

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

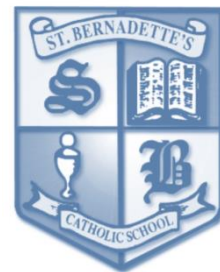
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Newsletter 4  
16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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

## School Closure

School will be closed to pupils for the half term break from

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.**

A reminder that school will also be closed to all pupils on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** due to staff training. School will therefore resume, after the half term, on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** as normal.

## Corona Virus (Covid-19) Update

As you are aware we have had 2 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community in our Year 3 'bubble'. Staff and children within this 'bubble' have had to self-isolate for 14 days since the last contact with the confirmed cases. This will mean that children in Year 3 should return to school **after the half term holidays**, if they are not exhibiting any symptoms.

Can we also remind you that if there is anyone in your household displaying COVID-19 symptoms, your child must NOT be sent into school. Please contact school to inform us. You should book a test for the person with symptoms and if a negative result is received, the child can return to school. Please provide us with evidence of the test result. If a positive result is received, your child will need to stay off school for 10 days. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Secondary School Applications

All children in Year 6 are required to complete an application for Secondary School in September 2020 online. Details can be found online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Please ensure that you do your research about potential schools by looking at their websites and use all of the choices available. **Make sure you have read the admission arrangements fully for the schools you are interested in and know how likely it is that your child will be offered a place there. It is important that you include at least one realistic preference for a school that your child would have met the criteria for in previous years.** Please note that some local Catholic schools require you to complete additional information regarding baptismal details. The final date for acceptance of preferences and online applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

## Parents' Consultations

This year due to current restriction parents' consultations will take place by phone with your child's class teacher. The purpose of these consultations will be to discuss how your child has settled back into school and how they are progressing. These discussions will take place with your child's class teacher. Please look out for a message with a link to book an available slot. Year 3 consultations have already taken place this week.

## Diary Dates

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

International Week

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Feast of St John Paul II (4CB own clothes)

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Feast of St. Jude (for 28th -5KH own clothes)

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October –  
Half-Term**

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Inset Day - School closed

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Photographer in School – for individual photos

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Assemblies throughout the day

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Anti-Bullying Week

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November

5.00pm - First confessions for current Year 4 at Holy Family Church - 4CM and half of Mrs Brownhill's class (surname A – B)

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

5.00pm – First Confessions for current Year 4 at Holy Family Church - Mrs McDaniel's class and the other half of 4CB (surname C – Z)

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

1:00pm - Yr6 Confessions (in preparation for Confirmation)

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Feast of St. Cecilia (for 22nd 2RW own clothes)

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Year 4 Mass 9.00am in school

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

First Holy Communion for current Y4 9.15am and 11.15am at Holy Family Church

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November

St Andrew's Day (50p -all to wear blue or white)

9:00am - Advent Service in school throughout the day

## Thought for the Day

*'Speak to your children as if they are the wisest, kindest, most beautiful and magical humans on Earth, for what they believe is what they will become.'* – Brooke Hamoton

### Black History Month

During the month of October, the children at St. Bernadette's have experienced Black History Month like never before. They have been submerged in a range of different activities that reflect on the past, but have been inspired by change from the stories that have heard and researched which have significantly changed history. The children have been using their investigative skills to research significant people from the Afro-Caribbean culture that inspired them from past or present. The returned work has been tremendous!

They have explored a range of influential musicians such as Bob Marley, Michael Jackson, Kirk Franklin, Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone and many, many more. They have listened, learnt and practised a few of their songs too.

Some children have taken part in African Dance activities and learnt basic moves that they can show you at home.

Different year groups have extended their learning and focused on the history and rising of Mary Seacole, Fredrick Douglas, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks to name a few.

The children have also been captured by African art and produced wonderful pastel volutes and water colours of African Continents and African Savannas, and some have experienced Kente cloth paper weaving.

Some year groups have even had the exciting opportunity to interview an author, Torema Thompson (the ex England runner), via zoom, who has published a new book entitled: 'One too many' inspired by John 12:24.

### Competition

#### Design Your Own Rock Hero Guitar

Year 4 invite you to design and make your own 'Rock Hero' guitar. This can be either a drawing, painting or 3D model. This is to celebrate the launch of our Times Tables Rock Stars competition. You should try to make your guitar as exciting as possible! The competition will close on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**, any entries after this date will not count.

### Attendance

Well done to the following classes who have had the best attendance in their key stage. FS/KS1 **RND** KS2 **6KL**

### World Mission Month

October is when Pope Francis asks every member of the Catholic community around the world to recognise themselves as a missionary disciple, working and praying together to share the joy, peace, hope and love of God with everyone, everywhere. We are all invited to join in this worldwide celebration. All resources for the month are available to download from the Mission Together website:

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/missionmonth/>

### Most improved pupil

I would like to give a special mention to Layton in Year 4 who has returned to school with a wonderful attitude and focus to his learning. He has settled quickly to the routines of Year 4 and has made great progress in his reading. I would like to commend him for working so hard - keep up the good work Layton.

### Person of the week

This week our person of the week who we are learning about is Jesse Owen. Jesse was discovered by his High School track and field coach, and quickly rose to fame as an athlete. He went on to challenge racism on the world stage at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and made new world records. Please find time to talk to your child about the person of the week.

### Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter

The monthly Ten:Ten parent Newsletter which used to be attached to the school newsletter has now gone digital! The newsletter for October can now be found on the school website using the following link: <https://www.stberns.co.uk/ten-ten-parent-newsletter>

## Are you struggling, don't know who to turn to?

The current pandemic has brought with it many difficulties and uncertainties for lots of people within our community. If you are struggling and in need of support, there is a page on the school website which links to various organisations which may be able to help. The link can be found at <https://www.stberns.co.uk/pastoral-support>

## International Week

Next week will be International week in school where the children are given the opportunity to learn about different countries in the world and explore some of the world religions. The children will be learning about the following countries and religions:

Year Group	Country	Religion
Nursery	Spain	Catholicism
Reception	The Philippines	Christianity
Year 1	Nepal	Hinduism
Year 2	China	Buddhism
Year 3	Brazil	Catholicism
Year 4	India	Sikhism
Year 5	Israel	Judaism
Year 6	Pakistan	Islam

## COVID-19 Procedures around school

As of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September we asked that all parents/guardians who are collecting children wear a mask when on the school premises. Please may I request that masks are worn correctly, with both the mouth and nose covered, as the virus is transmitted through small droplets created from the nose or mouth when a person coughs or exhales.

Please also observe the one-way system in school. Parents collecting children from the main office should be entering via the gate by the river and exiting from the main pedestrian gate. All other parents should enter via the gate by the river and exit via the gate near Rohan House (with the exception of Nursery Parents – who can use the Nursery entrance). This is to ensure there is a free flow of 'traffic' and to ensure paths do not cross.

These measures have been taken to help to prevent any potential spread of infection as current rates of infection are high within Birmingham and surrounding areas. I would like to thank you for your support with this matter.

## Reporting Pupil Absence

Thank you to those parents that have begun to use the new 'reporting absence' form on the school website. This form can now be found using the following link:

<https://www.stberns.co.uk/pupil-absence>. Please can I encourage all parents to report absence in this manner.

## Follow us

If you use Twitter and would like to keep us with news, pictures and updates for school, why not follow us at @StBernsPrimary

## Change of School Meal

If you are planning on your child changing their school meal from packed lunches to school dinners or vice-versa, please ensure that you let the office know before half term so that the necessary changes can be actioned. Thank you.

## Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of benefits your child may be entitled to a Free School Meal.

To check whether you are eligible please complete the information via the following link:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>

## Data Checking and Consent Forms

Please ensure that you have returned the data checking and consent forms to school if you have not done so already. Staff in school are very busy and do not have time to keep chasing those whose forms have not been returned. If consent forms are not returned, then it will be assumed that consent has not been given and your child may miss out on certain curriculum activities. Therefore, it is in your child's best interests to ensure that these forms are returned as soon as possible.

## Photographer

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November to take individual photographs. These photographs will be in line with current social distancing guidelines, with the photographer maintaining a distance of 2m from the children throughout. Any positioning of children for their photographs will take place by staff within the child's bubble ensuring compliance with current guidelines.

## Confirmation Briefing

A presentation will be made available for parents of baptised Catholics in Year 6, who have already received the sacrament of the Eucharist and are preparing for their Confirmation. This material will be available on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Please look out for this presentation as it will contain important information regarding the administration of the sacrament.



## Nutella and nut-based products

I would like to reiterate that Nutella and nut-based products are not permitted in school – including as sandwich fillers. We have a number of children in school with **life-threatening nut allergies** (some of which are airborne allergies) and therefore it is vital that parents adhere to these rules. If your child is found to have nut-based products in their lunch then unfortunately your child will not be allowed to consume these products and will instead be given a school meal, which will be charged to your Parent Pay account. Please can we ensure that we abide by this rule to ensure the safety of all children within our community. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

## First Confession and First Holy Communion

We have been able to finalise the dates for First Confessions and First Holy Communion with our new Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Fr. Fretch Ballesteros. The dates for First Confession and First Holy Communion have been confirmed as:

**Year 4 – First Confessions:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 4CM & ½ 4CB (Surnames A-B) and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 4AM & ½ 4CB (Surnames C-Z) at 5.00pm at Holy Family Church.

**Year 4 – First Holy Communion:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15am 4CM & ½ 4CB (Surnames A-B) and 11.15am 4AM & ½ 4CB (Surnames C-Z) at Holy Family Church

**Year 3 – First Confessions:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March (3TK & ½ 3EH) and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March (3JR/LC & ½ 3EH) at 5.00pm at Holy Family Church

**Year 3 – First Holy Communion:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15am (3TK & ½ 3EH) and 11.15am (3JR/LC & ½ 3EH) at Holy Family Church.

Further information will be distributed to parents nearer these dates.

## COVID -19 drop off and collection service

Please find attached a letter from Cllr Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, regarding the free drop and collect Covid testing service that is taking place in Birmingham.

## Reflection

One common temptation that many face is that of living either in the past or in the future, and failing to live in the present moment. You live in the past when you remain controlled by past events, sins, hurts, etc. The past must be healed and your sins of the past must be forgiven. Once that is done, you must let go of the past and not allow it to affect you in a negative way. The past can affect you for good when 1) you learn from the mistakes you have made, 2) you are strengthened by the healing of past hurts, 3) you continue to rejoice in all that God has done for you. You are affected negatively by the past when you dwell on your past sins and hurts, failing to seek forgiveness and healing. You live in the future when your mind is constantly obsessed with that which is out of your control. It's easy to fear the future or to be anxious about it, but you must remember that the future is not yet here and you ought not allow fears or worries about it to cause undue stress. All we have is the present moment. Therefore, it must be your constant goal to live each moment, day by day, hour by hour and minute by minute. Be present to the present moment. Embrace it, live it and encounter the love and Mercy of God as He is present to you here and now.

*Lord, I offer to You all the events of my  
past*

*and entrust to Your care all that will  
happen in the future.*

*Free me from past hurts and sins, and  
alleviate my worries about the future.  
Help me to meet You and Your Abundant  
Mercy in this present moment...  
Jesus, I trust in You.*

Amen

## 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:

<b>Nursery (Blue)</b>	<b>Taylor-Dee</b>	For trying hard in Nursery.	<b>Nursery (Red)</b>	<b>Emily-Rose</b>	For being so helpful to her friends and teachers.
<b>Nursery (Green)</b>	<b>Jenson-James</b>	For always trying his best.	<b>Nursery (Yellow)</b>	<b>Ihsan</b>	For being kind and caring towards others.
<b>RND</b>	<b>Alfie</b>	For always being eager to learn and always has a lovely smile on his face!	<b>3TK</b>	<b>Cara</b>	For trying her very best in all areas of her school work.
	<b>Alan</b>	For gaining confidence in asking for help, well done!		<b>Qasim</b>	For listening really carefully and always joining in with class discussions.
<b>RPF</b>	<b>Poppy Rai</b>	For trying really hard to blend words – a phonics super star!	<b>4AMD</b>	<b>Thea</b>	For having a wonderful start to year 4, for always demonstrating exemplary behaviour and a positive attitude towards learning.
	<b>Martin</b>	For trying his best to re-tell the story of 'The Little Red Hen'.		<b>Anniyah</b>	For extending herself in art and doing extra work at home.
<b>RSD</b>	<b>Ana Maria</b>	For trying so hard to be a good friend!	<b>4CB</b>	<b>Sienna</b>	For completing some amazing extra research at home to help us in class.
	<b>Millie-Christine</b>	For gaining confidence and creating some beautiful pictures.		<b>William</b>	For excellent effort and a superb attitude to all aspects of school life.
<b>1EG</b>	<b>Callum</b>	For excellent sorting in his topic work.	<b>4CM</b>	<b>Grace</b>	For being a super role model to her peers.
	<b>Myra</b>	For speaking more often during class lessons and making sure she is trying her best.		<b>Connor</b>	For exceptional effort with his times tables this week.
<b>1OB</b>	<b>Freddie</b>	For having beautiful manners and always trying his best.	<b>5EB</b>	<b>Saoirse</b>	For high levels of enthusiasm and contribution in all lessons.
	<b>Iga</b>	For creating fantastic art work, well done!		<b>Keigan</b>	For improved effort in his lessons and behaviour.
<b>1SMCG</b>	<b>Isla-Mae</b>	For showing a great interest in Topic lessons.	<b>5KH</b>	<b>Ailbhe</b>	For being really helpful in Maths.
	<b>Leon</b>	For always being so helpful and cheerful.		<b>Alisan</b>	For trying so hard in her English lessons.
<b>2EL</b>	<b>Nuala</b>	For her brilliant African dancing in PE.	<b>5LC</b>	<b>Amy</b>	For being a kind and patient peer, who is always willing to help others.
	<b>Olivia</b>	For her amazing work about the life cycle of a sunflower in Science.		<b>Chanali</b>	For always showing excellent behaviour and a positive attitude towards learning.
<b>2RW</b>	<b>Anne Mary</b>	For always being so helpful, kind and hardworking.	<b>6AMJ</b>	<b>Kyle</b>	For always showing excellent behaviour and a positive attitude towards learning.
	<b>Daisy-Anne</b>	For always working hard and being super helper.		<b>Elisia</b>	For always trying so hard in Maths lessons.
<b>2SF</b>	<b>Rosie</b>	For displaying such a brilliant attitude towards all aspects of school life.	<b>6KL</b>	<b>Mattia</b>	For always trying so hard in Maths lessons.
	<b>Isabel</b>	For developing a wonderful love of books and reading		<b>Habiba</b>	For her excellent effort and focus in Maths this week.
<b>3EH</b>	<b>Charlie</b>	For sharing his love and interest of books and authors with others.	<b>6ZB</b>	<b>Cara</b>	For trying her very best in all areas of her school work.
	<b>Romayah</b>	For always showing a positive, helpful attitude in school.		<b>Emme</b>	For working so hard in maths.
<b>3JR/LC</b>	<b>Nuala</b>	For her brilliant African dancing in PE.			
	<b>Olivia</b>	For her amazing work about the life cycle of a sunflower in Science.			

# World Earth Day

Thursday 22nd April 2021

Restore our Earth

Next year, the whole school will celebrate World Earth Day, on the date above. We will provide environmentally influenced learning and activities for your child(ren), focusing on the positive influence we as a community can have on our local and also global environment.

Nearly every day we hear stories on the news about the damage to the environment caused by climate change e.g. forest fires in Australia and the US, drought in African countries, the polar ice caps melting. I strongly believe that if we pull together as a community, the pupils of St. Bernadette's can help redress the balance in the human relationship and our impact upon the Earth.

You, as parents/carers would be very welcome to become involved with the day in any of the following ways:

Do you work in the environmental sector for your job?

Do you have contacts who are involved in environmental work, who might be able to provide a visit or Zoom interview?

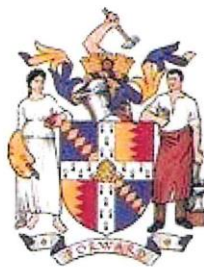
Do you have access to resources that could inform or support us with sessions from Nursery up to Year 6?

If you would be able to support in any way outlined above, it would be really great to hear from you. Please use the following email address to send your messages:

[worldearthday@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:worldearthday@stberns.bham.sch.uk)

Miss C Corkery

KS 2 Science Co-ordinator.



# Birmingham City Council

**Councillor Paulette Hamilton**  
**Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**  
**The Council House**  
**Victoria Square**  
**Birmingham B1 1BB**

**Telephone: 0121 303 4789**  
**E-Mail: [Paulette.Hamilton@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Paulette.Hamilton@birmingham.gov.uk)**

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Our ref: PH/REM/SM 091020

9 October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

## **Drop and collect Covid testing service**

In order to help keep communities safe we're offering free, completely optional Coronavirus tests. Birmingham City Council staff and volunteers, supported by the RAF, will be visiting areas across the city. They drop off a test, tell you the details and come back within an hour.

You may already have noticed these teams, or you may see them out and about in coming days and weeks.

Please don't be concerned. They are here to help communities by making it easier for people to get tested. The teams will be wearing high-vis jackets, clearly labelled as being from the city council. If you have any doubts about who they are, ask for identification.

The RAF personnel have been really helpful in supporting this service. The city council simply doesn't have the capacity to provide all the people needed to run this service, so the RAF is providing extra people on the ground to help us. They are not here in their military capacity.

You can see more information about the service here:  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/701/drop\\_and\\_collect\\_covid-19\\_testing\\_service\\_introduced\\_in\\_birmingham](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/701/drop_and_collect_covid-19_testing_service_introduced_in_birmingham)

I know this is a really difficult time for everyone, but we are all working hard to keep communities safe. Together, we can get through this.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Paulette Hamilton  
Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care  
Vice Chair LGA Community Wellbeing Board  
Chair of Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board