You can learn more about the school's breakfast and after school club offer and the various national awards that the school is proud to have achieved.

Tel: **01322 337752**

Email: **admins@st-fidelis.bexley.uk**

Web: **www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk**



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