

St. Bernadette's Nursery Class

Edward Avenue, Falkirk FK5 4XR

01324 503404

<https://twitter.com/StBernNursery?lang=en-gb>



September 2020

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a lovely summer break !

We would like to welcome our returning children back for their pre-school year along with our new boys and girls who will be starting over the next couple of weeks.

All our learners have settled, comfortably, back into life at St. Bernadette's. We are so proud of how well our children have adapted to the 'new normal', and their ability to respond so positively to the huge transition back into nursery life.

Waterproof clothing

At St. Bernadette's Nursery Class we pride ourselves on being an outdoor nursery and try to have our children outdoors for at least half of the session. We ask that all children have appropriate outdoor clothing as we are out in **ALL** weathers. (wellington boots, waterproof jacket and waterproof trousers.)

The NHS website states "the only thing that can cause a cold or flu is a cold or flu virus. Getting cold or wet won't give you a cold."



Nursery Interests

Over the past few weeks our new and returning children have been settling into nursery and getting to know our children and staff.

The staff are following the interests of child and have noticed they are showing an interest in mini beasts.

Nursery Times

The nursery doors will open for drop off at 8.50am.

The doors will then open for pick up at 2:30pm and all children must be **picked up by 2.55pm at the latest.**

These times will be reviewed in October in the hope that it can go back to 9.00am—3.00pm.

If you are picking any children up from the school, can you please pick up nursery children first to make sure they are picked up by 2.55pm.

Staff

Just a little reminder of our nursery staff team

- Mrs Kinnaird— Senior Early Years Officer
- Mrs Honeyman— (EYO) **Orange Group**
- Mrs McLean— (EYO) **Green Group**
- Miss Lindie—(EYO) **Blue Group**
- Miss Trimmer—(EYO) (Mon-Wed AM) **Purple Group**
- Miss McArdle— (EYO) (Wed PM-Fri) **Purple Group**

We have two Childcare Assistants working 11am-2pm.

- Miss Grant and Miss McNaughton.

Miss McNaughton has successfully completed her training and is now a qualified EYO. She will be leaving us on the 25th September to take up an EYO post in another nursery.

We wish her the best of luck!

Health Checks

Please remember it is Falkirk Council Policy that a child should not return to school or nursery until they are 48 hours clear of any sickness / diarrhoea illness.

Regular checks for Head Lice are always recommended.

If your child is unwell the best place for them is at home.

We cannot ensure children stay inside when recovering from illness as we are an outdoor nursery and children spend a large part of their day outdoors. If your child is not well enough to go outdoors, then they should not be in nursery.



Nursery Photographs

Can all parents/carers please hand in a photograph of your child and their family to a member of staff. We have purchased a photo album so children can look at pictures of their families while they spend time in the home corner of our nursery. If you prefer you can email a photograph into the nursery instead.

stbernadettesprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk

Children's choice

The children in St Bernadette's Nursery are valued and respected through giving them the choice in their learning. They choose where they play both indoors and outdoors. They choose when they come for snack. They make decisions on the resources they would like to use that day/week which includes colours of paints, collage materials, the books they are read. This enables the children to be creative and take ownership of their learning. Each week children make choices on the snacks they would like to have the following week and staff allow children to phone our supplier of fruit and vegetables to order in the fruit they would like. This provides children with skills for life, learning and work.



Staff Training

Staff have completed Child Protection Training and Fire Safety Training during the in-service days.

Mrs Kinnaird has successfully completed her BA in Childhood Practice at Glasgow University.

Staff are currently exploring the Anti Play Philosophy. Once we have explored this further we will give you more information.

Lunches

It has been arranged with Catering Services that grab bags will now include a hot item for children two days per week.

This will be starting from next week.

Unfortunately, staff are unable to accept any food items/packed lunches for your child at the door. This is a decision that has been made by Catering Services and if parents are unhappy about this then please take this matter up with Sealock House.

Visions, motto and aims

Our staff team have been working to create a new vision, motto and set of aims for our nursery.

We would really appreciate your input as your opinion matters to us. Thank you to those of you who have already taken part.

If you click the link below you will be taken to a short survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7HG3NB2>

The closing date for the survey is 30/09/2020.

After the 30th of September staff will collate the results and let you know what the final vision, motto and aims for our Early Learning and Childcare Setting is.

Developing the garden

In the next few months our emphasis is on developing our nursery garden.

If anyone knows where we can source a tractor tyre or cable reels please let a member of staff know.

Please click the link attached for ideas on the resources we require and if you have any of these we would be extremely grateful!

<http://www.playscotland.org/parents-families/loose-parts-play/>

Nursery Door

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, no parent/carer can accompany their child into the nursery.

All adults must remain 2m apart during drop off and pick up times.

To assist with the number of people accessing the nursery at the same time, we will introduce staggered start/finish times.

The times will be:

Drop off between 8.50am and 9.30am

Pick up between 2.30pm and 2.55pm

We are not allocating specific times to individual children, but ask for you to work together to ensure a 2m physical distance is maintained.

On arrival, if there is a larger queue, please remain in your car and use your judgement of when it would be appropriate to join the queue.

We will review these procedures regularly and if we find physical distancing cannot be maintained, we will allocate specific start/finish staggered times.

Twitter

We will post regular updates on Twitter to share the fun and learning that is happening

Please follow us on Twitter using the tag line

@StBernNursery

If any parent or carer needs support in setting up Twitter or following us, please speak to Mrs Kinnaird or Mrs Honeyman who will be happy to help.

Keeping in touch

Staff are currently looking into an app called 'SeeSaw' which is used to communicate with parents. Once we have all received training for this we will give you details on how to download the app and register for your child.

We understand that it is difficult not being allowed into the playroom with your child, but please contact the nursery if you have any concerns or questions you may have. The direct nursery number is 503404.

Woodland Walks

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are refraining from attending the Larbert Woods as we need to use public transport to get there. We will instead be visiting the Orphan Land which is a short walk from nursery.

We will attend the woodlands in all weather conditions. If woodland sessions were to be cancelled at short notice, we would keep the children in nursery as normal. This would only occur if the weather was too slippery underfoot or if there were exceptionally high winds.

The woodland site can be muddy so old clothes and wellington boots are highly recommended. The nursery do have **some** waterproof trousers and jackets which can be borrowed on arrival but due to COVID-19 restrictions, these are limited. Please ensure your child is sufficiently wrapped up warm.



Nursery Clothes

Can we ask that all children have at least one pair of spare clothes in their nursery bag in case of accidents.

Our nursery clothes supply is running very low for girls leggings at the moment so if anyone has any old girls clothes we would happily take them.

Outdoor Play and Learning

Our staff are huge believers in outdoor play and learning, and the benefits it has on children's learning and development. Our children have access to their outdoor environment throughout their day and choose to access it as they wish.

Our children enjoy playing in the 'mud kitchen' as well as using the loose parts to develop their problem solving, social skills and creative skills.

Many of our children engage in 'risky play'. As a parent, this may seem daunting but it is a huge part of our day to day life. Staff support children to challenge themselves during their play. This might involve climbing up a tree, walking along a wobbly plank, rolling tyres or using real life tools. The children are encouraged to assess obstacles prior to attempting them and are always encouraged to 'give it a go' to challenge themselves.

Accidents do happen, and sometimes your child may have a wee fall or tumble. This is all part of the learning experience and observations have shown us that our children are becoming more resilient, meaning they just get up and try again. Staff ensure that children are taking safe risks that cannot cause serious injury or harm.

Important dates 2020/2021

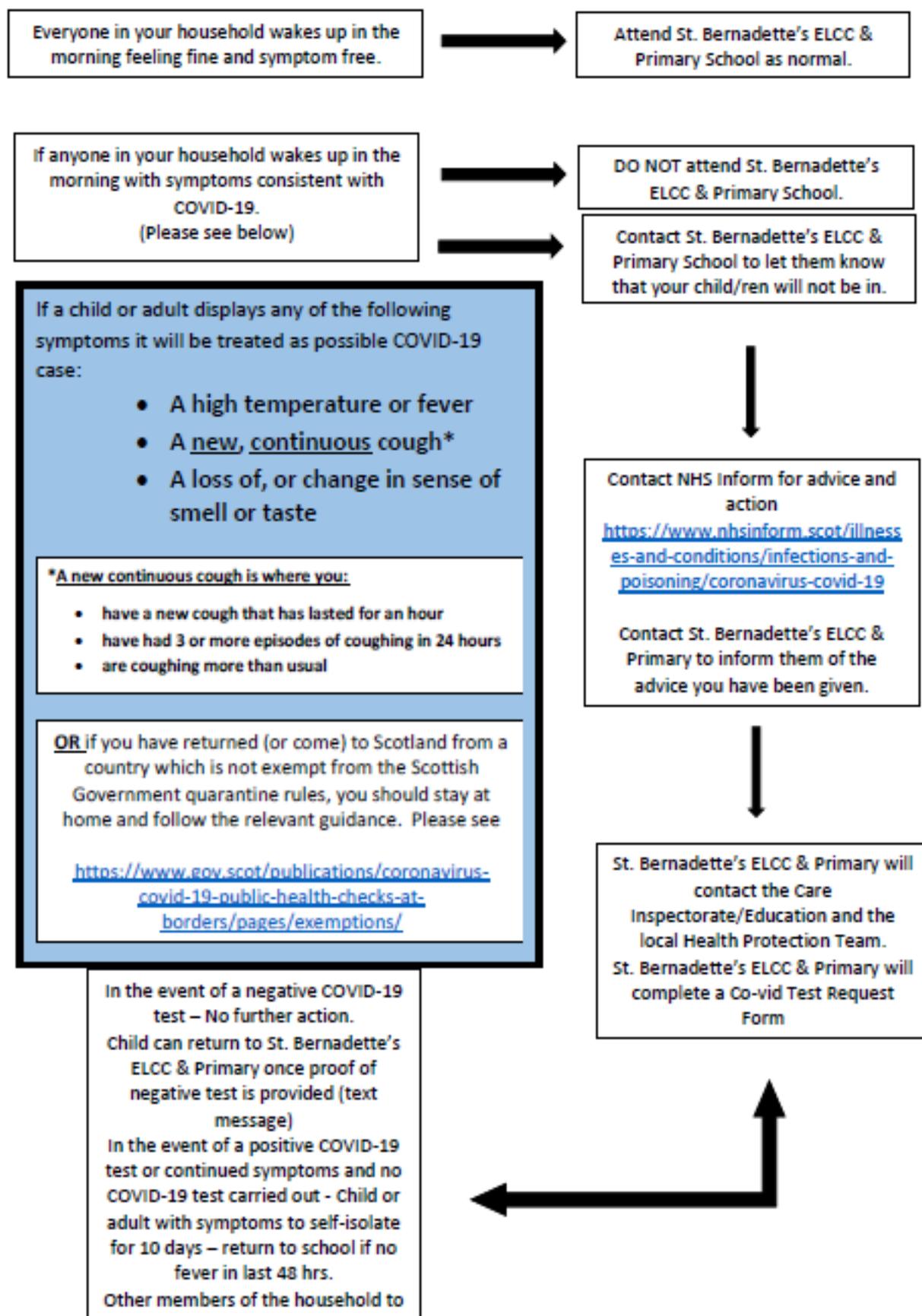
- **October holidays**—Monday 12th – Friday 23rd
- **Halloween Party**— Friday 30th October
- **Nursery Nativity**— TBC
- **Nursery Christmas Party**— TBC
- **Christmas holidays**— Thursday 24th December – Wednesday 6th January
- **Public holiday**—Friday 12th February and Monday 15th February
- **In-service day**— Tuesday 16th February (nursery closed)
- **Easter holidays**—Friday 2nd April—Friday 16th April
- **May holiday**—Monday 3rd May
- **In-service day**—Thursday 6th May (nursery closed)
- **Summer holidays**—Monday 28th June



St. Bernadette's ELCC & Primary School
Suspected COVID-19 Flowchart (before St. Bernadette's ELCC & Primary School) August 2020



The flowchart below will help you make the decision whether to send your child/ren to St. Bernadette's ELCC & Primary School in relation to COVID-19 symptoms.



Learning Taking Place



Using the real tools to fix the wee hut in the garden.



Some of us have been practicing our mark making skills



Making mud cakes in the 'mud kitchen'!



Some pictures of us on our mini-beast hunt!

