

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 6
21 November 2025

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.

Reminder: School is closed to children on Wednesday 3rd December due to an Inset Day.

Deputy Headteacher message

As we head towards the season of Advent, we start to think about the birth of Our Lord and remember the incredibly special messages of the Christmas story.

This is a very busy time in school as we begin to prepare for this very special time in the Catholic faith.

The children will be busy preparing for their Christmas Nativity Plays and Carol Services and liturgical celebrations as well as continuing with their school work.

The children's behaviour this term so far has been outstanding. Thank you for your support.

I also wanted to thank you for your continued generosity. You will see in the newsletter the money we have raised just in the last few weeks for various charity events that we have held. Incredible!!

We would love to see you at the Nativity plays, our Y5 and 6 Carol Service, our end of term Mass led by Y3 and 4 as well as the Advent Services on Monday 1st December in school. Fr Fretch would also love to see you at the Holy Family Parish Christmas Bazaar which raises vital funds for the parish. Please come and visit the St Bernadette's tombola stall.

Thank you again for all of your support so far this term.

Mr Carroll

Luke 23:35-43

35 The people stood there watching. The leaders made fun of Jesus. They said, "If he is God's Chosen One, the Christ, then let him save himself. He saved other people, didn't he?"

36 Even the soldiers made fun of him. They came to Jesus and offered him some vinegar. 37 They said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!"

38 (At the top of the cross these words were written: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.")

39 One of the criminals began to shout insults at Jesus: "Aren't you the Christ? Then save yourself! And save us too!"

40 But the other criminal stopped him. He said, "You should fear God! You are getting the same punishment as he is. 41 We are punished justly; we should die. But this man has done nothing wrong!" 42 Then this criminal said to Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!"

43 Then Jesus said to him, "Listen! What I say is true: Today you will be with me in paradise!"[a]

Reflections

In Sunday's Gospel for the Solemnity of Christ the King, we see Jesus on the cross, facing mockery from leaders, soldiers, and even one of the criminals beside Him. Yet Jesus never responds with anger or force. Instead, He remains a gentle and forgiving King. The other criminal recognises Jesus' goodness and simply asks, "Jesus, remember me." Jesus answers with compassion, promising him paradise. This passage reminds us that Christ's kingship is not about power or control, but about mercy, hope, and the courage to love even in difficult moments. As we finish the Church's year, we are invited to trust in this hopeful, compassionate King and to reflect His kindness in our daily lives.

Light a candle to offer a prayer

We light a candle and offer our prayers for members of our school community and their loved ones:

Mrs. Lone and family
Mrs. Docker and family
Chloe & Family



Year 6 will be making their Confirmation on Thursday 4th December at 6pm at Holy Family Church. We will once again welcome Bishop David to celebrate this very special sacrament. Please keep all of our Y6 Confirmandi in your prayers.

As we approach the festive season, we are very much looking forward to welcoming you into school for our Christmas performances:

- Year 2 Play – 5th December, 9:30am
- Year 1 Play for Parents – 9th December, 9:30am
- Reception Play for Parents – 12th December, 9:20am
- Nursery Play (Red and Green Groups) – 16th December, 9:30am
- Nursery Play (Yellow and Blue Groups) – 17th December, 9:30am

This year, instead of asking for a cash donation, we are running a Reverse Advent Calendar to support families in need. For each Christmas event, we are inviting parents to donate a toiletry item such as:

- toothpaste
- toothbrush
- shower gel
- shampoo
- soap
- sanitary products

In return for your kind donation, you will receive a programme and a raffle ticket for that performance.

All items should be new and unopened. Your generosity will help us to support members of our wider community at what can be a difficult time of year.

If you are unable to attend a performance but would still like to contribute, donations can be sent into school with your child.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Diary Dates

Monday 24th November

Bikeability in all week

Tuesday 25th November

Book Fair

Parents' Evening

Wednesday 26th November

Parents' Evening

Flu Immunisation Rec-Year 6

Book Fair

Thursday 27th November

Year 6 at Cadbury World

Book Fair

Friday 28th November

Children to wear blue/white and donate a chocolate bar for St. Andrew's Day (30th)

Sunday 30 November

1st Sunday of Advent

Monday 1st December

Book Fair starts today 3pm

Advent Service 1pm

Tuesday 2nd December

RSE Meeting Yr 6 Parents at 2:30pm

Parents are welcome to attend

Wednesday 3rd December

Inset Day – School closed to pupils

Thursday 4th December

Yr 6 Confirmation

Friday 5th December

Y2 Play for parents 9:30am

Sunday 7th December

Second Sunday in Advent

Tuesday 9th December

Y1 Play for parents 9:30am

Wednesday 10th December

Year 3 Mass in School – Parents are welcome to attend

Christmas dinner and jumper day

Thursday 11th December

Year 5 Confessions

Friday 12th December

Reception Play for parents 9:30am

EYFS/KSI Christmas Craft 2pm

Safeguarding Reminder

Please remember that if you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child, members of the public are able to make an anonymous referral to the safeguarding team within Birmingham City Council. Parents should call 0121 303 1888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker.

Charity Fundraising Events



Thank you for supporting Hello Yellow

Last month our pupils wore yellow for World Mental Health Day to show young people they're not alone with their mental health. We raised £220.00 for the Young Minds Charity.

Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in – and they're feeling the pressure. You've helped Young Minds to raise vital funds to show them things can get better



Year 3 Charity

Year 3 raised £454.25 for CAFOD through their disco and cake sale.

Thank you all for your continued generosity.



Wear Something Blue

World diabetes day total raised £289.56. Thank you

Friday 28th November – St. Andrew's Day

To celebrate St. Andrew's feast day which falls on Sunday 30th November, children are asked to wear blue or white to school and to donate a bar of chocolate for the Holy Family Christmas Bazaar.



Holy Family Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday 6th December in Holy Family School Hall from 12pm to 2pm. Come along to get into the festive spirit and enjoy a wonderful day filled with games, stalls and Christmas fun for the whole family.

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

By now you should have already booked your child's parents' evening appointment for either Tuesday 25th November or Wednesday 26th November via the link sent from Teachers2Parents. The focus of this parents' evening for Years 1 to 6 is English. Parents of children in Reception and Nursery will see their class teacher.

Advent Services

Our Advent Services will take on Monday 1st December.

Parents are invited to attend. Year 1, 2 and 3 parents are invited at 9am and year 4, 5 and 6 parents at 2:30 pm. Please go onto parent pay to register your attendance.

Book Fair

The fair will be open from Monday 24th November to Friday 28th November, with the following opening times:

Monday – 3.00pm
Tuesday – Thursday
Morning: 8:30am – 9:00am
Afternoon: 3:00pm – 3:30pm
(Friday: 2:00pm – 2:30pm)

We look forward to welcoming you and hope you find some wonderful reads to take home!

Year 4 Charity

Each Year 4 class has created a special hamper based on their colour theme, and the children have been working hard to fill them with exciting items. The hampers will be raffled on Monday 8th December when some of our school choir visit Heartlands Hospital.



Raffle Ticket Prices:

1 ticket – £1
3 tickets – £2
10 tickets – £3

Year 5 and 6 Carol Service

This very special night will take place at Holy Family church on Wednesday 17th December at 6pm. All of our Year 5 and 6 children will be celebrating the Christmas Story through songs and readings. It is a time when all of our St Bernadette's community, both old and new come together for a very special celebration. More details will follow.



ATTENDANCE

If your child is not in school, you must notify school on each day of their absence. As a school, we have a legal duty to ensure we know where every child is each day. For this reason, we will also carry out Home Visits for Safe and Well Checks.



My Happy Mind -Happiness Heroes

The Happiness Heroes have been training for two weeks to become our first Playground Pals during our lunchtime. They are preparing to help children when they need a friendly face in the playground. Sometimes the playground can seem so full of children it's hard to find someone to play with. The Happiness Heroes will be around to ask children to join in a traditional game or just have a chat. Our Happiness Heroes have come up with some great ideas to make improvements to our playground.

Dates for the Diary

11 November- 2 December (Every Tuesday) **Compass** are working with some Year 2 and 3 children on Healthy Friendships.
28 November – 16th December **Compass** are working with a group of Year 5 and 6 children on Healthy Friendships.
8th December – **Beacon School Support** will hold a parent workshop on How to Help your Child Sleep Better. All are welcome.



SCHOOL FUND FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 TO 2026

Parents are requested to make a donation of £10.00 per child or £10.00 per family to our school fund.

This donation will go directly towards:

- Workshops and hands-on learning activities
- Food tasting and cultural experience days
- Visitors such as authors, theatre groups or scientists
- Whole school events and celebrations

Please donate via www.parentpay.com

Thank you for your continued support.

We are Occupational Therapy students – Nadine, Sarah and Nicole and we recently had the opportunity to complete our final year 10-week Occupational Therapy placement at St. Bernadette's primary school. During this time, we worked closely with the school staff to provide Occupational Therapy support to pupils in school.

Occupational Therapists, help people of all ages overcome barriers and challenges in everyday tasks (occupations) so they can live life to the fullest. Our goal as Occupational Therapy students in this role, was to work under supervision to help children develop skills for everyday life, such as self-care, schoolwork, and social interaction/play, so they can participate fully in activities at school.

Throughout our placement we delivered universal and targeted support within the school environment. This included group interventions to develop fine and gross motor skills, enhance sensory regulation, and ultimately improve children's engagement and participation in key school-based activities.

As our placement approaches the end, we wanted to share some key Occupational Therapy contact information. If you have any queries/questions related to your child and Occupational Therapy, please feel free to contact the Occupational Therapy advice line through Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on 0121 683 2325 for support and advice.

Signposting links

- BCHC OT Website: <https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/paediatric-occupational-therapy/> where you can download free OT advice resource packs
- Link for the OT advice line <https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/paediatric-occupational-therapy-advice-line>

The advice line is available Monday to Friday, from 09.00 to 16.00 hours, for children aged 0 – 18 years (up to 19 years if in full time special school education) and registered with a Birmingham GP

We would like to thank Nadine, Sarah and Nicole for all of their hard work during their time with us and wish them well in their future careers. From all the staff at St Bernadette's.

Sports News

Year 4 Gymnastics Festival

Last week, some of our Year 4 children visited Revolution Gymnastics in Selly Oak for a Festival of Gymnastics. They had a brilliant time learning new skills on the apparatus and floor, working both individually and as a team. The children showed fantastic enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day. Well done, Year 4!



Year 5 Multi-Sports Event

Last week, some of our Year 5 children enjoyed a Multi-Sports Festival with our Sports Partnership at Birmingham University Sports Hall. The children explored a variety of activities, demonstrating excellent skill, perseverance, and collaboration throughout the day. Well done to all our Year 5 pupils for their amazing participation!

Girls' Football League Report

Our Year 5 & 6 girls began their league campaign at Power Leagues, Aston. On a cold evening of football, they won two games and lost two, showing great effort throughout.

Players of the Night: Latoya and Liyana.

Well done, girls!



On Sunday 9th November on Remembrance Sunday, Nathan from Year 1 paraded with Kings Norton Marching Band in Wythall and had the honour of laying a wreath at the memorial. We are very proud of him. Well done Nathan.

Beauty and the Beast Pantomime at Sutton Town Hall during December.



Saturday 6th December 12.30pm

Friday 12th December 6.30pm

Saturday 20th December 6.30pm

Tuesday 23rd December 12.30pm

Wednesday 24th December 4.30pm

Sunday 28th December 12.30pm

Wednesday 31st December 12.30pm

Tayah and Amily will both be performing in the Beauty and the Beast Pantomime throughout December.

If families are in receipt of free school meals, you are able to buy discounted tickets for them and their families. The dates above are the times when the girls will be performing. It would be lovely if any families could go and support and watch what I am sure will be a fantastic show.

Well done girls and good luck!

Spotlight on Mrs Taylor, School SENCo.

1. Can you tell us a bit about your role as SENCo and what a typical day looks like for you?

My role is to ensure that all children with additional needs receive the right support to help them thrive in school. A typical day can be very varied – meeting with parents, working with external agencies, reviewing progress, supporting children.

2. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy seeing the children make progress and being able to celebrate that progress; I love seeing them grow in confidence. I enjoy working with families and being able to support them find practical ways to remove barriers to learning. Every day is different and it is a privilege to be part of a team that is so focused on making a positive difference for our children.

3. For parents who might not know, what does a SENCo actually do?

A SENCo coordinates all the support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This includes identifying needs, ensuring children get the right help in school, writing and reviewing support plans, working with teachers to adapt teaching approaches and liaising with external specialists. The SENCo also supports parents through the SEND process, offering advice, updates and guidance at every stage. Essentially, the SENCo makes sure that children with additional needs are fully included and able to achieve their best.

4. What kind of support might a child or family receive through the SEN team?

We have offered lots of support through external agencies this year and will continue to offer meet the agencies events as well as tailored events to specific needs.

The SEN (Special Educational Needs) team provides a wide range of support to help children with additional needs reach their full potential. This support can include:

- Targeted in-school interventions
- Specialist advice and assessments
- Individual learning plans – setting out specific targets and strategies tailored to the child's needs.
- Support for parents and carers – regular communication, advice on supporting learning at home, and help understanding SEND processes or referrals.
- Coordination with external agencies
- Training and guidance for staff – to help teachers and teaching assistants adapt classroom practice to meet individual needs.

Overall, the SEN team works closely with children, families, and staff to create an inclusive environment and ensure each child receives the right support at the right time.

5. When should a parent get in touch with you — and how can they do that?

It's really important that the first port of call is always the class teacher, as they know your child best. We follow a graduated approach: if a class teacher has concerns, they will speak with you and put interventions in place. After a period of intervention, if either the teacher or you still have concerns, the child may be placed on the SEN register.

You should contact me after speaking with your child's class teacher. I am usually available at the start and end of the day (Monday–Thursday), but the best way to reach me is by email: sendco@stberns.bham.sch.uk

6. What happens after a parent contacts you with a concern about their child?

Once you contact me, I will:

- Speak with the class teacher and teaching assistants to gather their observations and views.
- Schedule a meeting with you so we can work together using the **graduated approach** to put the right support in place.

I am here to listen and support you and your child in any way possible. Sometimes this means providing additional intervention in school, and other times I may suggest support from external agencies to ensure your child gets the help they need.

7. What's the most rewarding part of your work as SENCo?

The most rewarding part is seeing the progress children make and being able to celebrate their achievements, no matter how big or small. Watching their confidence grow and knowing we've made a positive difference in their learning journey is truly fulfilling.



For the month of November, School Council are collecting for The Trussell Trust's food bank in Birmingham. We have been thinking about gratitude and what we are thankful for in our own lives. This lead onto us thinking about how we could help others. The Trussell Trust helps families access food when times get hard. School Council are doing a fantastic job of spreading the word and encouraging their peers and teachers to donate.

Please bring in any of the below desired items to school and a school council member will collect it. Thank you!

Urgently needed food items

Squash/Cordial

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Vegetables (Peas, Carrots, etc.)

Pulses (Kidney Beans, Chick Peas, etc.)

Meat Soup (Chicken, Oxtail, etc.)

Tinned Fish

Coffee

Tinned Tomatoes/Pasta Sauce

Sponge Puddings

Instant Mash

Toiletries (Soap, Toilet Roll, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Sanitary Towels)