

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

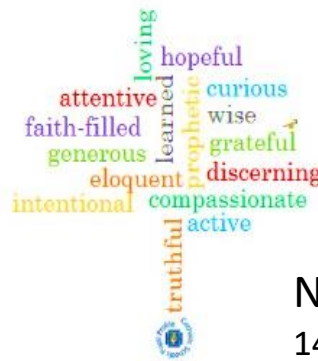
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Newsletter 19

14th May 2020

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

I hope you are all safe and well and remaining positive. I would like to thank you all for your support during this time of uncertainty and for your help with your children's online learning or for picking up learning packs from school. It is so important that they continue to keep working as much as possible while still trying to experience new things. There are some lovely examples of some of the work the children have been producing later on in the newsletter.

This has been a testing time for all of us and I would once again like to thank our parents who are key workers. I would also like to thank all of those parents who have been working from home while still trying to look after their children and helping them with their online work. We are immensely grateful to you all. My thanks also goes to the staff at St Bernadette's for their continued dedication to looking after key workers children and the vulnerable, as well as ensuring high quality work is available online for your children. This thanks extends to dinner supervisors and cleaners, the office staff, Mr Malone and Mr Abbott who have been working tirelessly throughout.

Later on in the newsletter, there is some information on the guidance we have received following on from the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday regarding some children returning to school. This is just an outline and more details will follow. As I am sure you can appreciate, there is an immense amount of work and organisation that needs to be done prior to children returning, to ensure the safety of adults within school, the children and families. Further details will follow and we will share these with you as soon as it is possible to do so. Thank you for your patience. Please continue to stay safe.



Mrs Beaman

It is with great sadness to announce that Mrs Beaman will be leaving St Bernadette's at half term to return to Poland with her family. Mrs Beaman began working at the school as an EAL support assistant in 2008 and then a teacher in 2010. She has been a tremendous support to the school and staff during her time here as well as to many of our parents, particularly some of our newly arrived Polish parents. She has worked tirelessly for the benefit of all the children she has taught and is an extremely valued and highly respected member of the St Bernadette's family. I am sure you will join with me in saying a big thank you to Mrs Beaman for all that she has done for the school and we wish her every success and happiness as she begins her new life in Poland. Both she and Felix will be greatly missed.

Miss Dorrian will be taking over responsibility for 5AB during the final half term of this academic year if or when year five return to school before the summer break.

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima – 13th May

From Sr Maura

On this, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, 13th May, I am remembering the privilege I had in 2016 of joining a number of St Bernadette's Staff on pilgrimage to Fatima. We were at Sunday Mass in the Basilica where we prayed and lit candles. A group of us prayed the Rosary together. While each of us had our personal reasons for making that pilgrimage and prayed for special intentions, we certainly prayed for St Bernadette's school community; staff, children and families. Today I prayed the Rosary as I went for my daily walk. I recalled what the pilgrimage meant to me and I prayed once more for you all, especially that Our Lady of Fatima would look after us during this uncertain time of the coronavirus.

Fatima is a small town in Portugal and while it may be less well known than Lourdes in France, it attracts thousands of pilgrims to Our Lady's Shrine each year. Today because of the pandemic, there will be no pilgrims in Fatima but there will be many on 'virtual pilgrimage' honouring Our Lady and asking for her prayers.

Why is Fatima so important to people? On 13th May 1917, in that small town in the middle of Portugal, three young peasants, illiterate children, Lucia Santos, Jacinta Marto and her brother Francisco claimed that as they were on their way home from looking after sheep, they had seen an apparition of a lady. These visions were repeated five times more on 13th of each of the following months. On the last occasion, the children said that the lady revealed herself as 'Our Lady of the Rosary' and asked the children to pray the Rosary and to have a chapel built in her honour. Two of the children died in 1919 but the third, Lucia became a Carmelite Nun and died only 15 years ago, in 2005.



On our pilgrimage in 2016, Nelson our tour guide, took us to see the homes of these children and many of us met Lucia's niece who was sitting inside the door of her house smiling at us pilgrims.

Being a mother herself, Our Lady had a great love of children and entrusted them with very special messages which have influenced many Catholics ever since. As you know, St Bernadette, the Patron of your school was 14 when Our Lady appeared to her. The three children in Fatima were only 7, 9 and 10. They could not read as they spent their time looking after sheep and so could not have made up the story of the apparitions. Our Lady

chose them and Bernadette to tell the adults what they had seen and heard. Of course many priests and people did not believe the story, thinking that the children were not old or clever enough to give such a message. But very often it is those we least expect among us whom God chooses to proclaim His Good News.

In these days when there is so much concern about climate change and its effects on the planet, very often it is young people who are aware of what is going on. We know that since the lockdown caused by coronavirus, the air is cleaner and the whole of creation is being allowed to 'rest' from all the demands we humans make on its resources.

Children of St Bernadette's school, look after the planet, keep your local environment clear of litter and rubbish and remind us adults to follow your example!

Let us pray, too, that during this quiet time for so many, people will be safe and follow guidelines so we all keep well. Let us all ask Saints Bernadette, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta to pray for us. Our Muslim families are praying during this time of Ramadan and are having to pray at home because mosques, as well as all churches, are locked up. I go to Mass online to Our Lady of Lourdes, Yardley Wood most days and to another church in Ireland for the Rosary in the evening when I haven't been for a walk!

May God bless all staff, children and your families. **Sr Maura**



Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, who chose to appear to three young shepherds in Fatima, you invited them to pray for a troubled world. Our world is once again very troubled. So many have died as a result of the coronavirus and many are sick.

Make people feel better and comfort those who are very sad. Keep us safe as we move into the future, so that we can help to make the world a better place for the poor, the homeless and those who are hungry. May we look out for others more and help everyone to be at peace with God, their families and neighbours.

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us

Information for Parents – Children returning to School

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening, I am now carefully considering the updated guidance that has been issued by the DFE with a view to school re-opening to some pupils after the half term break. A range of risk assessments will need to be completed in the next couple of weeks and I hope to have more information to share with parents next week. This will include details about how we intend to safely manage the return to school of pupils at St Bernadette's. A summary of what has been shared with schools from the Department for Education is listed below.

- **From the week commencing** 1st June, children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be welcomed back to school, along with priority groups which includes vulnerable children and those who have parents who are key workers.
- The decision to re- open schools has been made because the Government is aware that it is important for children's mental well-being that they have social interactions with their peers, but it is also important that families can begin to return to work and that some form of child care is in place for them.
- The decision to allow primary children to return first is based on the scientific evidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with Covid-19. They have been prioritised over children in secondary school, as children of secondary school age are more likely to have higher numbers of contacts outside of school so pose a greater transmission risk. If children do contract the virus, their symptoms tend to be less severe than adults.

The following principles will apply:

- 1) Children in eligible year groups will be strongly encouraged to attend school where there are no shielding concerns for the child or the household.
- 2) Vulnerable children from all year groups will be expected and encouraged to continue to attend.
- 3) Children and staff, who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, due to pre-existing medical conditions, have been advised to shield and should not attend school.
- 4) Children who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable but not clinically extremely vulnerable, including those who are pregnant, can attend their education setting.
- 5) Children and staff should not attend if they have symptoms or are self- isolating due to symptoms in their household.
- 6) Class sizes will be reduced and there will be a maximum of 15 children per class.

7) Parents will not be fined if their children do not attend school.

As more information comes to light, this will be shared with staff and parents, but for now work will begin on the risk assessments and decisions will be made on the feasibility of putting the above actions into place. **It is my intention that Monday June 1st will remain as a staff training day and therefore school will be closed to children.** It is highly likely that not all of the children from Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery will return to school straight away on Tuesday June 2nd. To ensure their safe return to school, we will be required to phase the children in over the course of this first week. Final plans regarding this will be sent to parents early next week.

Who is 'clinically extremely vulnerable'?

Expert doctors in England have identified specific medical conditions that, based on what we know about the virus so far, place someone at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Clinically extremely vulnerable people may include the following people. Disease severity, history or treatment levels will also affect who is in the group.

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers: people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD).
4. People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

People who fall in this group should have been contacted to tell them they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

If you're still concerned, you should discuss your concerns with your GP or hospital clinician.

Mental Health

If any parents have any concerns or are worried about the affect this time has had on your child's mental health, please contact the school. Mrs Payne and Mrs Shalvey will then contact you in confidence, to discuss your concerns and offer any support that they may be able to give.

Online Learning

Nursery - Miss Lavin would like to say well done to Bailey, Shaydon and Declan for working so hard at home to complete their maths and phonics work and enjoying the PE challenge each Friday. Also, a special thank you to Alfie for his video message to his teachers. We loved it!

Reception - Miss Fullerton is delighted with Connor who is working so hard to complete all his activities related to this week's story 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. Jada has worked really hard with her maths, creating wonderful repeating patterns making Miss Finnegan very happy. Mia-Rose and Aishai have really impressed Miss Deards for always challenging themselves, producing some exceptional work.

Year 1- Mrs Jones would like to say well done to Sonny for great English work and improved handwriting. Mrs McGrath is delighted with Khalil for his excellent problem solving in Maths. Mrs McGrath and Miss Fiddler would like to mention Louis for some wonderful Maths and English work. Maria and Amaya have produced some wonderful English work for Miss Fiddler. Bismath has shown an incredible commitment and dedication with his online work for Mrs Bella. She is so impressed Bismath.

Year 2- Miss O'Toole has been really impressed with Yushai and Callie-Mai for the amazing effort that they put into every piece of English work. Mr Wayne would like to say well done to Rebekah for her excellent diagram of a chick for her report and Kadi for a superb and informative snake report and for doing her maths every day. Mrs Harston wants to say a big thank you to Joshua, Is'haq, Qasim, Niamh and Rosie for consistently making me smile with their English work and Mischa, Romayah, Jones, Delna and Grace, who complete their work daily to a really high standard. Mrs Lennon is so pleased with Reo for his perseverance with his English work and Callie-Mai for her continued effort in Maths.

Year 3 - Miss Gibbs would like to congratulate Nataniel and Zachary for completing their online work with fantastic levels of detail. Sienna has impressed Miss Corkery with her fabulous use of prepositions in her English work. Mrs Hill would like to say well done to Della, Abigail, Harry and Jersey for their efforts at completing their Maths work. Mrs Kelly is delighted with Zachary who has produced an amazing book review and Sophie, Megan and James for logging on every day and successfully completing their Maths work.

Year 4 - Miss Hulse would like to congratulate Amy for her fantastic attitude and for her excellent decimal and fraction work. Mrs Canning is really impressed with Julia for being very systematic when solving word problems. Miss Manders would like to say well done to Ezra and Mrs Brownhill is delighted with Octavia who have both made a great effort in their English work. Miss Manders is also really impressed with Annaiyah for her excellent piece of writing.

Year 5 - Mrs Beaman has been really impressed with Jor'El and Charlie for their exceptional work and a huge effort in English and Krista and Scarlet for always trying their best in Maths. Mr Baker would like to say well done to Nidhaan and Amanda for trying really hard with excellent results in Maths and to Ruby for trying really hard with her English every day. Miss Grant & Miss Connaire are delighted with Joshua C, Vince, Erin, Amanda, Erin and Scarlett H for the amazing effort they are putting into their English work. Miss Dorrian is delighted with Lawrence and Chanali for their excellent work in Maths. Chanali has really impressed Miss Ryan and Miss Speake for her writing about a mythical creature and Ruby and Nikita for always trying their best in Maths.

Year 6 - Oliver has really impressed Mr Markham-Jones with his Maths which is completed to a high standard all of the time. Ryan has made a fantastic effort with his work on 'The Highwayman'. Miss Lakin is delighted with Ethan for his consistent effort in his English work. Mr Carroll would like to say well done to Ruby and Kai for their exceptional effort and for the quality of their Maths work. Miss Connaire & Miss Grant are really pleased with Khyla, Ruby and Sarah for completing all pieces of English work to the best of their ability.

Message to the children

All your teachers say hello. Keep going! Keep staying safe and doing all you can to help your family. Some of you may be returning to school soon and it will be great to see you. I hope your school uniform still fits after all the growing you've been doing! If you're not returning to school just yet, please do not worry. We will be thinking about you and praying that you will be able to come back to school soon.

It is really important that you continue to stay safe and keep doing all of the things you have been asked to do since this all began. Most importantly, keep washing your hands and keep your distance from other people if you have to go out. It is because you have been following these rules that we are now able to start thinking about coming back to school. It is really important though, that we keep doing all of these things.

Children's Work

Alysia's (Y2) independent setting description.

Perched on the chair like a bird on a tree, in the huge, clean, but quiet classroom, I listened to Mrs Harston, as I grabbed my glittery pens out of my big school bag.

I could see Horrid Henry sucking his toes whilst Punk Boy stared at him in disgust and I could hear the gentle whispers echoing in the room. How distracting this was!

Quickly, I picked up my grey, glittery pen in my hand, bent down and threw the pen under the table at Horrid Henry. As I threw the pen, I could feel the cold air stroking my hand and arm. Mrs Harston could have seen me, but she did not!

As the pen hit Horrid Henry, suddenly I could smell the luscious scent of pizza flowing through the classroom door and this made me so hungry! Luckily, the lunchtime bell rang, so I hurried to the lunch hall. As I sat on the chair with my fantastic, burning hot pizza on my tray, I wondered if Horrid Henry really thought that his toes tasted nice?

Girbirdsquirrel. By Chanali (Y5)



This is a new creature that has just been discovered! Interestingly, the Girbirdsquirrel is a mixture of three animals. They have the head of a giraffe, the body of a secretary bird and the tail of a red squirrel. Surprisingly, their wings are 3.9 metres wide and they can fly 100 metres high! It is faster than an eagle. Additionally, they have a long white and brown neck which helps it to see extremely far. Their skin is covered with feathers and they have a curved, fluffy tail. This creature is born as a giraffe and when it is a juvenile it develops into a mixture of the three animals!

The Mythical Fish and Me

A story by Annaiyah

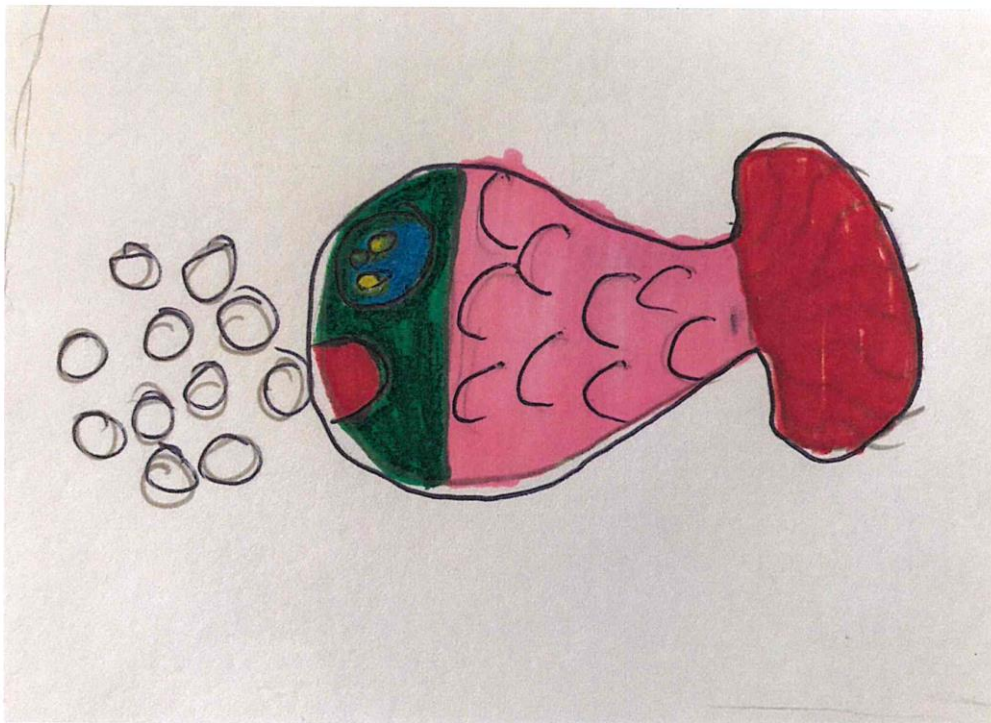
One day me and my friend Katy went out on an adventure. We didn't know what to expect but we had not seen each other in a long time and wanted to have some fun. She had been out of town for a while so we wanted to do something special together.



We decided to go to a small summer camp by mine to find a rare species of fish we had learned about. The fish was called Olovantilopes, it's a unique fish found in some of the most unusual parts of lakes and ponds. We went to the special summer camp lake; it was a large lake where animals roamed free. When we arrived at the lake, we saw lots of people playing and fishing, everyone was trying to catch the same fish as we were.



We asked a group of people where they had got their fishing rods from, they told us it was from the mini shop, so we went and brought our own. We set off down the side of the lake to the quietest part so we wouldn't be disturbed. The fish we were looking for looked a lot like this.

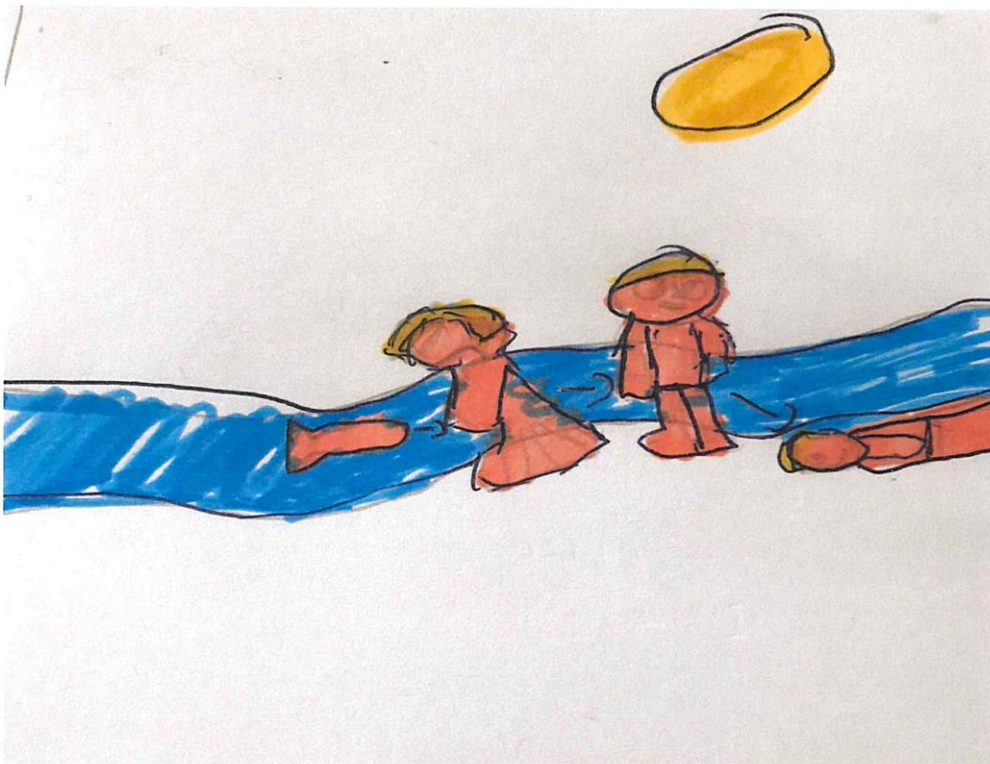


It was as beautiful as an Angel

We weren't fishing for long when the rod started to shake, we didn't expect to catch the Olovantilope so quickly but guess what? We did. It was a lot smaller than we expected but it was just as beautiful as we had thought. "Maybe it's a baby fish." I said. Me and Katy decided we would take turns in looking after it, her for one week then me and so on and so on.

As we were walking back to the camp with the fish in a bowl, the fish started to talk. We were so shocked we stopped straight away to hear what he was trying to say. "I am Adam, I was once a human many years ago. I was a part of a huge family and we weren't very good. We used to pollute the oceans and lakes and didn't care about who we hurt. One day a man named Shakespeare put a curse on us. He turned us into fishes and forced us to live in the lake to realise the damage we've done". Me and Katy were still so surprised we thought we caught an Olovantilope but instead we had caught a fish man. He told us that the only way for him to turn back is to put him in a small magical part of the lake at moonlight. I cannot access the lake myself, there's a barrier only Humans can pass whilst holding me. I've had to wait all these years for a human to catch me and take me there" he said.

We decided that he had learnt his lesson. We waited for it to get dark and took him to the special lake. When the moonlight hit the fish he suddenly turned back into a man. We couldn't believe our eyes. "Thank you both so much" he said. "You're welcome" we said back. He promised he would never pollute anything ever again and went on his way.



Me and Katy went home and talked about what a wonderful adventure we had just had.

THE END

Are you a young carer?

Do you help care for someone in your family?

You might have started caring more recently due to family circumstances or may have been doing this for a while.

Either way - we are here to support you!

Young Carers are children and young people up to the age of 18 who help care for someone within their family because they have a disability, are ill, have a learning difficulty, are struggling with their mental health, misuse substances or have a sensory impairment.

You may be taking on extra tasks such as: shopping, collecting prescriptions, cooking, cleaning, helping someone get dressed, washed or move around the home, helping with medication or finances, providing emotional support, or helping to look after siblings.

It's not always easy being a young carer, you often have to take on adult responsibilities that can affect your friendships, learning and development, health and wellbeing or future career choices.



Spurgeons Birmingham Young Carers is here to help you



We can help to support you in the way that would be most helpful to you - this could be; one to one support, support in groups with other young carers, advice and information, liaising with other professionals, looking at how you are caring and seeing if more support is available.

Most importantly give you the opportunity to make friends with other young carers.

If you are over 18 please contact the YMCA on 07931 277 708 or 0121 454 5614

If you are primarily caring for someone with mental health issues please call Home Group on 0300 304 5530

For anyone else please use the number below.

Contact us



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