

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

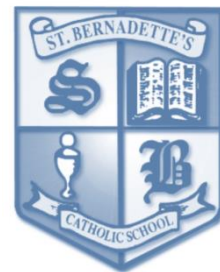
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Newsletter 17
19th March 2021

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

R.I.P

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Kerry Batting who was a Lunchtime Supervisor here at St Bernadette's. Although Kerry had been poorly, her death has come as a shock to us all and particularly her children, JJ, Maisie and Shannon.

Kerry was a much loved member of our school community and she will be sadly missed.

Please Keep the family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Staff INSET Days

A reminder that school will be closed to all pupils on the following dates due to staff training:
Monday 19th April and Friday 30th April.

Lateral Flow Device – Home Testing Kits

Lateral flow device – home testing kits

The Government announced that from Monday 1st March, if you are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a primary aged child, you can get a twice weekly test kit to test yourself at home. As with teachers, this will identify asymptomatic cases and reduce transmission rates. The twice-weekly test kits can be obtained:

- Through your employer if they offer testing to employees - contact your employer to find out.
- At a local test site - testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.
You may need to book an appointment.
[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site here.](#)
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site. You can collect two packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains seven tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.
[Find your nearest home test kit collection point here.](#)
- If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.
Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.
[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits here.](#)

EYFS – Easter Bonnet Competition

There will be an Easter Bonnet competition for children in Nursery and Reception on Monday 29th March. Please send your child into school on this date with their entry. (Please note: This is a change of date from that originally communicated. Please do not send any entries into school before this date.)



Decorate A Hard-Boiled Egg Competition

There will be a decorate a hard-boiled egg competition for children in Years 1-6 on Monday 29th March. The theme for this year's competition is Heroes. Please do not send entries into school before this date. (Please note: This is a change of date from that originally communicated in September).

Easter Egg Raffle

It has been tradition at St Bernadette's for staff to donate Easter Eggs to be raffled to raise money for charity. Raffle tickets will be on sale in your child's class for 20p a ticket or £1 a strip, should you wish your child to enter the raffle. This year any money raised will be used to Support Fr. Hudson's care.

Photographer

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 30th March to take class photographs. These photographs will be taken in line with current social distancing guidelines, with the photographer maintaining a distance of 2m from the children throughout and the children will remain in their class bubbles. Any positioning of children for their photographs will take place by staff within the child's bubble ensuring compliance with current guidelines.

Turn On The Subtitles

Scientific research has shown that by simply turning on subtitles of television programmes or videos that children watch, it can double the chances of children becoming good at literacy. Why not try this and see if it helps to develop your child's reading skills.

Person Of The Week

Each week we share with the children the life and achievements of an inspirational person. This week that person is Ella Fitzgerald. Ella grew up near Harlem, in New York and was surrounded by music and dance. After winning first prize in a talent competition at the Apollo Theatre, she went on to tour the world with her pioneering voice.

Water Bottles

Please may I remind parents that children should not be bringing water bottles filled with juice or fizzy pop to school. School policy states that children should bring water to ensure that they remain hydrated throughout the day.

KS2 Tuck

A reminder that if your child brings tuck to school to consume at break time it should consist of fruit. Pupils are not permitted to bring sweets or crisps as a snack.

Reporting Absences

The telephone lines at school can often be very busy and it can sometimes take some time to report your child's absence. In order to save you time, there is now the facility to do this online by completing a simple form which can be accessed on the school

website: <https://www.stberns.co.uk/pupilabsence>

Communication

Lots of communication is currently sent to parents via text or email. Please ensure you read any information carefully and respond, as necessary. It is also important that school has an up-to-date mobile number, email address and emergency contact number for all parents to ensure they can be contacted promptly, should the need arise. Therefore, if you have changed your mobile or email address recently, please ensure school has been informed of the updated information by completing the form which can be found on the school website: <https://www.stberns.co.uk/change-of-details>

Reception Place Allocations

The National Offer Day for Reception places is April 16th 2021. On this date you will be sent an email from Birmingham City Council informing you which school has been offered. The email will name the school your child has been offered which you should receive by 4pm. Please check your SPAM or Junk folder.

You will only need to inform Birmingham City Council by 30th April 2021 if you are refusing this offer. Details of how to do this will be included on your offer email and letter. If you do not refuse the offer, the school will update their records to show the offer has been accepted.

By refusing the offer, you will lose the place your child was allocated as this will be given to another child on the waiting list for that school.

Please **do not** contact Birmingham City Council before you receive the formal notification of your child's school place. You must be in receipt of your formal notification email before contacting the council.

Free School Meal Vouchers at Easter

Parents in receipt of Free School Meals will receive vouchers for the Easter holidays. These will be issued via email by the school office before we break up on 1st April. Please ensure we have your most up to date email address.

Hair Styles

Please can I remind parents that hairstyles should conform with the school's uniform policy which states: *"Children's hairstyles should be suitable for school. Shaven/patterned or coloured styles are not appropriate and children with longer hair should have it tied back. Hair-bands if worn should be plain and simple—they should not be a fashion statement. A plain dark coloured band is acceptable."*

Summer Uniform

Children will be able to wear their summer uniform after the Easter Holidays if they so wish.

Summer uniform consists of the following:

Blue and white check summer dress or grey skirts (girls)

Grey shorts/trousers (boys)

Black flat shoes

White polo shirts with school logo

Parents' Evening

At this point in an academic year, we would normally be meeting parents for parents' evening. With St Bernadette's only just reopening, following a significant period of school closure, and with only two weeks left before the Easter holidays, we have decided to cancel this parents' evening. Instead, annual written reports will be issued during the summer term and parents will be given the opportunity then to meet with class teachers then if they so wish.

Homework

As previously communicated all homework will now be set on the Seesaw Platform which the children have been using throughout lockdown. Please can you ensure that your child completes their work on the template set by the staff or if uploading photographs etc. that these are uploaded to this same template rather than as a new document.

SATs

Although KS1 and KS2 SATs have been cancelled this academic year, we will still be administering Past SATs papers to the children in Year 2 and 6 towards the end of the summer term. This will allow the teachers to pass on an informed teacher assessment to secondary schools or the children's new Year 3 teachers.

Healthy Lunchboxes

All lunchboxes provided for children should contain a healthy option. Sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Children may bring a small packet of crisps or a chocolate bar, **only on a Friday**, as a treat. On all other days the lunch provided should be healthy and nutritious. Please see

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes> for ideas.

Playground Equipment

Please can I politely remind parents that children should not be using the playground equipment at the end of the school day. I appreciate some families are having to wait for older children to be released but for COVID and health and safety reasons the use of this equipment is not permitted. Please ensure that you speak with your child so that they understand this and that your child knows to remain with you during this time. Thank you.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Please can I remind families of the following:

- A face mask should be worn when entering the site which covers **both the nose and mouth**, unless you are exempt.
- Only **one adult** should be entering the site to drop off or pick up children in order to reduce the number of people on site.
- Follow the one-way system that is in operation. Families should not be walking against the flow and only those of Nursery children should be exiting via the Nursery gate.
- Families should not be congregating within the school grounds or outside the school grounds to have a chat. **Remember, you should still be maintaining a 2m distance from each other.** Please collect your children and disperse as soon as possible.

St Bernadette's staff are still working hard to keep our school free of COVID and we need all of you to do your part too. We mustn't make any assumptions about safety yet – the vaccine rollout is such a wonderful development but it will be many months before all staff and parents are fully immunised. We all know the impact an outbreak would have in school and we must all be cautious. Please ensure you follow the rules to keep us all safe.

Holy Week Arrangements at Holy Family Church

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Last Supper - 6.00pm

Good Friday – Passion and Veneration of the Cross - 3.00pm.

Stations of the Cross - 6.00pm.

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil Mass - 6.00pm.

Please email (or call) Fr Fretch if you will be attending on: holyfamily763@outlook.com or 0121 772 0059.

Year 3 Sacraments

A reminder that First Confessions for Year 3 children will take place in the school hall at 4pm on the following days:

Tuesday 23rd March – 3TK

Wednesday 24th March – 3SH

Thursday 25th March – 3EH

Due to COVID restrictions, each child will only be allowed to have one adult with them during the service and the adult will need to wear a face covering throughout the time they are inside the school building. Chairs will be set out in the hall for the child and adult, with adequate spacing between family bubbles to allow for social distancing.

In preparation for the children's First Holy Communion there will be a meeting in school for both parents and children at 3.15pm on the following dates:

Monday 24th May – 3EH

Tuesday 25th May – 3TK

Thursday 27th May – 3SH

First Holy Communion for Year 3 pupils will take place at Holy Family Church on Saturday 19th June at:
9.15am – class 3TK and children in 3EH surnames A-M
11.15am – class 3SH and children in 3EH surnames N-Z

Year 4 First Holy Communion

In preparation for their First Holy Communion, there will be a meeting for parents and children in Year 4 in school at 3.15pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 4th May – 4CM

Wednesday 5th May – 4CB

Thursday 6th May – 4AMcD

Year 4 will make their First Holy Communion at Holy Family Church on Saturday 15th May at the following times:

9:15am – class 4CM and children in 4CB surnames A-B

11:15am – class 4AMcD and children in 4CB surnames C-Z

Year 6 Confirmation

Confirmation for the children in Year 6 will take place on Monday 14th June at 6.30pm at Holy Family Church.

Thought For The Day

I think when the dust settles, we will realise how little we need, how very much we actually have, and the true value of human connection.

Reflection

‘Turn your eyes back upon yourself, and you will not judge the doing of others.’ –

St Therese of Lisieux

Hannah Gold-Virtual Book Club – Year 4, 5 and 6

We have been given the opportunity to take part in a one-off virtual book club with the author Hannah Gold, the author of ‘The Last Bear’. She will talk about her new book and will give a short reading. Attending author events is a great way to inspire our pupils and encourage them to read more for pleasure.

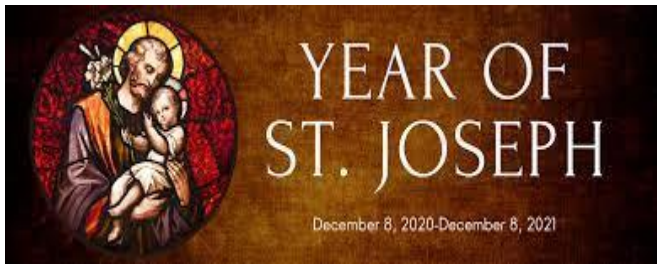
The session is taking place from 2-2:45pm on 26th March and children would need to be collected at 2:50pm. Siblings must be collected at the normal time (2pm as it is a Friday). There will be no charge for this session.

You will have received a letter giving further details from which you can consent to your child participating and to remain in school until 2.50pm.

There is also the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of ‘The Last Bear’, which can be bought through Parent Pay at a cost of £10. It can be ordered from now until 31st March.



The Year of St. Joseph



St Joseph's Feast Days are 19th March and 1st May.

Pope Francis has proclaimed the year from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021 to be the "Year of St. Joseph." This is to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph in the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart") as Patron of the Universal Church.

This year we are invited to follow St. Joseph's example, pray with him and entrust our work to him as the patron saint of workers.

St. Joseph may not have been Jesus' actual father but he was a father in every other sense of the word. He was entrusted by God to care for His Son on Earth and would have taught his son to read the sacred scriptures as well as to learn the skills of the carpentry trade.

St Joseph is the patron saint of the Catholic Church, fathers, unborn children, travellers, immigrants, workers and carpenters.

Ideas and resources to celebrate the Year of St Joseph

- Read scripture passages from the Bible about St. Joseph including:
 - Matthew 13:55- Reference to Jesus being a carpenter's son. (& Mark 6:3)
 - Matthew 1:18-25- Joseph, the just man, is told in a dream to take Mary as his wife
- Pray with St. Joseph including:
 - The Sleeping St. Joseph Devotion
<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2017/03/sleeping-st-joseph.html> (prayer and activities)
 - The Litany of St Joseph
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VYmHOTagYLq0Lz6sItEVNSQVZ9PQFnE/view>
 - A Novena plus additional prayers for the Year of St Joseph
<https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/prayers/>



St Patrick

St Patrick (about 402 - March 17, 491) is the patron saint of Ireland. He was born in a village in Roman Britain. Saint Patrick came from a Christian family. It is believed when Patrick was about sixteen years old that he was captured by Irish pirates who took him from his home in Britain and sold him as a slave in Ireland. He lived there for six years and learned the local language. While in captivity, Patrick worked as a shepherd and strengthened his relationship with God through prayer. After six years of captivity, Patrick heard a voice telling him that he would soon go home and that his ship was ready. Fleeing his master, he travelled to a port two hundred miles away, where he found a ship and convinced the captain to take him. After the ship sailed for three days, they landed in what they thought was Britain and everyone left the ship. They walked for 28 days in a "wilderness" and became faint from hunger. After Patrick prayed for food, they saw a herd of wild boar. Since this was shortly after Patrick had urged his companions to put their faith in God, his reputation in the group was greatly increased. After various adventures, he returned home to his family when he was in his early twenties.

After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland as a missionary. Because he knew the language, he could preach to the people. He brought Christianity to Ireland and converted many pagans to Christianity. It is believed that he may have used the shamrock to help explain the Holy Trinity. Legend has it that St Patrick even banished all the snakes from Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated every year on March 17th in his honour.

Lenten Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you, for You provide for all our needs.
Thank you, that we can trust You to turn the small things we do in Your name into something big that can make a difference.
Help us to be generous with everything we have, just as You are so generous in giving us these things.

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:

Nursery (Blue)	Benny	For great progress with his counting.	Nursery (Red)	Mickey	For super rhyming in phonics.
Nursery (Green)	Taleah	For being more vocal in Nursery and starting to answer questions during carpet time.	Nursery (Yellow)	Zidane	For excellent counting during Maths.
RND	Alisha	For super independent writing using her phonics this week!	3TK	Rose	For her calm and sensible approach to School
	Namira	For settling in so well at our school – well done!		Cara	For her excellent attitude since she has been back at School.
RPF	Aariz	For beautiful listening during our RE lesson.	4AMD	Jakub	For an excellent return to school.
	Gracie	For fantastic blending and writing in literacy.		Alfie R	For an excellent return to school.
RSD	Millie	For super phonics work in school this week.	4CB	Justin	For excellent attitude to all aspects of school life.
	Ruth	For brilliant independent writng!		Tia	For super effort in class this week.
1EG	Cathal	For fantastic and frequent answers given in class discussions.	4CM	Cassie-Jo	For a great return to school.
	Danielle	For enthusiastic effort in completing all her work and especially Maths		Tawhid	For settling in fantastically to St Bernadette's.
1OB	Nikita	For her beautiful manners and hard work in class!	5EB	Hanna	For being a shining example of hard work and good manners at all times.
	Leo	For trying so hard with his phonics!		Raihan	For having a great attitude to reading.
1SMCG	Cathal	Fantastic and frequent answers given in class discussions.	5KH	Evie	For always being so helpful and trying her best.
	Danielle	Enthusiastic effort in completing all her work and especially Maths		Surina	For always having such a positive attitude.
2EL	Jaxon	For amazing sewing in topic lessons.	5LC	Megan H.	For being such a keen reader!
	Archie	For beautiful presentation in all his books.		Ethan	For having such lovely manners and a positive attitude to learning.
2RW	Maverick	For his beautiful presentation in maths.	6AMJ	Sharujah	For starting her life at St Bernadette's with such a positive attitude.
	Samantha	For taking a positive attitude in her new set.		Kieron	For settling into his new Maths set without any fuss.
2SF	Charlie Conway	For fantastic sewing skills in topic.	6KL	Marlie	For making such a settled start back to school and always displaying lovely manners.
	Edward Cash	For always having an enthusiastic approach to his maths work.		Ruby	For always offering help and kindness to both her peers and adults alike.
3EH	Rhys	For a great effort with all areas of his English work this week.	6ZB	Sara	For being such a kind and helpful young lady.
	Jacob	For being a wonderful role model for his peers		Azaan	For making a fantastic effort since coming back to school.
3SH	Azlan Usman	For having a positive and proactive attitude upon returning to school and showing excellent listening skills.			
	Thijash	For settling into your new school journey at St Bernadette's with such a positive and motivated attitude.			

Remote Learning Questionnaire

We are keen to find out how effective our remote learning arrangements were during lockdown. Remote learning will never replace the teacher in the classroom and what works well for one child may not always work well for another. However, we are keen to know the positives and those aspects of our remote learning which we could improve. Please could you complete a questionnaire for each child which can be found at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/WmAu6c3769Y1Vfv7A>

Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Attendance

Well done to the following children for having the best attendance in their key stage this week.

FS/KS1 – 1OB

KS2 – 4AMD

Excellent Work

I would like to share an amazing piece of writing about “Georg and the Dragon” written by Archie B – Year 2. I think you’ll agree it has some fantastic description.

In a far away Kingdom in the huge, huge mountains in a dark, dark cave lived a terrifying creature. What did it look like? How is it even alive? The sky was an ocean of violet and plum. The icy mountains stood as tall a skyscraper.

The mountain creature was as red as exploding lava. It had huge wings and enormous jaws. The creature crept. The creature crept slowly in his deadly cave. Around his cave there were millions of dead bones and hollow, old skulls.

During the day they he could glide higher than the huge rocky mountains and forest. At night he could glide higher than the glistening moon and castle. As he glided into the sky, he stared at his prey.

The evil creature could tear down frightening forests and colossal castles. His fiery breath was extremely hot. It was as hot as the Sun. It was so hot it can melt diamonds. Whap! Whap! Whap! His tail sliced through armies of men.

The dragon could burn castle walls and destroy villages with his radioactive tail. The voices of the soldiers could be heard from afar “Save the Princess” Crack! Crack! The wall came tumbling down. The scene was deadly, bloody combat zone.

The Knights were shouting wildly. The horses were racing heroically. The dragon stretched out his venomous Wings. He was unbreakable He was colossal If only she hadn’t been wailing. If only she hadn’t been screaming. “Stop attacking my Knight”, said the Princess. “Noooooo!” the dragon said.