

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

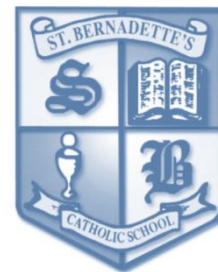
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Newsletter 9
17th January 2020

At St Bernadette's we are fully committed to safeguarding our children. We expect all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment.

First Holy Communion Meeting

The next meeting for pupils and parents in year 3, who have enrolled on the First Holy Communion programme, will be at 5.30pm on Wednesday 12th February, at school. Both pupils and parents are expected to attend this meeting.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes the children in Rec – Year 6 will attend Mass on Tuesday 11th February at 9.30am at Holy Family Church. It would be lovely if you could join us at the Mass which reminds us of how Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette, our school patron.

ParentPay <https://www.parentpay.com/>

After school clubs have gone onto ParentPay and spaces are still available. Please note that these clubs are optional if you wish your child to take part.

Dinner money – please check ParentPay for any outstanding balances and keep your account upto date. Thank you.

Term Dates for academic year 2020 - 2021

Diary Dates

22nd January

9am – Year 2 Mass (School)

23rd January

RPF – Out at the Eco Park

27th January

Maths Open Week

28th January

Feast of St Thomas Aquines (4CM own clothes)

6th February

RSD – Out at the Eco Park

Year 4 – Birmingham Museum Trip

11th February

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (RPF own clothes)

Whole School Mass (feast of Our Lady of Lourdes) 9.30am at Holy Family Church

13th February

RPF – Out at the Eco Park

14th February

St Valentine's Day – (1SF own clothes)

Break up for Half-Term

24th February

Staff Inset Day – School closed to pupils.

25th February

Children return to school after Half-Term

26th February

Ash Wednesday Mass for KS2 at Church 10.30am

2.00pm – Ash Wednesday Service for REC/KS1 in school.

Autumn Term 2020

Tuesday 1st September
to
Friday 23rd October

Half Term:

Monday 26th October
to
Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November
to
Tuesday 22nd December

Spring Term 2021

Monday 6th January
to
Friday 12th February

Half Term:

Monday 15th February
to
Friday 19th February

Monday 22nd February
to
Thursday 1st April

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April
to
Friday 28th May

Half Term:

Monday 31st May
to
Friday 4 June

Monday 7th June
to
Wednesday 21st July 2021

Please note: Staff training days for next academic year have not been agreed yet so dates may be subject to change. Also the dates for the Christmas holiday may not be the same as other Birmingham schools.

Reflection

"Often it is better simply to slow down, to put aside our egariness in order to see and listen to others, to stop rushing from one thing to another and to remain with someone who has faltered along the way"
- Pope Francis



Maths Open Week

Week beginning 27th January is Maths Open Week. This is an opportunity for you to work with your child in a Maths lesson and witness some of the strategies being used by staff to teach. You should have received an appointment today stating the time and date to observe your child. Please ensure you return the attendance slip to your child's Maths teacher so that they can make the necessary preparations for the day.



Topic Week

Topic week will begin this term on 7th February will until Friday 14th February. The children will cover the following themes.

Rec	- Are dinosaurs real?
Year 1	- Buildings – Homes around the world and Victorian houses.
Year 2	- Helping others. Florence Nightingale.
Year 3	- Sustainability – make do and mend in WW2
Year 4	- Invaders and Settlers – Anglo Saxons
Year 5	- Greece
Year 6	- The Titanic

Termly Reports

You should have received your child's termly report for the Autumn Term, today. This indicates your child's attainment and effort for English and Maths over the last term. Please discuss this with your child accordingly.

Metro Bank

Metro Bank will be working with children in Year 5 this term to teach them financial skills. The pupils will also be visiting the Birmingham City Branch of Metro bank on 4th/5th February to find out more about how a bank works.

Year 3 Conover Hall Residential

There will be a meeting on Friday 7th February at 1.15pm for the parents of Year 3 children attending the Conover Hall Residential. During this meeting parents will be given further information regarding clothing requirements and the itinerary.

School Closures Due To Snow/Bad Weather



If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that the school needs to close, please listen to the local radio station. The school texting service, school website and school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am then assume that the school will be open as normal. If there is a blanket closure by Birmingham City Council then we will close. Please note: school will do a risk assessment of the site when making the decision. It is up to you as parents to risk assess your journey to school to ensure the children arrive safely.

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for having the best attendance in their Keystage: Fs/KS1 **2COT** KS2 **4CB**. Remember to keep attending school to be in with a chance of winning the prize for best class attendance or to be entered into the prize draw for 98% + attendance.

We've had a postcard from an author Sinead Hart

For Everyone at
ST. BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL,
A well-fed imagination
will bring you anywhere - across
the galaxy, to the bottom of the
ocean, back (or forward, or even
sideways!) in time, into the heart of
another person, or all of these
things at once - and there's no
limit to your adventures. The more
you use your imagination, the
stronger it gets.
And the best way to keep your
imagination nice and plump? By feeding
it on a steady diet of STORIES!
Yours in storyfishing,



@SJOHart
@StripesBooks
#TheStarSpunWeb
#TheEyeoftheNorth
Cover art by Sara Mulvanny

Sinead Hart

KS2 Pantomime Trip

KS2 enjoyed a visit to Birmingham Hippodrome to watch the production Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The pupils had a great time experiencing this British tradition and were a credit to the school and their parents with their exceptional behavior

Reading

Please ensure your child is being heard read every night and that their diary is signed accordingly as evidence of this. It is clear that some children are not reading their books properly from some of the scores obtained in quizzes on Accelerated Reader.



Do you know someone who would enjoy attending the **St Anne's Centre?**

We are a small Irish charity based in Digbeth. We run a dementia centre based at St Anne's to provide cultural, physical and mental health care for first, second and third generation Irish in Birmingham.

We have a dedicated van to pick up and drop off clients when available, and we provide a hot meal!

Clients are at the centre for 4 1/2 hours a day. Our centres operate Mon, Thurs, Fri at St Anne's in Digbeth. For more info email sinead@birminghamirish.org.uk or call 0121 604 6111

St Anne's Parish Centre, 45 Alcester Street, Birmingham, B12 0PH

Birmingham Museum – Year 4 Visit

Year 4 will visit Birmingham Museum on 6th February as part of their topic week on Invaders and Settlers this term.



World Book Day

World book day will take place this year on Thursday 5th March. The children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on this day. Some ideas for cheap and easy costumes can be found on www.mumsnet.com/entertainment/world-book-day and other online websites.

Special Certificates

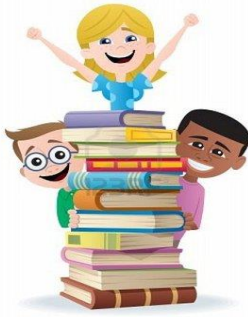
Each week a child from each class is nominated to receive a special certificate through the post. The pupils who are awarded these certificates have shown that they really understand what it means to live as Jesus taught us, perhaps by being particularly kind or helpful. Well done to the following children:

Nursery (Blue)	Jessica-Rose	For settling in so well to Nursery.	Nursery (Red)	Amber	For trying so hard in Maths.
Nursery (Green)	Muhammad	For his lovely manners.	Nursery (Yellow)	Poppy	For settling in so well to Nursery.
REF	Noah	For wonderful handwriting.	3TK	Reegan	For working really hard in Maths.
	Ismaeel	For great storytelling.		Anthony	For excellent behaviour at all times.
RPF	Jawad	For super writing in Literacy.	4AH	Joshua	For trying his best.
	Lucy	For always doing the right thing.		Amelia	For always helping others.
RSD	Leo	For brilliant Phonics work.	4CB	Kimii-Li	For super effort in all lessons.
	Aaishah	For amazing storytelling.		Kian	For trying hard with times tables.
1SF	Louis	For working hard on his spelling.	4CM	Megan	For always being helpful and kind.
	Sienna	For working hard on her spelling.		Lacey	For trying hard in lessons.
1SJ	Amaya	For working hard in RE and Science.	5AB	Habiba	For fantastic effort in English.
	Avram	For working hard in Maths.		Shay-David	For trying really hard in Maths.
1SMCG	Rumaisa	For writing a beautiful prayer.	5EB	Maira	For setting great standards in her new English Set.
	Louis	For always being so sensible.		Aprylle	For enthusiasm in PE lessons.
2COT	Cara	For working hard in all lessons.	5JR KS	Ava-Grace	For enthusiasm in all areas of school life.
	Evelyn	For being kind to others.		Jack	For great effort in English.
2EL	Joshua	For trying hard in all lessons.	6AMJ	Bailey	For always making the right choices.
	Isabel	For being kind and helpful.		Chelsea	For being an excellent role model.
2RW	Eva-Clair	For always being polite and helpful.	6KL	Layth	For excellent effort in Maths.
	Felicity-May	For working so hard in Maths and English.		Cozbi	For being so helpful.
3EG	Somaya	For always being polite and smiling in class.	6ZB	Lillie-May	For being a fantastic role model.
	Zunairah	For trying hard in lessons.		Reegan	For working really hard in Maths.
3EH	Justin	For being a great example to his peers.			
	Izzy-M	For being helpful in the classroom.			

Accelerated Readers

Reader of the Month: December

Abel - 450,531



Ready Reader:

Ava-May Jack James	Kerim Joseph Vir	Layla Kieran Dior	Bobby Kyran	Loza Heran	Grace Yusha
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Independent Reader:

Shay-David Krisha	Roy-Anthony	Daniel	Cozbi	Mohammed	Kesiya	Bailey
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Rising Reader:

Charlie Alexander Olivia	Casey Aamilah	Sughra Mia	Benhur Liam
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Super Reader:

Josh Ashin	Riya Sughra	Emanuel Benhur	Leah Saoirse	Halima
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Advanced Reader:

Ashin	Maxwell
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Star Reader:

Jithin	Keith
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Classic Reader:

Dennis

Classic Reader 2:

Abel	Bexanne
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Millionaire Reader:

Abel

House word reading totals so far

Blyton 2,630,660	Horowitz 4,180,456	Morpurgo 2,227,507	Strong 2,475,908	Wilson 2,965,178	Zephaniah 2,601,454
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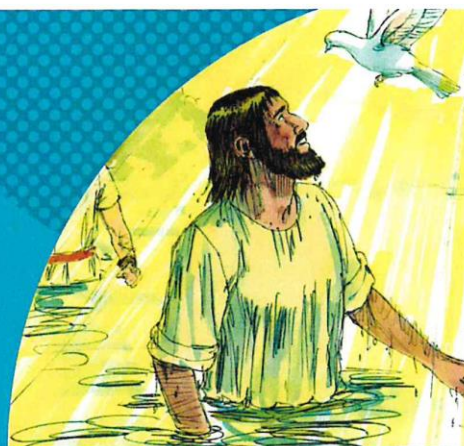




Parent Newsletter

Living faith
within our families

January 2020



'A Right Royal Visit'

Happy new year! All of us at Ten Ten pray that you had a celebratory Christmas and are feeling energised for the year ahead!

School was bustling with activity. "Today is a very special day..." said the head teacher, Mr Coleman. "Today, we are having a Royal visit!"

"We know," said Shannon. "We've been preparing for months! Putting up new display boards, replanting the gardens..."

"And practicing songs and dances to perform for Prince Albert," chipped in Polly.

"I wonder what Prince Albert will be

like..." said Reece. "I bet he'll be really grand. Maybe he'll be wearing his crown!"

"Now," said Mr Coleman, "he could be here any moment so make sure you are ready!"

Mr Coleman had been teaching them for weeks how to bow low and say, "Your Majesty!", so they practiced quickly before he set them back on task.

In fact, they were all so busy with their chores that no-one noticed when a scruffy looking young man walked in.

"Hi? Hello! Excuse me?" he said, but everyone was too busy to notice.

Finally, Mr Coleman saw him. "Hey, you there. Are you the supply teacher? You're looking very scruffy,

I must say. Don't you know we're waiting for Prince Albert to arrive?! Tidy yourself up – you're setting a bad example!"

"No need to wait any longer!" said the scruffy young man, "I am Prince Albert."

"Oh dear," muttered Mr Coleman to himself, "this wasn't how it was supposed to go... I expected a fanfare! Or at least bodyguards...it's all gone wrong! Quickly everyone – Prince Albert is here!"

Shannon, Reece, Polly, staff and children all around the school rushed into the hall, bowing low and saying, "Your Majesty!"

'A Right Royal Visit' is a version of a drama performed by children in schools during the week commencing 20th January.

"He is the chosen one of God." John 1:29-34

In the story above, the whole school was busily preparing for Prince Albert's visit. Polly thought he'd "be really grand" and Mr Coleman had "expected a fanfare! Or at least bodyguards..."

The Jewish people were waiting for God's chosen one and preparing by being baptised by John. Perhaps they expected God's chosen one to turn up with fanfares and bodyguards! Perhaps they were

just as surprised by Jesus as Mr Coleman was by Prince Albert!

Even John didn't quite know what to expect, but when the Spirit came down like a dove and landed on Jesus' shoulder as He was baptised, it revealed Jesus for who He was – God's son, the chosen one.

In this assembly, children learned that knowing who people are changes us and our behaviour.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us that Jesus is your Son, the chosen one.

Help us to get to know Jesus better, and change to become more like Him.

Amen

They were encouraged to consider how knowing Jesus changes their lives and how they can change to become more like Him, for example, being kinder, more loving, more generous and more patient.



e Year of the Word Reflection 3

"Then he opened
their minds to
understand the
Scriptures."
Luke 24: 4-5

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Motu proprio "Aperuit illis"*, published on 30th September 2019, established that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time was to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God".

The newly established "Sunday of the Word of God" is an invitation to Catholics across the world to deepen their appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and His Word. For at the moment, although the Bible is the most widely distributed book, it is also perhaps the one most covered in dust because it is not held in our hands every day. So, in this inaugural year (2020) on the 26th January all the Faithful are invited to bring their Bibles to Mass to be blessed. The Pope hopes that this will help the Church "experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of His word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."

The Pope "invites us to hold the word of God in our hands every day as much as possible so that it becomes our prayer" and a greater part of our lived experience.

But in his letter, Pope Francis wrote, "A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a yearlong event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak His Word and to break bread in the community of believers." So, this is the message that the Bishops of England and Wales are championing with their initiative of "The God who Speaks."

The Pope stated, "We need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness. Sacred Scripture and the sacraments are inseparable, Jesus speaks to everyone with His Word in sacred Scripture, and if people hear His voice and open the doors of their minds and hearts, then He will enter their lives and remain ever with them. The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and recognize themselves in its words. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division toward unity - coming to understand God's love and becoming inspired to share it with others. It is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth without the Lord who opens people's minds to His Word, yet without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of His Church in this world would remain incomprehensible."

Further, as the third Sunday in Ordinary Time falls during that part of the year when the Church is encouraged to strengthen its bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity, it also has a great ecumenical value for our World of today.

Prayer of Blessing

Everlasting God,
when he read in the synagogue at Nazareth,
your Son proclaimed the good news of salvation
for which he would give up his life.
Bless all who will read from these sacred texts.
As they read, listen and reflect on your words of life,
strengthen their faith
so that what they read in hope,
they may live in love and charity.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

What is the Bible?

The book that has probably had the biggest influence on the History of the World is almost certainly the Christian Bible. It has touched individuals and societies in so many different ways. It has been a source of fascination even for those without faith. But what exactly is the Bible?

Well, it looks like a book. You can pick it up, you can hold it in your hands. It's got a title page and a table of contents. A big section at the front, usually called the Old Testament that tells about the time before Jesus was born; and a shorter section at the back, usually called the New Testament that tells about the life of Jesus, what happened after His death and Heaven. So it's not a single book, it's an astonishing collection of different writings from the Jewish and Christian traditions. It's written by different people, in different places, over many centuries. In effect it's a whole library, rather than an individual book. It brings together history, poetry, song, prayer; legal documents, moral codes, religious instruction. But despite all this diversity, there is a common theme. It tells the story of God's plan for humankind, as it unfolds from the creation of the world to the end of time. It speaks about God's love for all people; His special love for the Jewish people; the coming of the Messiah or Saviour; Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection; the gift of the Holy Spirit; and the beginnings of the Christian Church. It finishes with an extraordinary vision of Heaven.

The most important books in the Bible for Christians are the four Gospels. Written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, telling the story of Jesus from different perspectives. They are trustworthy, historical documents that connect us with His life and His teaching. Christians believe that the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit. That doesn't mean it dropped down from heaven, fully formed; or that God dictated it by speaking into the ears of the authors. No. They were real authors, and the history of the Bible is incredibly complex. But God was guiding them and guiding this history, and giving us the truth we needed for our salvation.

So, the Bible is absolutely central to the Christian life and to the Church. Christians believe that God speaks to us through the words and events of the Bible. These are not just dead words sitting on a page. They come alive and we are drawn into the reality of these events; It is like those amazing pop up books you can buy, when you turn the page and an incredible scene unfolds itself and literally pops up in front of you that makes you feel like you can step inside. There is a spiritual power in the God's Word - with a capital "W". His Word created the universe. His Word walked among us in Jesus Christ. And His Word has the power to change our lives today. This is why it's said that Christianity is a religion of the Word, rather than a religion of the Book. We read this book, but we hear the voice of Christ. Jesus said that we can make our home in His Word. And a Christian author said: In the Gospels you will find the life of Jesus, but you will find your own life there too. But to do that we have to read the Bible!

Books, films, music, all of these are things that form and influence you over the years. It's more than just entertainment. It's the culture in which you live. You learn a whole way of seeing the world. It shapes your heart and mind. It effects how you interact with others and with the World in general. It effects your thoughts, words and actions. Reading the Bible can allow change for the good to happen in our World but it is up to us to take this opportunity that the Pope and Church are reminding us of this year so that this can happen.

Are you ready?

Will you listen to the call?

What changes can you bring about for the good of all?



Readings for Reflection from the Gospel of St Matthew

Jesus Begins his Ministry in Galilee 4:12-17
Jesus Calls his first Disciples 4:18-22
Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People 4:23-25
The Beatitudes 5:1-12
Salt and Light 5:13-16
The Law and the Prophets 5:16-20

We pray

For all who read the word of God;
may they be inspired to love God with
all their heart and soul.

For all who pray with the word of God;
may their lives be living witness to the
way of the Lord.

Amen



Parenthood...

The most rewarding job in
the world

And also the toughest

Need some advice about your
child's behaviour or emotions?

Contact YoungMinds'
Parents Helpline

0808 802 5544

youngminds.org.uk/parents



YOUNGMINDS