

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

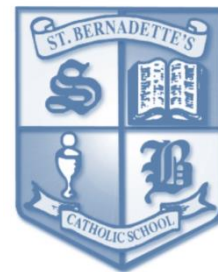
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Newsletter 4  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

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

## School Closure

School will be closed to pupils for the half term break from **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October.**

A reminder that school will also be closed to all pupils on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** due to staff training. School will therefore resume, after the half term, on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** as normal.

## Parking

We are continually getting complaints about the parking of some inconsiderate parents. We have kindly requested on a number of occasions that parents do not obstruct neighbouring driveways or roads, including the school driveways, and park responsibly and legally, but this appears to be falling on deaf ears of some of our parents. The situation is particularly bad on Berkeley Road where sometimes it is difficult for emergency vehicles to pass due to the parking. Please also consider the distress that you are causing to disabled members of the community and the danger you are putting our children in when you do not park sensibly. Surely parking a little further from the school and having to walk is worth the life of a child! We will therefore be working closely with West Midlands Police to ensure that any illegally parked vehicles receive a ticket.

## Secondary School Application for 2022 reminder

A reminder that all secondary school applications must be completed online by 31st October 2021. Please ensure that you have visited [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) and completed the necessary information. Also ensure that you do your research about potential schools by looking at their websites and use all of the choices available. Make sure you have read the admission arrangements fully for the schools you are interested in and know how likely it is that your child will be offered a place there. Some Catholic schools require additional information to be submitted regarding baptismal details. It is important that you include at least one realistic preference for a school that your

## Parents' Consultations

By now you should have received a link in order to book your appointment to meet with your Child's English teacher (Y1-6) or their class teacher in EYFS on either Tuesday 9th November or Wednesday 10th November. If you have not already done so, please ensure that you have booked your appointment as soon as possible. Please note that the wearing of masks will be required during the face to face attendance on the evening.

## Diary Dates

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

INSET DAY

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

2:15pm – Year 6 Confirmation Meeting

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Parents' Evening (Maths focus)

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

10.00am - New Parents Meeting

Parents' Evening (Maths focus)

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Remembrance Assembly - KS2

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

1.30pm Meeting for Year 6 parents regarding FGM & CSE

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Anti-Bullying Week

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

1:30pm - KS2 Mass (Church) 5.00pm - First Holy Communion Meeting (Belonging)

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

1:00pm – Year 6 Confessions (in preparation for Confirmation)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

EYFS nursery rhyme craft competition.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

10:30am – Year 3 Enrolment Mass (Church)

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Stay and play week in Nursery Feast of St.Cecilia

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

9:00am – Year 4 Mass (School)

## Thought for the Day

*Life is like a mountain road. There are so many curves that are difficult times, but you keep going because at the top the view will be wonderful.*

### Black History Month

October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than 30 years. The month was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations. Children throughout school have been exploring some important characters and engaging in art activities linked to famous Black people in History.

I also thought it might be nice to think about the many diverse cultures that have been (and continue to be) a significant part of building God's Kingdom. What can you find out about the lives and Mission of these Saints?

- St Josephine Bakhita
- St Benedict the Moor
- St Martin de Porres
- St Monica
- St Augustine
- St Antonio Vieira
- St Anthony the Great
- St Cyprian
- St Cyril of Alexandria
- Pope St Victor I
- St Kateri Tekakwitha

### Friday Morning Reading in Reception and KS1

From Friday 5th November we would like to invite Parents/carers of children in Reception and Year 1 & 2 to read with their child in class from 8.40- 8.55am. If you have a child in more than one of these year bands you can read to them on alternate weeks as you do not have to attend each week.

### Labeling of Items

Please make sure that you label all items of clothing (including shoes and PE footwear) to reduce the accidental sharing of uniform and uniform going missing. Please also ensure that items such as lunchboxes, reading records and water bottles are also clearly labelled with your child's name.

### Attendance

Well done to the following classes who have had the best attendance in their key stage.

**FS/KS1 RSD**

**KS2 4CM**

### British Summer Time Ends

**A reminder that British Summer time ends at 2.00am on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Clocks go back an hour.**

### 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.

### International Week

This week the children have enjoyed their afternoons learning about different cultures and religions from around the world. I would like to thank the staff for the effort they have put in to making the week so interesting for the children and hope that they have gained a greater understanding of the cultures of their brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

### Harvest Donations

A huge thank you to all our families who donated tinned and packaged dry goods for our harvest. Your kind and generous donations were given to the Sifa Fireside centre in Digbeth who support the homeless in Birmingham.

## Birthdays

May I remind you that we no longer accept sweets on a child's birthday due to the allergies of a number of children in school. However, if you would still like to mark your child's birthday you can purchase a book to be placed in the class library - a note will be put inside the book to say who has donated it. If you would like to donate a book, an Amazon Wish list is available at the bottom of the Parents page of the school website <https://www.stberns.co.uk/parents>

## Healthy Start

Healthy Start is a government scheme to improve the health of low-income pregnant women and families. Women who are 10+ weeks pregnant and families with children under four years old qualify if they are on benefits and tax credits. The scheme offers eligible women and families, FREE vouchers worth £4.25 (or £8.50 for a baby in the first year) to spend on milk, fruit, vegetables and first stage infant formula milk. In addition, families also receive Healthy Start vitamin vouchers.

Despite being eligible, many families in Birmingham are not registering for their Healthy Start food vouchers. This means thousands of pounds each week worth of free food is not reaching families who need it.

- To qualify for Healthy Start applicants must be 10+ weeks pregnant and/or have at least one child under 4 and be in receipt of benefits such as Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.
- Healthy Start food vouchers can be exchanged for milk, infant formula, fruit, vegetables and pulses. You can request an application form from the Healthy Start website [www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/) or telephone 0345 607 6823.

## Uniform

Please can I remind parents that children should be wearing full winter uniform. Polo shirts should no longer be worn and pupils should be in a shirt/blouse and tie. In addition to this, can I remind girls that the wearing of leggings beneath skirts is not permitted. If girls wish to have their legs covered they should wear tights and a skirt or trousers. Furthermore, please can I remind parents that the wearing of earrings in KS1 is not permitted for health and safety reasons. Thank you to those families that do adhere to the uniform policy.

## Reporting Pupil Absence

Thank you to those parents that have begun to use the new 'reporting absence' form on the school website. This form can be found using the following link: <https://www.stberns.co.uk/pupil-absence>. Please can I encourage all parents to report absence in this manner.

## Photographer

The photographer will be in school on Monday 8th November to take family photographs and individual photographs of children in EYFS. These photographs will be taken in line with current COVID-19 guidance, with the photographer maintaining a distance of 2m from the children throughout. Any positioning of children for their photographs will take place by staff within school.

## Year 6 Confirmation Meeting

A meeting has been arranged for the parents of Year 6 children who are due to make their Confirmation in December. This will take place on Wednesday 3rd November at 2.15pm in the School Hall. Please make every effort to attend this meeting as important information regarding arrangements will be shared.

## Year 3 First Holy Communion

There will be a meeting for parents and pupils in Year 3 who are baptised Catholics and wish to enrol on the First Holy Communion programme. This will take place in the school hall on Wednesday 17th November at 5.00pm. This will be followed by an enrolment Mass at Holy Family Church at 10.30am on Sunday 21st November.

## Meeting for potential new parents

There will be a meeting for potential new parents in the school hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am. If you know of any families in the local area who have children due to start school in September 2022 please inform them of this meeting.



## Social Media Apps



Does your child use any of the above platforms? Do you know the risks associated with them? Net Aware provides some useful information about the most popular apps, games and social media sites. This information can be found at the following: [www.net-aware.org.uk/networks](http://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks)

Whilst there are benefits to being online, there are risks too regardless of your child's age. These may include being subjected to inappropriate images and content, sharing of personal information and cyberbullying. Internet Matters list several apps that have been created with younger children in mind and they are suitable for ages 6-10 and 11-13. Further information can be found at:

[www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids](http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids)

### Picture Frame Donation Request

If you have, (or know of anyone who has) A3 sized ornate brass or gold coloured picture frames which you no longer use please would you consider donating these to school. We would like to create a gallery of some of the children's artwork for display.

## Free School Meal Vouchers

Free school Meal vouchers will be issued again for the October half-term break. The codes and details of how to redeem the vouchers, for those who are eligible, have been issued to parents/carers via email.

The voucher codes are funded through the government's Household Support Fund, for Reception to Year 14 - each voucher code is worth £15 and for early years children the value is £10.

Voucher codes are only valid until **31st January 2022**. Therefore, You are advised to redeem your vouchers asap.

## Smart Watches

It has come to my attention that some children are wearing V-Tech and other smart watches to school. These and any other watches that contain a camera are not permitted for safeguarding reasons. Therefore, if your child has been wearing one of these watches we would kindly ask that they cease to do so and wear them outside of the school day. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

## Alton Castle Residential Meeting

A meeting will be held in the school hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 1.15pm for parents of children attending the Alton Castle Residential later in the term. Please make every effort to attend this meeting where important information will be shared regarding the trip.

## Sponsorship

Throughout the year each year band raises money for a particular charity that has been chosen by the children. Sometimes the children will be asked to find sponsorship in order to raise money. Can I please ask that if this is the case that you do not knock on doors requesting money from strangers – this could put your child at risk. I would kindly request that any sponsorship is sort from family members and friends so that you are safeguarding your children and not causing distress to members of the public that may be vulnerable.

## Feast of St. John Paul II

Today, 22<sup>nd</sup> October marks the feast of St John Paul II one of our modern day saints.

- Pope John Paul II was ordained in 1946, became the bishop of Ombi in 1958, and became the Archbishop of Krakow in 1964.
- He was made a cardinal in 1967, and in 1978 became the first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years.
- In 1981, an assassin shot John Paul twice in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. Fortunately, he was able to recover from his injuries and later forgave his attacker.
- He was a vocal advocate for human rights and used his influence to effect political change. He died in Italy in 2005.
- The sainthood ceremony was held on April 27, 2014.

Below are some inspirational quotes from St John Paul II

“I plead with you--never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.”

“The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being.”

“Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence.”

“Prayer can truly change your life. For it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and your heart toward the Lord.”

## Prayer to St. John Paul II

Oh, St. John Paul, from the window of heaven, grant us your blessing! Bless the Church that you loved and served and guided, courageously leading her along the paths of the world in order to bring Jesus to everyone and everyone to Jesus. Bless the young, who were your great passion. Help them dream again, help them look up to the heavens again to find the light that illuminates the paths of life here on earth.

May you bless each and every family! You warned of Satan's assault against this precious and indispensable divine spark that God lit on earth. St. John Paul, with your prayer, may you protect the family and every life that blossoms from the family.

Pray for the whole world, which is still marked by tensions, wars and injustice. You opposed war by invoking dialogue and planting the seeds of love: pray for us so that we may be tireless sowers of peace.

Oh St. John Paul, from heaven's window, where we see you beside Mary, send God's blessing down upon us all. Amen.

## 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 Kamala Harris, lawyer, US Senator and Vice President.

As a child, little Kamala marched for civil rights with her parents. She was encouraged to fight for justice and to make a difference in the world. From her career as a lawyer, to her time spent as a US senator, to her historic election to the White House as Vice President, Kamala has lived a life of firsts. But she is determined that she won't be the last!

## 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)   | Keegan   | For trying his best in Nursery.                                                                                       | Nursery (Red)    | Pawlos        | For a splendid painting in the style of Alma Thomas.                         |
| Nursery (Green)  | Aliza    | For starting to use her big voice in Nursery.                                                                         | Nursery (Yellow) | Finley-Ray    | For excellent artwork in the style of Alma Thomas.                           |
| Nursery (Orange) | Seamus   | For having good listening skills during our music session.                                                            | 3TK              | Aliza         | For starting to use her big voice in Nursery.                                |
|                  |          |                                                                                                                       |                  | Janelle       | For being a fantastic role model to the other children.                      |
| RSD              | Taleah   | For eating her lunch every day this week.                                                                             | 4RW              | Artemisia     | For making a brilliant effort with her class work.                           |
|                  | Chester  | For making good choices this week,                                                                                    |                  | Rebekah       | For knowing lots of interesting facts about India.                           |
| RND              | Daniel   | For being a great role model – you always make good choices, Daniel.                                                  | 4CB              | Is'haq        | For super effort with reading.                                               |
|                  | Grear    | For good listening during 'learning time'.                                                                            |                  | Ava-Louise    | For being a fantastic reading role model.                                    |
| RPD              | Myra     | For always being friendly and helpful.                                                                                | 4CM              | Alysia        | For a fantastic presentation in Maths.                                       |
|                  | Uche     | For being a superstar mathematician.                                                                                  |                  | Robert-Junior | For trying really hard in maths.                                             |
| 10B              | Taleah   | For eating her lunch every day this week.                                                                             | 5EB              | Ruby          | For trying her best in lessons.                                              |
|                  | Chester  | For making good choices this week,                                                                                    |                  | Somaya        | For being such a sensible helper in maths lessons.                           |
| 1EG              | Jake     | For always demonstrating his best effort in lessons.                                                                  | 5KH              | Essie-Mae     | For showing great enthusiasm for reading the Little People Big Dreams books. |
|                  | James    | For trying his best in lessons and contributing to class discussions.                                                 |                  | Scarlett      | For beautiful presentation in all subjects.                                  |
| 2COT             | Bailey   | For his fantastic effort in all lessons and producing a beautiful piece of writing in English.                        | 5LC              | Vincent       | For having exceptional manners.                                              |
|                  | Jaspreet | For always joining in during class discussions and working hard.                                                      |                  | Lemuel        | For finishing his first Top 20 book.                                         |
| 2SH              | Jawad    | For super contributions during International Week.                                                                    | 6AMJ             | Eva           | For being so kind to her teachers.                                           |
|                  | Marcus   | For super contributions during International Week.                                                                    |                  | Leona         | For always trying her best in every lesson.                                  |
| 2SF              | Leo      | For working hard in Topic.                                                                                            | 6KL              | Kareena       | For having a positive attitude in lessons.                                   |
|                  | Billy    | For being polite and helpful.                                                                                         |                  | Noel          | For displaying exemplary behaviour, manners and attitude at all times.       |
| 3EH              | Hollie   | For her wonderful effort and hard work in Maths.                                                                      | 6ZB              | Alvin         | For trying so hard with absolutely everything and having excellent manners.  |
|                  | Callum   | For his fabulous artwork produced as part of our work celebrating Black History Month.                                |                  | Megan         | For an excellent piece of artwork inspired by Basquiat.                      |
| 3EL              | Amaya    | For her stunning artwork influenced by Lois Mailou Jones.                                                             |                  |               |                                                                              |
|                  | Amalia   | For her beautiful portrait of Barack Obama and her thoughtful participation in discussions about Black History Month. |                  |               |                                                                              |



# Pregnant? Children under four?

Don't miss out on **HEALTHY START**  
food and vitamin vouchers worth  
**over £900 per child\***

**FREE**  
fruit, veg, milk  
and vitamins for  
you and your family.  
Worth up to  
**£8.50**  
per week\*\*

You may qualify for Healthy Start vouchers if you're **at least 10 weeks pregnant** or have **a child under four years old**. Your family must also receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (with a family income of £16,190 or less per year)
- Universal Credit (with a family take-home pay of £408 or less per month).

You also qualify if you are under 18 and pregnant, even if you don't get any of the above benefits.



Sign up today [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)  
or telephone **0345 607 6823**

## Healthy Start

Give your family a Healthy Start

\* If you sign up at the first opportunity, when you are ten weeks pregnant

\*\* If your child is under one, you'll receive two £4.25 vouchers per week.

If your child is 1-4 years old, you will receive one £4.25 voucher per week.





# SEND BRIEFING PARENT WEBINAR

November 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.

## Supporting Autistic Children with Mental Health Issues

**Speaker**  
**Aaron Yorke**  
**(Communication & Autism Team)**

Aaron Yorke is a specialist teacher, and a proud parent of two autistic children. In this webinar Aaron will discuss autism and mental health issues, and how you can support children and young people using acceptance based approaches.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - 1.00pm – 2.30pm**  
**Supporting Autistic Children with Mental Health Issues**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-supporting-autistic-children-with-mental-health-issues-8th-november-1pm/>

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - 10.00am – 11.30am**  
**Supporting Autistic Children with Mental Health Issues**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-supporting-autistic-children-with-mental-health-issues-11th-november-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 2021



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## Sensory Smart

### Speakers

**Ellie Steer & Sarah Gallagher**  
(SEND Occupational Therapists)

This family webinar will look at understanding sensory processing and the 8 sensory systems. We will discuss strategies you can try at home to support your child to build positive sensory experiences.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - 9.30am – 10.30am**  
**Sensory Smart for Primary age Children**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/sensory-smart-for-primary-age-children-10th-november-9-30am/>

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - 1.30pm – 2.30pm**  
**Sensory Smart for Secondary age Children**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/sensory-smart-for-secondary-age-children-11th-november-130pm/>

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 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.

## Talking about Women and Girls on the Autistic Spectrum

Speaker

**Anne Seymour**

**Communication & Autism Team**

A short presentation to include information about some of the challenges faced by women and girls who are on the autistic spectrum and some of the strengths that they have. There will be an opportunity to ask some questions.

**Tuesday 23rd November 2021 - 10.00am – 11.00am**

**Talking about Women and Girls on the Autistic Spectrum**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/talking-about-women-and-girls-on-the-autistic-spectrum-23rd-november-10am/>

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - 1.30pm – 2.30pm**

**Talking about Women and Girls on the Autistic Spectrum**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/talking-about-women-and-girls-on-the-autistic-spectrum-25th-november-130pm/>

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





## CAT Parent Awareness Course East and Central Locality

**We would like to invite you to a CAT PAC course, our parent awareness course designed to support you following your child receiving a diagnosis of autism.**

- The course has been designed for parents who want to increase their understanding of autism and is open to all those whose children have a diagnosis of autism.
- The sessions will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams at the following times:
  - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November between 9.30 and 11.30
  - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November between 9.30 and 11.30
  - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November between 9.30 and 11.30
  - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November between 9.30 and 11.30
  - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December between 9.30 and 11.30
  - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December between 9.30 and 11.30

The sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams. You will need to provide an email address and an invitation will be sent via email to access the sessions. When you book, please provide your child/young person's name, school and CAT worker, if known.

The following information will need to be provided to gain a place:

- Child/young person's name and school
- Your name and email address
- Your child/young person's CAT worker (if known)

The subject or title of your email needs to state that it is for a CAT PAC for East and Central

Due to limited places the course will be offered to the first fifteen families to contact us. **There is an expectation that parents endeavour to attend all sessions if possible.**

Please email [A2EGeneral@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:A2EGeneral@birmingham.gov.uk) to reserve a place. You will receive an email response to confirm your place or to tell you that the course is full.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Tatem and Michelle Williams Communication and Autism Team



**Birmingham**  
City Council