

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

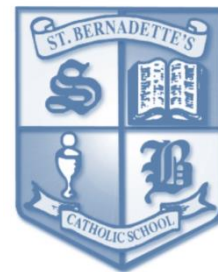
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Newsletter 6

26th November 2021

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

School Fund

Thank you to those parents that have paid their £10 contribution to school fund towards the cost of school trips. Your child will take part in at least one trip each academic year and the cost of each trip exceeds the £10 contribution, when entrance fees and transport are taken into account. This, therefore, provides very good value for money. If you have yet to make payment of this, please could you login to <https://www.parentpay.com/> as soon as possible. Please note that this can be paid in instalments if required.



Read-a-thon

As you are aware this half term we are holding a read-a-thon. We are trying to encourage pupils to read as many books as possible, whilst also hoping to raise money to buy new books for our school library. We ask that you sponsor your child's reading by asking friends and family to pledge a small donation. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics - it's all about reading for fun. Every penny raised will be put towards buying new reading material for our library. We ask that donations are returned to school on or before Monday 13th December.

Person of the Fortnight

Every two weeks we will be sharing information about a range of different important figures: scientists, athletes, musicians, etc. to help increase the children's aspirations, general knowledge and cultural capital. This week that person is Albert Einstein.

Little Albert was a child of few words, but many ideas. At first, he didn't quite fit in at school. But he soon fell in love with physics and maths, and wrote his first scientific paper while he was still a teen. Albert devoted his life to explaining the relationship between space and time and laid the foundations for much of the technology and invention of the 21st century.

Diary Dates

Monday 29th November

9:00am - Advent Service in school

Tuesday 30th November

St Andrew's Day (all to wear blue or white and donate a chocolate bar)

Wednesday 1st December

9.00am – RSD Literacy Group Fine motor and Handwriting Workshop

Thursday 2nd December

9.00am – RPD Literacy Group Fine motor and Handwriting Workshop

Year 6 – Confirmation Mass – 6pm

Friday 3rd December

9.00am - RND Literacy Group Fine motor and Handwriting Workshop

Monday 6th December

Feast of St Nicholas (1EG own clothes)

Tuesday 7th December

9.30am – Advent Service for class 1EG

2.15pm – Advent Service for class 1OB

Wednesday 8th December

Nativity Play - 9.30am for class COT & ½ class 2SH (Surnames A-H)

Nativity Play - 2.15pm for class 2SF & ½ class 2SH (Surnames J-Z)

Thursday 9th December

1:00pm – Year 4 confessions

Friday 10th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 13th December

Feast of St Lucy (1OB own clothes)

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery) - 9.00am for Yellow Group

Tuesday 14th December

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery) - 9.00am for Red Group

3.15pm Christmas craft for EYFS

Year 5 & 6 – Carol Service at Holy Family Church 9.30

Thought for the Day

Just because it is hard does not mean its impossible. You can do it!

Parents' Forum

Parents' Forum are a group of Parent representatives, one from each year band, who will meet once a term to review school initiatives and discuss new ideas. If you have any ideas which you would like to be discussed, please mention these to the Forum representative so they can bring them up at the next meeting on Wednesday 15th December at 2.00pm.

The Parents' forum representatives are:

Nursery	Iyla Hussain-Biddle's Mum
Reception	Conan Bains' Mum
Year 1	Halima Hussain's Mum
Year 2	Cathal Dale's Mum
Year 3	Olivia Hackney's Mum
Year 4	James Thomas' Mum
Year 5	Zunairah Quereshi's Mum
Year 6	Riley Breslin's Mum

Attendance

It is essential that children regularly attend school, poor attendance has a serious and long lasting impact on your child. To promote and encourage good attendance we have published this week's attendance figures on the newsletter. Well done to the following classes that had the best attendance in their key stage. EYFS/ KS1 - **RPD**. KS2 - **5LC**

Nursery	RND	RSD
89.9%	93.3%	95%
RPD	1EG	1OB
100%	97%	90.8%
2SF	2SH	2COT
95.8%	90.2%	97%
3TK	3EH	3EL
97.7%	96.8%	91.3%
4RW	4CB	4CM
94%	97.3%	98%
5EB	5LC	5KH
93.3%	100%	89.9%
6AMJ	6KL	6ZB
93%	93.8%	95.6%

Year 6 Confirmation

The date for the Year 6 confirmation this academic year will be Thursday 2nd December at 6.00pm at Holy Family Church. The children will be confirmed by Bishop David Evans. Please remember the children to be confirmed in your prayers.

Holy Family Church Christmas Bazaar

Holy Family Parish will be having their Christmas Bazaar at Holy Family School on Saturday 4th December from 12 noon until 3pm. If you have any unwanted gifts or bottles that you wish to donate to the Bazaar, donations can be made at the Church or presbytery. St Bernadette's will be running the chocolate 'Spin the Wheel' stall and would like pupils to donate a chocolate bar for the prizes.

St Andrew's Day

Tuesday 30th November is the feast day for St Andrew. All Children in school will be invited to wear blue or white on this day to mark this important national Saint. Instead of the usual 50p donation to charity we are requesting that the children bring a chocolate bar instead to donate to the 'Spin the Wheel' stall for the Holy Family Christmas Bazaar. Thank you.

Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day

The Save the Children Christmas Jumper day will take place this year on Friday 10th December. Children are invited to make a £1 donation to this charity to wear their Christmas jumper to school on this day.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY

Christmas Holidays

Please remember that the Autumn term does not finish until Wednesday 22nd December, with the children not returning to school until Monday 10th January. These dates may be different from other Birmingham Schools.

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention

The Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Pope's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. The intention for the month of December is Catechists.

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Inclement Weather

If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that school needs to close, please listen to the local radio stations. The school texting service, school website and the school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am, then you can assume that school will be open as normal. If a blanket closure is announced by Birmingham City Council then we will close. Please note: School will complete a risk assessment of the site while making this decision, it is up to you as parents to risk assess your journey to school to ensure the children arrive safely.

Christmas Liturgies

With the number of Covid cases high nationally and locally in Birmingham, we have reviewed our risk assessments to ensure that Covid-safety measures will be in place during Christmas liturgies.

These include:

- Additional liturgies will take place so that the number of adults are reduced in the school hall.
- Places will be limited to one person per family.
- The wearing of face masks will be required for all liturgies.
- The areas being used will be well ventilated.
- Hand sanitiser will be available to use.

Below are details about the liturgies taking place – Please note these may have changed from those originally communicated:

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery)

Monday 13th December – 9.00am for Yellow Group

Tuesday 14th December – 9.00am for Red Group

Wednesday 15th December – 9.00am for Blue Group

Thursday 16th December – 9.00am for Green Group

Friday 17th December – 9.00am for Orange group

Reception – Advent Service

Tuesday 14th December 9.30am for class RND and ½ class RSD (Surnames A-H)

Tuesday 14th December 2.15pm for class RPD and ½ class RSD (Surnames I-Z)

Year 1 – Advent Service

Tuesday 7th December at 9.30am for class 1EG

Tuesday 7th December at 2.15pm for class 1OB

Year 2 – Nativity Play

Wednesday 8th December at 9.30am for class COT & ½ class 2SH (Surnames A-H)

Wednesday 8th December at 2.15pm for class 2SF & ½ class 2SH (Surnames J-Z)

Year 3 & 4 – Leading whole school Mass at Holy Family Church

Tuesday 21st December at Holy Family Church at 9.30am

Year 5 & 6 – Carol service at Holy Family Church

Tuesday 14th December at 6.00pm - **this is a change of date from that previously communicated.**

Scooters and Bikes

Please can I remind parents and children that when on the school premises scooters and bikes are not to be ridden. For the safety of the children, we request that both adults and children walk with their scooter/ bike until they leave the premises. This will hopefully minimise any potential accidents that could occur. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Applications for Reception September 2022

Parents who have a child ready to start school in September 2022 can apply for a place for their child via Birmingham City Council's website.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022.

For places at St Bernadette's an additional form will need to be completed (available from the school office) and we will also need to see your child's birth certificate and baptismal certificate. If you have any queries or require assistance, please call the school office on 0121 783 7232.

COVID-19

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in the area and therefore request that all visitors to the school site wear a face covering to ensure the safety of the staff and pupils in school.

If your child is feeling unwell and you are unsure as to whether to send them to school, as you may think they have Covid, please refer to the following symptoms:

- a high temperature above 37.8c– this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Please ensure that you **do not send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms.**

Please ensure that as a family, you are testing twice weekly using LFD tests to limit possible transmission by people that may be asymptomatic. LFD test kits can be ordered online from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Other ways to get rapid lateral flow tests

You might be able to:

- collect tests from a pharmacy
- collect tests from a community centre, such as a library
- get a test at a site

Find other ways to get rapid lateral flow device test kits on [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk)

Get help with ordering

If you cannot use the online service, call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines).

Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. 119 provides support in 200 languages.

Singing and Dancing Our Praises

Mrs Docker would like to give a special mention to our younger pupils who attend the after school Irish Dancing Club. The dancing teacher stopped her on Tuesday evening to say what a wonderful school St Bernadette's is. She said the pupils in the after-school club were exceptional. They are so well behaved, listen so carefully and are already showing great talent. Thank you to these pupils- you are true ambassadors!

Year 4 Parents – Design & Technology Project

We would like to invite Year 4 parents into school to help groups of children with the construction of a Viking longhouse as part of our design and technology project. If you are available to come into school and help the children or you have any queries regarding assisting, please let us know via the Year 4 email -

year4@stberns.bham.sch.uk

Detailed below is the information as to when each class will be completing the project:

4CM - Monday 6th December 1-3pm

4RW - Wednesday 8th December 1-3pm

4CB - Thursday 9th December 1-3pm

Reception Fine Motor Workshops

We would like to invite the parents of children in our Reception classes to come and work with their child during a Fine Motor and Handwriting workshop on the following dates. Please note these workshops are taking place in Literacy groups not classes.

RSD Literacy group –
Wednesday 1st December at 9.00am

RPF Literacy group –
Thursday 2nd December at 9.00am

RND Literacy group –
Friday 3rd December at 9.00am

Children's Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday 15th December the cook in school will be preparing a special Christmas meal. The dinner will consist of roast turkey with pigs in blankets or the vegetarian option: Quorn roast with veggie pigs in blankets. This will be served with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables, sage and onion stuffing and Yorkshire puddings. There is also the option of a cheese sandwich. Dessert will be either Ice Cream Roll, Christmas Cracknell or Mince Pie and Custard. The cost of the meal will be £2.10 for Nursery and £2.40 for main school, unless your child is entitled to free school meals (or in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 where they are entitled to the Universal Free School Meal).

Please complete the form sent via text message, whether your child will be having their own packed lunch on the day or having the Christmas Dinner. If your child has a packed lunch but would like the Christmas dinner please also log onto your Parent Pay account and pay for one meal, this will then be allocated on the day. It is important that this form is completed so that the correct amount of produce can be ordered. Unfortunately, if you do not complete the form then your child will be unable to have a Christmas dinner on the day.

Natasha's Law requires full labelling of ingredients on all prepacked food. Please make sure you familiarise yourself with the lunch options and the potential allergens before making your choice. The codes are as follows (W) WHEAT, (E) EGG, (F) FISH, (M) MILK. Thank you.

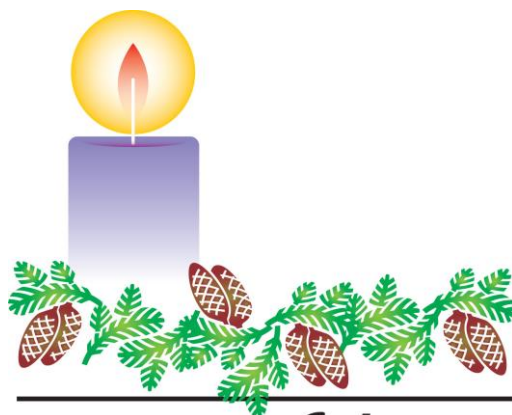
Advent

Advent begins this Sunday. The word Advent means 'coming' and it is the period before Christmas, about four weeks before Christmas Day. It is celebrated by most Christian Churches, as well as some other Christian communities.

It is a time for Christians to prepare themselves for two different things: the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and for the Second Coming of Jesus, when he shall rule over all the Earth in peace. Some people use it as a time of fasting, study, meditation and prayer.

During Advent we light candles on our 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 family and friends.

**Jesus, your love is an all-encompassing flame.
May we be born with that same love so that others
Will feel the warmth of your presence.
Amen**



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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:

CLASS	NAME	REASON	CLASS	NAME	REASON
Nursery (Blue)	Isaac	For trying very hard in Nursery.	Nursery (Red)	Iyla	For being a remarkable role model who sets a marvellous example to others in Nursery.
Nursery (Green)	Jack	For creating a fabulous playdough owl.	Nursery (Yellow)	Adithya	For perfectly following the Nursery routine. Well done.
Nursery (Orange)	Laiyana	For always making the right choice and showing a wonderful example to others.	3TK	Josie	For always being a wonderful role model to others.
				Harley	For always being happy and cheerful and trying her best in all her lessons.
RSD	Isa	For eating his fruit nicely at break time	4RW	Reo	For brilliant effort in English and Maths.
	Benny	For trying hard with his fine motor activities.		Rhys	For fantastic effort in English and Maths.
RPD	Regan	For super reading. Keep up the hard work!	4CB	Evelyn	Excellent weaving in topic.
	Mark	For coming to school with a big smile on his face.		Gurtej	For superb effort in Maths.
RND	Louie	For completing his first full week in Reception, well done.	4CM	Chanel	For being a fantastic role model by always being ready to learn.
	Christian	For the improvement in his name writing, well done!		Charlie	For fantastic effort with his handwriting.
1OB	Aaron	For his beautiful contributions to RE lessons.	5EB	Spencer	For having such a great attitude to learning and always trying so hard in lessons.
	Adonay	For always trying hard in Maths.		Zunairah	For making superb progress in maths due to hard work and great listening.
1EG	James Koroma	For his fantastic and mature attitude towards his school work.	5KH	Reign	For having a great attitude to his learning and being a role model for all.
	Tehya-Grace	For her wonderful writing.		Olivia	For having lovely manners and always trying her best.
2COT	Marcus	For being helpful to other children and staff.	5LC	Tommy	For working hard and contributing lots to every lesson.
	Isla-Mae	For getting full marks in her spelling test.		Paris	For being a polite, helpful and positive member of our class.
2SH	Emmy	For excellent behaviour on our school trip to the Think Tank Museum.	6AMJ	Esra	For being an excellent disciple and a perfect team member at Alton Castle.
	Cole	For improving his listening skills during lessons and following instructions better.		Georgie	For being an excellent disciple and a perfect team member at Alton Castle.
2SF	Patrick	For his fantastic work in English.	6KL	Surina	For consistently showing an excellent attitude.
	Iga	For being an excellent role model to her peers.		Layla	For being so helpful to her teachers in the classroom.
3EH	Anayah	For being such a helpful member of the class and an excellent role model to her peers.	6ZB	Lola	For fantastic teamwork and being so kind at Alton Castle
	Keron	For her fantastic effort in Maths.		Jack	For excellent behaviour at Alton Castle.
3EL	Isla-Mae	For improved concentration in lessons.			
	John-Patrick	For reading aloud with brilliant expression.			

SEND BRIEFING PARENT WEBINAR

December 2021



Parent/Carer Webinars take place regularly throughout the year and cover a number of different topics. Please see the local offer website for further details. Each webinar should last approximately one hour and take the format of a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

SEND Speech & Language Therapy

Language and Communication Needs in Secondary School Aged Children and Young People

Practical ideas to support your child's language and communication.
Suitable for parents/carers of secondary school aged children

Speakers

Annie Loftus & Tamsin Ruane
(SEND Speech and Language Therapists)

Wednesday 8th December 2 - 3pm

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/language-and-communication-needs-in-secondary-school-aged-children-young-people-8th-december-2pm/>

Thursday 9th December 10 - 11am

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/language-and-communication-needs-in-secondary-school-aged-children-young-people-9th-december-10am/>

You will be sent a copy of the presentation after the webinar and a copy of the recording at a later date when you book a ticket.

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Birmingham Early Help Offer Awareness

Speaker:

Amina Mushtaq - From Barnardo's

Join the session to learn what Early Help Offer is and how it can help children and families in Birmingham. The session will provide insight into the kind of help available for parents and children and quick self-referral process.

Friday 17th December 10:00 - 11:00am

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/birmingham-early-help-offer-awareness-17th-december-2021-10am/>

All people who book a ticket will be sent a copy of the presentation and a copy of the recording of the Webinar.



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November / December 2021



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Healthy Start Voucher Scheme

Speaker - Kathy Lee
Birmingham Public Health

Are you eligible for **FREE** Healthy Start food vouchers and vitamins, entitling you to £4.25 of free food and vitamins per week?

Monday 29th November 2021 - 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Healthy Start Voucher Scheme

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/healthy-start-voucher-scheme-29th-november-130pm/>

Wednesday 1st December 2021 - 10.00am – 11.00am
Healthy Start Voucher Scheme

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/healthy-start-voucher-scheme-1st-december-1000am/>

All who book a ticket will be sent a copy of the presentation and a copy of the recording of the webinar.



SEND BRIEFING PARENT WEBINAR

December 2021



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Occupational Therapy

Feeding & Mealtimes with OT

Speakers

**Gordon Heath & Katie Green
(Occupational Therapists)**

This Family Webinar will look at strategies to support feeding. You will consider the impact of the environment during mealtimes and strategies to support your child to increase their food intake including expanding the variety of foods they eat.

Tuesday 7th December 2021 - 10:00am – 11:00am

Feeding & Mealtimes with OT

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/feeding-mealtimes-with-ot-7th-december-1000am/>

Wednesday 20th September 2021 - 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Feeding & Mealtimes with

OT <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/feeding-mealtimes-with-ot-8th-december-630pm/>

All who book a ticket will be sent a copy of the presentation and a copy of the recording of the webinar.

