

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

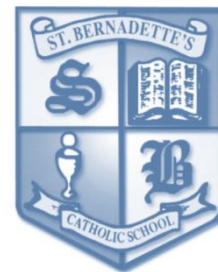
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Newsletter 7
6th December 2019

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

Confirmation

Congratulations and well done to the children in year 6 who were confirmed on Wednesday by Canon David Evans. It was a lovely prayerful occasion and the children were a credit to the school and their families. We hope the gift of the Spirit they received will bring fruit in their lives.

Parking

It saddens me that yet again I have to report that parents are being very inconsiderate and flouting the law with regard to parking of vehicles within the area. It has been reported that parents are illegally parking in clearly marked disabled bays and when confronted have threatened the people who have a right to park in these spaces. This type of behavior is not acceptable and will be reported. Should parents continue to park illegally photographs of their vehicles will be taken and sent to the police so that fixed penalty notices can be given.



Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 13th December

The children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school on this day and donate £1 for the worthy cause.



Reflection

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."

Pope Francis

Diary Dates

9th December

Year 3 – Topic Week

10th December

9.30am – Year 1 – Play for parents

11th December

9.30am – Year 2 – Play for parents
Children's Christmas Dinner

12th December

9.30am – Nursery – Play for parents
1pm – Year 4 Confessions

13th December

9.30am – Nursery – Play for parents
100% Attendance Cinema Trip

17th December

9.30am – Reception – Play for parents
6pm – Year 5 & 6 Carol Service

18th December

9.30 – Whole school Mass – Holy Family Church – Year 1 – 6
2pm – Parents Forum

19th December

Christmas Party Afternoon

20th December

100% attenders to wear own clothes
Feast of St John the Apostle – 4CB – Own clothes.
Finish for Christmas

Term begins Monday 6th January 2020

8th January

9.30 – Whole school Mass – Holy Family Church – Rec – Year 6

9th January

REF – Out at the Eco Park

10th January

9am – Year 6 SATs Meeting

If you need to contact Nursery please press option 5 when calling the school.

Please note this should not be used to leave messages about sickness and absence.

At St Bernadette's Catholic School you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.

Applications for Reception Class September 2020

The closing date for primary school applications for a place in a Reception Class for September 2020 is: midnight 15th January 2020.

All applications must be made online through the Birmingham City Council website

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Therefore if you have a child who was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016, it is vital that your application is received on time.



Advent



During Advent we light candles on our Advent Wreath to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. The smoke that goes up from the flame represents our prayers going up to heaven. Even the heat that comes from the candle reminds us of the warmth that we feel when we know the love of God and the love of our family and friends.

Jesus your love is all encompassing flame.
May we burn with that same love.
So that others will feel the warmth of your presence.

Amen

Celebrating Success

We have been very proud to watch our amazing past pupil, Scarlett, on The Apprentice over the last few months. Scarlett has proven herself to be a capable, confident and articulate business woman and we are very proud that she is a member of the St. Bernadette's family. We wish Scarlett every success and thank her for being such an inspiration to so many.

Carol Service

The Year 5 Carol Service is on Tuesday 17th December at 6pm at Holy Family Church. The children in Year 5 & 6 have spent a considerable amount of time learning carols and preparing for the service, and therefore all children in Year 5 & 6 are expected to attend. The children should arrive no later than 5.45pm wearing full winter uniform. This is always a magical evening and it would be lovely to see as many families as possible at the service.

Whole School Mass

A whole school Mass (Year 1 – 6) will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 9.30am at Holy Family Church. You are most welcome to join the children for this end of term Mass.

Toy Day

It is tradition that the last day of the Autumn term is toy day in school, and this will take place on Friday 20th December. The children will be allowed to bring a suitable toy into school on this date. Please remember school cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to any toys. It is therefore advisable to leave expensive/valuable and electronic toys at home.

Reception and Year 1 Christmas Workshop

As previously communicated, there will be a Christmas Workshop for those parents of children in Reception and Year 1 who have booked a place, on Monday 9th December after school from 3.15pm - 4pm.

Attendance

Well done to the following children for having the best attendance in their keystage this week. **Fs/KS1- 1SJ, 2COT KS2 – 4CM** Remember each child with an attendance of 98% or above for the term will be entered into a prize draw. The class with the best attendance at the end of term will be rewarded with a cinema trip.

Christmas Plays and Events

The times and dates of Christmas Plays and Events can be found below. Please note: if you are attending, **punctuality is a must as late entry will not be permitted.**

Please ensure you leave enough time to arrive punctually.

In addition, in line with our mobile phone policy for parents and visitors, the taking of photographs will not be permitted. School will take a group photograph of those children whose parents have given consent, which will be posted on the school website.



Christmas Parties

The children's Christmas parties will take place on Thursday 19th December. These will take place on the afternoon, after lunch, so if your child usually has a packed lunch they will require this as usual. On this day your child may come to school wearing their own party clothes and will need to bring a plate of food (labelled with their name) for them to eat during the afternoon. Please ensure that you do not send your child with any nut based products due to the children in school with life threatening nut allergies.

SATs

11th – 15th May is when SATs are due to take place for Year 6 children in school. Testing takes place 11th – 22nd May in Year 2. No holidays are to be booked during this time and all children in Year 2 – 6 should be in school for the statutory tests.

There will be a meeting for Year 6 parents at 9am on Friday 10th January and for Year 2 parents on Monday 13th January where further information will be given.

Parents' Forum

The next parents' forum meeting will take place at 2pm on Wednesday 18th December. If you have anything you wish to be discussed at the meeting then please forward your ideas to forum members. Thank you

Swimming

The final swimming session for this term will take place on Monday 9th December. Swimming will resume on 6th January for class 4CM and 5AB. Please ensure your child has their kit in school on this date.

Termly Reports

Your child's termly report for the autumn term, which includes their attainment and effort in English and Maths will be available in early January.

Reception – Year 6 Flu Vaccinations

Thank you to parents that have returned the paperwork regarding the flu vaccination programme. Children in Reception to Year 6 will receive their nasal spray vaccination on Thursday 12th December.

KS2 Pantomime Trip

As previously communicated, tickets for KS2 to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at Birmingham Hippodrome have been booked for the 15th & 16th January. Please ensure that you keep up with the instalments payment on ParentPay. Thank you

Poppy Appeal

A huge thank you to all involved in donating to the poppy appeal last month. A grand total of **£216.05** was raised for the Royal British Legion to help continue their vital welfare and benevolent work.

The Sun Newspaper – Books for Schools

The Sun Newspaper has launched a 'Books for Schools' campaign which gives primary school the chance to get a free pack of books worth more than £600! To do this, however, we have to collect 3500 tokens. The Sun will start printing tokens on Saturday 23rd November and continue until Saturday 18th January. Please send any tokens to the school office. Thank you

Holy Family Christmas Bazaar

A big thank you to all who helped support the Holy Family Christmas Bazaar, whether that was supplying chocolate for the Chocolate Tombola or attending the Bazaar. A grand total of £1825.00 was raised. There will also be a stall at the back of the church selling further gifts, this weekend, should you wish to purchase them. Thank you for supporting the Parish.



How to care for the environment

Do not litter!

Year of the Word

This Advent sees the beginning of an important year in the Catholic Church in England and Wales: A year of the word. As the Church's focus turns to Year A. St Mathew's Gospel, we are asked to consider the many ways in which God speaks to us: through the Bible, through prayer, through other people. To launch the Year of the Word, Archbishop Bernard Longley celebrated Mass on Saturday 20th November in St Chad's Cathedral and was joined by some of our Liturgy leaders: Tilly-Bleu, Evie, Cheldane, Krista, Kabisajini, Danesha, Beatrice, Saoirse. Thank you to the staff, parents and children who supported this special Mass.



Spelling Shed and Timetable Rockstars

The school has invested a lot of money in these online resources to support children's learning of spelling and times tables. Children throughout KS1 and KS2 should have access to Spelling Shed and children in Year 2 – Year 6 timetables rockstars. The children should be using these resources as much as possible each week. The more your child uses these resources then the greater their success will be!

Today's top tip for staying safe online is...

Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do.'

Ocean Pollution

Today the children in KS2 attended an assembly about Ocean Pollution and how our lives in Birmingham affect the sea around the world. We learnt how it's not just plastic use that endangers our ocean environment. Miss Corkery helped us see a solution to the problem of plastics on our beaches. Miss Corkery launched a competition and all the children were invited to research ocean pollution/climate change/environmental problems humans have caused. We were shown how there are solutions and given hope for our future here on Earth. We just need to work together and DREAM!



Home School Communication and Reading Records

Please ensure that these are being signed each night to show that children are reading at home. The children also need to ensure that these are being brought to school each day along with their reading books.

Special Certificates

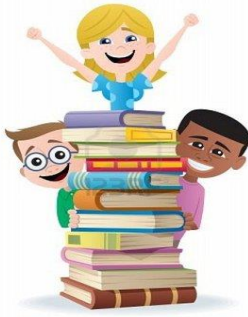
Each week a child from each class is nominated to receive a special certificate through the post. The pupils who are awarded these certificates have shown that they really understand what it means to live as Jesus taught us, perhaps by being particularly kind or helpful. Well done to the following children:

Nursery (Blue)	Taliah-Rose	For being a great friend.	Nursery (Red)	James	For being a great friend.
Nursery (Green)	Robin	For great drawing.	Nursery (Yellow)	Louis	For good sitting and listening during play practice.
REF	Callum	For being a wonderful friend.	3TK	Grace	For working really hard all the time.
	Cathal	For knowing so much about dinosaurs at the safari park.		Sophia	For trying really hard in class.
RPF	Marcus	For brilliant reading.	4AH	Ezrah	For super work in RE.
	Laicen	For trying his best when on the carpet.		Zachary	For always being polite and helpful.
RSD	Lily	For amazing phonics work.	4CB	Krishna	For being a superb role model.
	Liyana	For always doing the right thing.		Ailbhe	For excellent times tables progress.
1SF	Leniyce	For fantastic behavior.	4CM	Adam	For fantastic work in RE.
	Maja	For always working hard.		Jack	For settling in well to 4CM.
1SJ	Daisy-Anne	For being polite and working hard.	5AB	Aamilah	For brilliant attitude and effort at all times.
	Issaiah	For trying hard in Maths.		Emme	For completing homework at all times.
1SMCG	Aliza	For being helpful.	5EB	Kaijah-Chae	Making big efforts in English.
	Ahmed	For trying hard with handwriting.		Kieran	For trying to be involved in all lessons.
2COT	Is'haq	For excellent effort in Science	5JR KS	Joshua	For always being kind and considerate.
	Amelia	For working hard in Maths.		Chelsea	For working hard in all lessons.
2EL	Thea	For fantastic singing in rehearsal.	6AMJ	Sarah	For reading beautifully at Confirmation.
	Grace	For trying super hard with her reading.		Lexi	For always trying her best in school.
2RW	Ellie	For trying hard in Maths.	6KL	Ryan	For being so reverent at Confirmation.
	Georgio	For his brilliant literacy work.		John	For supporting his classmates so well.
3EG	Jakub	For his fantastic spelling shed effort.	6ZB	Alyssia	For always trying so hard in Maths.
	Stanley	For being helpful in the classroom.		Muhammad	For excellent effort in English.
3EH	Alexander	For wonderful attitude to his learning.			
	Umar	For his great effort in lessons.			

Accelerated Readers

Reader of the Month:

Abel - 547,948



Ready Reader:

Daisy Gerline Kaiden Ava-Grace Amiah	Arham Emil Ellie-Louise Mason Aahil	Mohammed Sara Adam Megan	Tilly-Bleu Lorraine Sienna-Rose Aliyah	Kimii-Li Romayah Megan Shania	Beau Allaarna Felix Aayan
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Independent Reader:

Katees Shayan	Eshan Joshua	Emmanuel	Jack	Nidhaan	Amanda	Rian
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Rising Reader:

Sophie	Khyla	Riya	Maira
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Super Reader:

Chelsea Aleksander	Chelsea Ben	Jacob Hannah	Maira Kaiser	Oliver
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Advanced Reader:

George	Leon	Aneeq
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Star Reader:

Surina	Sarah	Phoebe
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Classic Reader:

Abel

Millionaire Reader:

Abel

House word reading totals so far

Blyton 2,130,605	Horowitz 3,248,001	Morpurgo 1,703,224	Strong 1,879,851	Wilson 2,315,666	Zephaniah 2,041,028
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Parent Newsletter

Living faith
within our families

December 2019



“Best Friends at Christmas”

Hannah and Caleb were BEST friends and they LOVED Christmas - so much that they had agreed to help their teacher, Mr Farmer, wrap up presents for the children's ward at the hospital! Apparently, a local supermarket donated gifts, and Mr Farmer and his volunteers just had to wrap them up and deliver them.

One day, Hannah told Caleb something top secret: for Christmas her Dad was buying her tickets to see Little Mix live in concert! Caleb felt a little jealous when he heard this - Little Mix were his favourite band too!

Just then, Mr Farmer came up to them and said, “I won't be needing your help after all - the supermarket said they can't donate anything this year, so it looks like the sick children won't get any presents.”

But Caleb and Hannah weren't

beaten so easily. They ran out into the playground and told everyone who would listen what had happened. Over the next few days, children from all across the school brought in all sorts of gifts, toys and chocolate and put them under the tree in the hall.

Caleb and Hannah were so pleased, and couldn't wait to take the presents to the children in hospital. But at afternoon break Mr Farmer brought some bad news:

“You've done brilliantly, but I'm afraid there's still not enough presents, and we can't give them unless there's enough for everyone.”

That evening Hannah spoke to her Dad, hoping he would offer to buy loads of presents for the appeal. Instead, he offered to donate the money he had been going to spend on her Little Mix tickets!

It was a hard decision because Hannah had been desperate to go to the concert, but her decision was made, and word got around the school. Little by little, more presents came in from others who were inspired by Hannah's example.

It was a very joyful moment when Mr Farmer announced, “We've got more than enough presents! We've got enough presents to give to all the elderly people in hospital over Christmas too!”

Hannah, Caleb, and all of the other children who had helped collect presents were overflowing with joy! And they each felt so much more excited to give the presents to the people in hospital than they were about opening any of their own presents.

'Best Friends at Christmas' is a three-part drama performed by children in schools this Christmas.

Happy is the man who doesn't lose faith in me.”

Matthew 11:11

The Good News of Jesus gives us reason to be joyful at all times of year, but especially during Advent, when we look forward to Jesus' coming at Christmas and at the end of time. John the Baptist's words preparing his followers for Jesus' ministry are as true for us today: *'Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.'* (Matthew 3)

Our Advent assemblies show children how to prepare their hearts

for Christmas by:

- Loving and caring for others
- Thinking of others before themselves
- Saying sorry to others and to God
- Remembering Jesus' love for them and that when they say sorry, He forgives them

You might like to discuss these with your child and come up with creative ways to actively prepare for Christmas.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

As we prepare for Christmas with our friends and family, we ask you to be present in our lives.

Help us know your love and forgiveness.

Give us courage to share your message of peace with those around us.

Amen

The Launch of the Year of the Word Scripture Reflection

Although the Year of the Word will principally focus on the Gospel of St Matthew. At the start of the Year of the Word the message found at the start of St John's Gospel seems more pertinent to the launch. Especially, as during Advent we are preparing to celebrate the long awaited Birth of the Messiah at Christmas and for his Second Coming.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.
John 1: 1 - 2

In these verses of the first chapter of John we are given a glimpse inside the Father/Son relationship before Jesus came to Earth in human form. He preexisted with the Father.

But God the Father is Spirit. He is invisible to the human eye. The message of love and redemption that God spoke through the prophets had gone unheeded for centuries. People found it easy to disregard the message of an invisible God and continued in their sin and rebellion.

So the Message became flesh, took on human form, and came to dwell among us. (This message is found in Matthew 1:23 also.)

The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us.
(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father;) full of grace and truth.
John 1: 14

The Word (Jesus) is the full embodiment of all that is God; Jesus is the total Message—everything that God wants to communicate to man. This happened that first Christmas over 2000 years ago and we will celebrate it again this year on Christmas Day.

Are we truly ready to receive Him?
Is He in our hearts, minds and souls?
Do we reflect His teachings in our daily lives?
To all we meet?
If not Advent is the perfect time to prepare.

One way we can prepare during Advent is through prayer: spending time with God Our Father and improving our relationship.

The Official Prayer of the Year of the Word

Living God
You walk along side us
And speak to us throughout the Scriptures

Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Listens to our hopes and fears
And shows us how to love for one another

Send us the Holy Spirit
To open our hearts and minds
So that we may be your witnesses throughout the World
Amen

V: Your word is our path and your truth is our light
R: This day and every day

Our Lady of the Annunciation – PRAY FOR US
St Matthew – PRAY FOR US
St Jerome – PRAY FOR US

Another way we can prepare during Advent is through almsgiving: helping those less fortunate than ourselves who have fallen on hard times; helping those who are struggling through infirmity or illness; helping those affected by war, famine or disaster; the Third World.
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR AS OURSELVES.

By now you should have received your "Family"
CAFOD Advent Charity Box to collect money for the
School Charity of World Gifts.

The money collected will be used to purchase gifts that can make a "World of Difference" to whole communities overseas that are less fortunate than many of us who live here.

Please give any change you can to support this good cause, even the smallest amount can mount up when added together. Thank you in advance for your support.

