

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

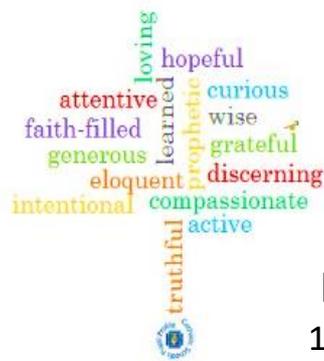
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Newsletter 11
16th February 2022

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

Sunday's Gospel

The Gospel of St Luke will be shared with us at mass on Sunday this week.

Luke 6: 27 - 38

Jesus said to His disciples: "I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He Himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

"Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back."

A reflection on Sunday's Gospel for our children and parents



Jesus teaches his disciples to be merciful as God is merciful.

Kindness, generosity, empathy, and compassion are traits we want to develop in our young children. Teaching them to treat others as they want to be treated supports them in developing these traits.

Let's think for a moment about how we want people to treat us. If your friend had a great new toy or game, would you want him or her to let you play with it? (Yes). If you made a bad choice at home and said sorry, what would you want your parents to say and do? They would say to you, "I forgive you," or "give me a hug." So in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches us how we are to treat others.

Jesus calls us to treat others in the way we want to be treated. This is the Golden Rule and really important in our homes and school. When people do things to us that we think are unfair or mean, we often want to "get back" at them. But in this gospel, Jesus offers a different option. He invites us to follow him. And when we choose to follow him, we learn from him how to receive God's love, healing, and mercy. The more love, healing, and mercy we receive, the more of it we have to share with others – even those who are being unfair or mean to us. It can be difficult to do but if we show that example of love and forgiveness to others, it can spread and make our homes and school more peaceful and harmonious places to be.

Diary Dates

Please note dates may be subject to change at short notice depending on the current COVID situation.

Monday 21st-Friday 25th

February

HALF TERM

Monday 28th February

INSET DAY

Tuesday 1st March

Feast of St David (6AMJ & all to wear Red 50p)

Wednesday 2nd March

KS2 to attend Ash Wednesday Service at HFC
Ash Wednesday Service for KS1 (pm)

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day
Children to dress as book character

Wednesday 9th March

9:00am – Year 3 Mass (School)

Thursday 10th March

1:00pm – Year 4 Confessions

Half Term Break

School will close for half term today, Friday 18th February and the children will return to school on Tuesday 1st March. Monday 28th February is an in-service training for staff and is closed to all pupils



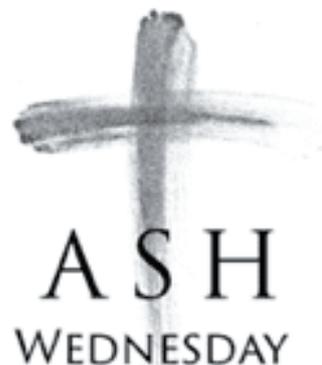
LENT

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians think of the forty days of Lent as an opportunity to change their daily lives and become closer to God. It begins on Ash Wednesday (2nd March), which for Catholics, includes a symbolic drawing of a cross with ashes on the forehead. The Ashes are meant to remind everyone of human mortality (i.e. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust"). Lent lasts for forty days because it reflects how long Jesus wandered in the desert, fasting while he resisted Satan's temptations. We, as Catholics, have an opportunity during this time to be like Jesus. We too can resist temptation and use this time to become closer to God. Lent isn't simply a "countdown" or something to "get through" - it's a chance to set aside distractions and focus on your relationship with the Lord.



One Way System

Parents please note that the one-way system is still in operation around the school grounds. You should enter either via the Nursery entrance or down the side of the school off Hob Moor Road (by the bridge) and exit **either through the Nursery playground or through the main gates at the top of the KS2 playground by Rowan House.**



Lent begins this Year on 2nd March. To mark this event children in KS2 will attend Holy Family Church for Mass at 10.30am and receive Ashes. Children in Reception and KS1 will have a Lenten Service in School.

Change of School Meal

If you are planning on your child changing their school meal from packed lunches to school dinners or vice-versa please ensure that you let the office know before half term so that the necessary, changes can be actioned. Thank you.



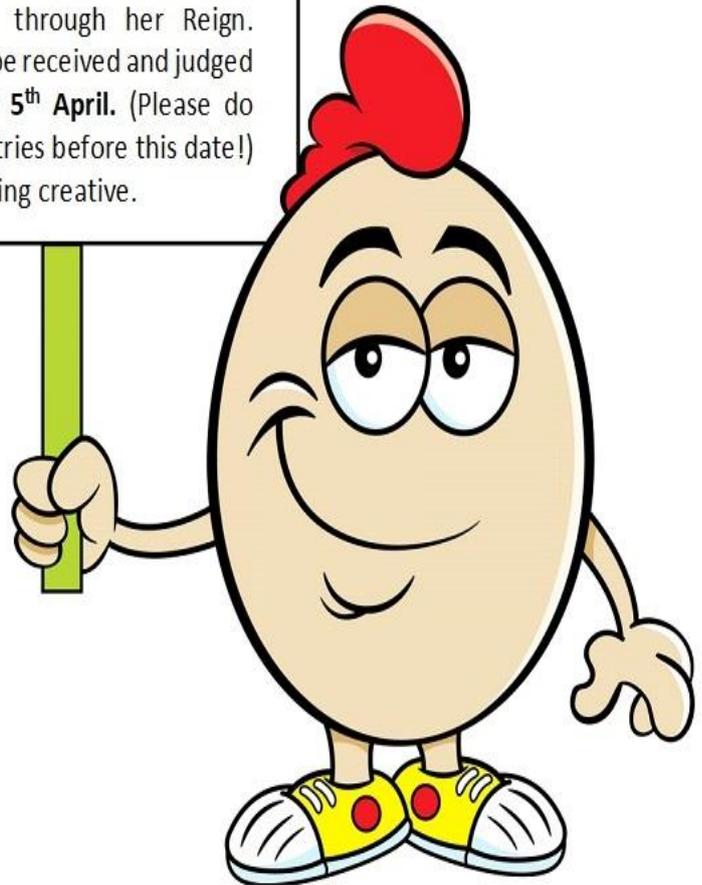
School Closures Due to Snow/Bad Weather

If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that the school needs to close, please listen to the local radio station.

The school texting service, school website and school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am then assume that the school will be open as normal. If there is a blanket closure by Birmingham City Council, then we will close. Please note: school will do a risk assessment of the site when making the decision. It is up to you as parents to risk assess your journey to school to ensure the children arrive safely.

Decorate an Egg Competition

Children in **Year 1-6** are invited to decorate a hard-boiled egg on the theme of **The Queens Jubilee** – The Queen through her Reign. Entries will be received and judged on **Tuesday 5th April**. (Please do not send entries before this date!) Have fun being creative.



Water Bottles

We encourage the children to bring their water bottles into school each day so they can take drinks when needed and there are a number of water dispensers around school, from which they can fill them up throughout the day. However, we have noticed a number of children bringing in bottles filled with juice rather than water. Please ensure that they have water in their bottles or bring it in empty so it can be filled in school.

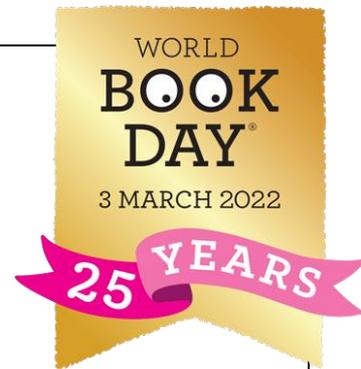
School Uniform

This half term, there have been an increasing number of children coming into school not dressed in their full uniform. There have been many missing ties and a number of children wearing trainers. There have also been a lot of missing PE kits. In addition, in September we introduced trousers for girls into our uniform policy and made it very clear that these should be smart, grey, straight-leg school trousers. There have been a number of girls wearing tight-fitted, legging style trousers and also wearing black trousers which are not acceptable.

Please ensure that when we return after half term, the children are ready to come back to school wearing the correct St Bernadette's uniform. A separate letter will follow including a full uniform list for you to refer to.

World Book Day

On Thursday March 3rd, we are delighted to be able to celebrate World Book Day in school. Each class will be involved in a whole range of book related activities and all children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character - we are very excited to see which characters we will have in school that day! In addition to this each child will receive a voucher to exchange for World Book Day books which are available at all participating book shops and supermarkets.



On the website link below, you can view the new line-up of £1 books for 2022 that children can choose for free with their £1 book token. With books for beginning, early, fluent and independent readers, there is something for everyone. These will be available from booksellers from 17th February 2022.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/2021/09/world-book-day-2022-announcements/>

It is a particularly special celebration this year as it is the 25th anniversary of World Book Day and to celebrate reading for pleasure on that day and all-year round, we are holding a book swap in KS2 so children have the chance to donate a book they're finished with and return with an exciting, new book to read! Please send in any books you are finished with by Wednesday 1st March. Thank you.

Attendance

It is essential that children attend school regularly each day as poor attendance has a serious and long lasting impact on your child's development and education. We have been given no further updates at present about isolating due to Covid-19 but the numbers of children testing positive have reduced significantly in school over the past couple of weeks. Therefore, we would expect that children will not be absent as a result of Covid-19 after the half term break.

Last week's attendance figures can be seen below. Well done RPD for the best attendance in Foundation Stage. Also a big well done 1OB & 2SF for the best attendance in KS1 and to 3TK to for the best attendance in KS2 and in the school.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
86%	RSD 94%	1OB 95%	2SF 95%	3EH 93%	4CB 95%	5EB 95%	6KL 93%
	RND 92%	IEG 94%	2SH 91%	3TK 97%	4CM 94%	5KH 93%	6AMJ 94%
	RPD 95%		2COT 93%	3EL 94%	4RW 93%	5LC 95%	6ZB 94%

FSM Vouchers

Parents please note that you have until 7th March to redeem your FSM vouchers which were distributed at Christmas time. After this time, they will not be valid.



Children's Mental Health Week

At St Bernadette's, we always encourage our pupils to talk about their feelings and worries and not be afraid to share those with their peers or staff in school. Last week was Children's Mental Health Week and so we held some sessions in school during which we focused on encouraging the children to share what makes them happy or worried, as well as considering their dreams and goals and how they might achieve these. They participated in a number of mindfulness activities, including meditation and circle time to create a calm environment in which they could think and talk about their feelings. In the current climate and as we begin to come out of the pandemic which was such a difficult time for everyone and particularly hard on our children, it is vital that we continue to encourage them to be open and reflective about how they are feeling and give them the opportunities to share this with others.



Earth Ambassadors

Things are happening in the Nursery garden! Miss Corkery and her Earth Ambassador after school club are ready to rejuvenate the area. Everyone is welcome to play a part. We have had top soil delivered and this week we used it to top up the raised beds. One of these beds we will use for Charlotte potatoes, which will be ready to plant after the first frost. When they grow, we hope that they can be used in the school kitchen to provide a yummy side dish.

Also every year band in school is going to be given a planter to mind in the growing season. Miss Corkery will label them up and children will be given the job of keeping the plants healthy. It is suggested we will grow flowers that increase the number of pollinators in our area.

We hope you enjoy seeing what grows and that the children take pride in improving their environment.

Miss Corkery



"During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference."

—Pope Francis

Reading in School and at Home

A big well done to those children who have read at home a minimum of three nights per week and received a gold star each week this half term. They have been allowed to come to school in their own clothes today. Those who manage to get their communication diaries stamped ten times this term, will be entered into the prize draw before the Easter Holidays.

We place a huge emphasis in reading in school and in addition to this, it is imperative that the children are reading regularly (preferably daily) at home. The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. Reading with children can help to create a love of reading for life. Multiple studies have found a correlation between reading for pleasure and higher academic achievement in every subject, not just English.

Based on extensive research from numerous literacy organisations, here are the top 10 benefits of reading with children at home:

- Their vocabulary is larger and more extensive.
- They perform better academically.
- Their imagination can run wild.
- Their creativity skills develop.
- They develop empathy.
- They gain a deeper understanding of their world.
- Their concentration levels improve.
- The parent and child bond improves.
- Their cognitive development is supported.
- Their social skills and interaction improve.

Please encourage your child to spend 15 minutes every night reading and ask them about their book. A huge thank you to those of you who are managing to do this!



Football Results

Well done to the Year 6 football team who had a great nights football at the Rosary School on Monday. All children (both sides) showed excellent sportsmanship and determination. St Bernadette's scored a late equaliser and the game ended 2-2. A fair result and thank you to all of the parents who attended despite the rain.



NSPCC Number Day 2022

On Friday 4th February, we took part in NSPCC's Number Day. Thank you so much to everyone who got involved with Number Day. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and taking part in maths activities! We will let you know the total amount raised for NSPCC in the next newsletter. The money we raised will help NSPCC run its Speak out Stay safe programme to help children understand what abuse is and what to do if they're scared or worried.



Number
Day 2022



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)	Phoebe-Grace	Super phonics work!	Nursery (Red)	I'zaana	For always having such a beautiful smile!
Nursery (Green)	Fatima-Dua	For having lovely manners and trying hard in nursery!	Nursery (Yellow)	Adhithya	For making fantastic progress!
Nursery (Orange)	Lexie-Rae	For being a lovely friend.	3TK	Atif	For his wonderful behaviour and manners at all times.
				Samantha	For always being a wonderful role model for her classmates.
RND	Jiyon	For always being sensible.	4CB	Amara	For being a great role model to her class mates.
	Flynn	For making better choices recently. Well done!		Cohen	For having lovely manners.
RPD	Freddie	For always saying please and thank you!	4CM	Ashar Sohail	For always giving 100% to his lessons.
	Jake	For trying his best when working with Miss. Morgan.		Renihya	For having beautiful manners.
RSD	Peniel	Reading set 2 sounds beautifully.	4RW	Ava-Kay	For always being polite and respectful.
	Betty-Rae	For trying hard with her reading at home.		Carlos	For always brightening my morning with his jokes.
1EG	Arissa	For exemplary behaviour during Mass practise.	5EB	Anniyah	For being an enthusiastic member of the morning reading club.
	Ava-Mae	For consistently trying her best with Mass responses.		Kaiden	For being an enthusiastic member of the morning reading club.
1OB	Jaspreet	For her excellent RE work!	5KH	Tilly-Bleu	For being a great reading role model for her peers.
	Alan	For always listening beautifully during lessons.		Tia	For working hard in maths.
2COT	Gurnoor	Excellent Maths work.	5LC	Megan	For working really hard in maths.
	Connor	Excellent Maths work.		Cassie-Jo	For trying hard with her reading.
2SF	Kieran Jai	For always trying his best and being a good role model to his peers.	6AMJ	Joshua	Being a perfect role model whilst representing the school's football team.
	Hennessey	For excellent writing in English lessons.		Deven	Being a perfect role model whilst representing the school's football team.
2SH	Clay	For trying extremely hard in his reading in English lessons.	6KL	Sehr	Excellent effort in Maths over the last few weeks.
	Charlotte	For always being a polite, helpful member of the class.		Alisan	For trying so hard in every lesson every day.
3EH	Sonny	For his excellent behaviour and attitude to his learning.	6ZB	Megan	For excellent effort in our gymnastics lessons.
	Maria-Eleni	For always giving of her best and being an excellent role model to her peers.		Logan-Jay	For trying so hard in English this half term.
3EL	Charlie	For always offering support to her peers in Maths and Computing.			
	Kaiden	For his creative 'tornado' dance movement.			



CAT Parent Awareness Course

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 3rd March between 9.30 and 11.30
 - Thursday 10th March between 9.30 and 11.30
 - Thursday 17th March between 9.30 and 11.30
 - Thursday 24th March between 9.30 and 11.30
 - Thursday 31st March between 9.30 and 11.30
 - Thursday 7th April 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 Primary 2.

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 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,

Viv Walters and Julie Watchorn-Brennan Communication and Autism Team



Birmingham
City Council