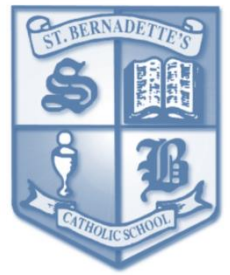


St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Hob Moor Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8QL
Telephone: 0121-783-7232
Website stberns.co.uk
BlueSky: [@stbernsprimary.bsky.social](https://bsky.social)
e-mail: enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk



Newsletter 14
4 April 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.

The Easter Break

Please remember that school will close at 2pm on Friday 11th April for two weeks and will reopen to all children on Monday 28th April. Following the Easter break, the children will be able to wear their Summer uniform for school.

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Then everyone went home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early the next morning he went back to the Temple. All the people gathered round him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught committing adultery, and they made her stand before them all. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. In our Law Moses commanded that such a woman must be stoned to death. Now, what do you say?" They said this to trap Jesus, so that they could accuse him. But he bent over and wrote on the ground with his finger.

As they stood there asking him questions, he straightened himself up and said to them, "Whichever one of you has committed no sin may throw the first stone at her." Then he bent over again and wrote on the ground. When they heard this, they all left, one by one, the older ones first. Jesus was left alone, with the woman still standing there. He straightened himself up and said to her, "Where are they? Is there no one left to condemn you?"

"No one, sir," she answered.

"Well, then," Jesus said, "I do not condemn you either. Go, but do not sin again."



Gospel Reflect

Arianna, Lily and Jaxon have written this wonderful reflection on our Gospel reading this Sunday.

We think that this Gospel reading teaches us that you must not condemn others for sinning or not forgive them whilst you, yourself has sinned. There is not one of us who has not sinned, so you cannot shame or discriminate someone else for doing something wrong.

Happy Easter

Easter is a time to rejoice, be thankful, be assured that all is forgiven, so life extends beyond the soil of the earth. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Governors, staff and children of St Bernadette's to wish all our families a happy and Holy Easter. Wishing you all the love and happiness that only Easter can bring. Have a joyous celebration with your family.



Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for:

The mother of Mason and Killean (Y1 and Reception)

Please remember Mrs Heeley and her family in your prayers, whose daughter Sophie passed away last weekend after a very brief illness. The family are heartbroken at the loss of such a brave and incredibly loving and caring daughter, sister and auntie.



**Eternal rest, grant unto Sophie, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.
Amen.**

Reminder – School closure

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils on **Monday 5 May** due to the Bank Holiday also on **Tuesday 6 May** for staff training.

Nursery Closure – Friday 4th July

All Nursery parents have been notified that our Nursery will be closed to all current nursery children on Friday 4th July. This will allow the nursery staff to meet with their new children and parents on this day, before the children are fully inducted into the Nursery in September. Parents of children in our current Nursery will need to make alternative child care arrangements on this day.

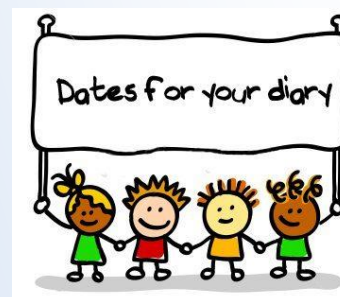
Nursery Provision September 2025

Do you have a child who was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022? Your child would be ready for our Nursery and we still have spaces available. We offer full time provision and the children would begin in September. If you would like your child to be considered for a place, please complete an application form which can be collected from the school office.

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 3031888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker. The safeguarding leads in school are Mr Carroll, Miss Finnegan and Miss Cowings and they will be happy to support any parents in this process should they be required.

Diary Dates



Monday 7th April

Nursery behaviour assembly 9.00am

Year 1 behaviour assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 8th April

Reception behaviour assembly 9.00

Year 2 behaviour assembly 2.30pm

Wednesday 9th April

Whole school mass 9.30am

Thursday 10th April

Easter Bonnet parade for Early Years and

Easter egg competition for KS2.

Friday 11th April

Feast of St Bernadette celebration day

Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April school closed for Easter break

Monday 28th April School reopens to children

Holy Week Mass Times at Holy Family Church during the Easter holidays – see **page 5** of the newsletter.

Monday 28 April

Year 5 Charity

Feast of St George – Children can wear Red and White

Tuesday 29 April

St Catherine of Sienna (2EO) Own Clothes

World Earth Day

MAY 2025

Thursday 1 May

2.30 pm – Year 3 Behaviour Assembly

Friday 2 May

1.15 pm – Year 4 Behaviour Assembly

Monday 5 May

May Bank Holiday

Tuesday 6 May

INSET Day – School closed

Key Dates to Remember This Academic Year

Week commencing 12th May – Year 6 SATs all week.

Week commencing 9th June – Phonics Testing in Year 1 and Year 2

Week commencing 19th June and 2nd June – Year 2 SATs all week

Children in the above year bands must attend school during these weeks as tests cannot be administered outside of these dates.

KSI and KS2 SATs

Although schools are no longer obliged to deliver KSI national assessments, we will continue to do so, but have chosen to administer these during the week of 19th May and the week of 2nd June. The children in Year 2 will be required to complete assessments in reading, maths and grammar and results will be reported to parents at the end of the summer term. The children in Year 6 will be required to complete national curriculum assessments during the week commencing 12th May. The children will complete tests in reading, maths, grammar, punctuation and spelling and the results of these tests will be included in their end of year reports. All children must attend school during this week, no authorised absences will be granted for children during this week. Children are working hard to prepare for these tests and parents must ensure that they support their children with any homework that has been assigned.

McNally Award



Each year, one child is chosen from each year band that has demonstrated exceptional manners, kindness and care for others every day. These children are an example to the rest of the school and are awarded the McNally award, named after our longstanding previous Headteacher Mr John McNally.

We are so proud of them.

Amaira – Nursery

Darcie Rae – Reception

Elsie Rae – Year 1

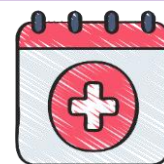
Aairah – Year 2

Mehammed – Year 3

Amelia – Year 4

Inayah – Year 5

Josie – Year 6



Medical Appointments

Please book medical appointments outside of school hours where possible. If this is not possible, please can you provide the office with evidence of the appointment so that the absence can be recorded as 'M' (medical) and can be taken into consideration when looking at attendance. We will accept evidence in the form of text message, letter, appointment card/slip, prescription, or email.

School Meals

The price for a school meal has increased by 5p so from the week commencing 28 April 2025 – school meal prices are as follows:-

KS2 – £2.65 PER DAY – £13.25 PER WEEK

NURSERY – £2.35 PER DAY – £11.75 PER WEEK



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

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

This payment will help to subsidise the cost of some of the activities that take place throughout the school year to enhance the curriculum ie workshops and theme days, and ensure our children continue to have the broadest possible experiences in school.

Thank you for your continued

Spotlight - Mika Song



Hello, my name is Mika Song. Ever since I could turn a page, I have loved graphic novels. That's because they combine my two favourite things - words and pictures, into something so powerful I sometimes wonder how it can be contained in a book! Graphic novels have taught me all kinds of things. They have made me laugh, cry and care.

They even made me want to tell my own stories. I hope graphic novels will empower you!



Recently released book recommendations



Max and Chaffy series
Jamie Smart

KS1 Graphic Novel

This is a delightful young graphic novel. Lots of thought has gone into making it as appealing as possible to children who've just started school and readers are encouraged to join in. The short text, mostly in speech bubbles, is perfectly pitched at beginner readers, and the font is very plain, with infant 'a's. The artwork is bright and full of energy.



Bird & Squirrel series
James Burks

KS1 Graphic Novel

Squirrel is afraid of his own shadow. Bird doesn't have a care in the world. And Cat wants to eat Bird and Squirrel. Join this trio as they head south for the winter in a hilarious road trip. A fun, funny, gender-neutral story focusing on themes of friendship. The animal-centric story will have wide appeal. Perfect for 6+.



Unico
Samuel Sattin

KS2 Graphic Novel

A dynamic reimagining of Osamu Tezuka's classic UNICO manga for a new generation of readers. With striking full-colour artwork and reading left to right in the Western comics style to match the original manga, Unico is a brilliant manga series featuring storytelling at its best.



Unicorn Boy series
Dave Roman

KS2 Graphic Novel

Unicorn Boy is the first in a colourful, hilarious and heart-warming graphic novel series about a shy kid who unwillingly sprouts a unicorn horn and uses his newfound magical powers to help those in need!



Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

Congratulations to these children who have recently achieved their Gold Stars which means they know and can quickly recall all of their times-tables up to 12 x 12

Erin	Y4
------	----

Well done to our amazing mathematicians in Year 2 Gleaming Gold badges this week in Year 2.

Congratulations go to

Reylin	Y2
Ibrahim	Y2
Mikaeel	Y2
Aseed	Y2
Zayaan	Y2

for completing 32 maths quizzes this year and achieving their Gleaming Gold. We are incredibly proud of the children.



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.

Sensory Circuits

We are excited to invite you to a special session with our Occupational Therapist, where you can learn more about **sensory circuits** and how they can support your child's learning and development.

Date: Wednesday 9th April

Time: 9-10am

Sensory circuits are short, structured activities designed to help children regulate their energy levels and improve focus, coordination, and emotional wellbeing. They can be especially beneficial for children who find it difficult to settle into learning or stay focused throughout the day.

During the session, you will:

- ✓ Learn what sensory circuits are and how they work
- ✓ See examples of activities used in sensory circuits
- ✓ Discover how these activities can help improve attention, motor skills, and emotional regulation

There will also be time afterwards for you to speak with our Occupational Therapist about any specific questions or concerns you may have regarding your child's needs. Occupational Therapists can provide support with:

- Fine and gross motor skills (e.g., handwriting, cutting, balance)
- Sensory processing issues (e.g., sensitivity to noise or touch)
- Self-care skills (e.g., dressing, using cutlery)
- Emotional regulation and managing transitions

We hope you can join us for this valuable session. Please let us know on Parent Pay if you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

SPORTS NEWS

Last week, our KS2 pupils had an exciting opportunity to take part in a Multiskills Festival, where they tried their hand at a range of sports, including Boccia, Basketball, Archery, and Volleyball. The event was led by students from BMet Sport. Our pupils showed great enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination throughout the event and were a real credit to our school. It was wonderful to see them developing new skills, building confidence, and most importantly, having fun! A big thank you to BMet Sport for their support and providing our children with such an enjoyable experience.



Year 5 & 6 Football

Last Friday, our Year 5 & 6 football team competed in the Birmingham City FC Vertu Primary Cup at West Hills. They played five matches, winning two and narrowly losing three by a single goal.

The boys showed fantastic teamwork and determination. Ayaan was chosen as our Star Player by Miss Baker for his outstanding performances and excellent goals. Well done to all!



Easter

Palm Sunday falls on Sunday 13th April and marks the beginning of Holy Week. We remember Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem knowing that soon he would lay down his life for our sins. The crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches in the air and shouting "Hosanna to the son of David."



HOLY WEEK

The week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Holy Week, is the most sacred time of the church's year. During this time we enter into the passion of Christ, remembering his crucifixion, death and resurrection. Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are meant as preparation for the three days of the Triduum.

The evening mass on Holy Thursday begins the sacred Triduum. On this night we remember the Last Supper and celebrate the institution of the Eucharist.

Good Friday is a sombre day when we remember Jesus' crucifixion and death on the cross. This is a time when we examine our lives and consider the times when we have failed to follow Christ and fallen into sin.

Easter Saturday is the day between the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection. The Paschal candle is lit at the Easter vigil and remains in the church throughout the year as a sign of Christ's death and resurrection.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the risen Lord at mass with the singing of the Gloria and the alleluias. We renew our baptismal vows at this time.

As we are not in school during Holy Week, we would encourage parents to take their children to church during the week. The following events will take place at Holy Family Church.

Palm Sunday 13 th April 10.30am – Parish Mass	Monday 14 th April 10.30am – Parish Mass	Tuesday 15 th April 10.30am – Parish Mass	Wednesday 16 th April 10.30am – Parish Mass
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Maundy Thursday
17th April
7.00pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper.
8.30pm – 10.30pm (Vigil in the Chapel of Repose)



Holy Saturday
19th April
9.00am – Morning Prayer
8.00pm – Easter Vigil Mass



Good Friday
18th April
9.00am – Morning Prayer
3.00pm – Veneration of the Cross.
6.00pm – Stations of the Cross



Easter Sunday
20th April
10.00am – Easter Sunday Mass



St George

Wednesday 23rd April is the Feast day of the Patron saint of England and also Y2SH Class saint.

All children are to wear white or red to celebrate on Monday 28 April. Please donate 50p.

Born : c. 275/280

Died : 23rd April, 303.

Patron Saint of England

Feast day: April 23rd

St. George was raised a Christian and always wanted to be a soldier. When he was old enough, he joined the army. The man in charge of the army, Diocletian, hated Christians and had many put to death. Diocletian decided that everyone in his army must worship him and the Roman gods instead. George refused even though the army officials begged him to deny the one, true God. Knowing that he would soon be arrested and executed, George gave all his money away to the poor and prepared himself for death. He was cruelly tortured and then beheaded on April 23, 303.

He is most famous for the legend of St George and the Dragon. In a city called Silene lived a dragon who breathed fire. The dragon poisoned all the countryside. To please the dragon, the people of Silene gave it a sheep every day, for food, and when there were no more sheep, they gave their children to the dragon. The children were chosen by a lottery. One year the lottery chose the King's daughter. The King, sad and desperate, asked the people to take all his gold and silver, and half of his empire - but only if his daughter could be saved. The people refused. The daughter was sent out to the lake, dressed in white as a bride, to be a fine meal for the dragon.

Not knowing this, Saint George was riding past the lake on the same day. The princess, terrified and trembling, tried to send him away, but George said he would stay and protect her.

The dragon came suddenly out of the lake while they were speaking. Saint George made the Sign of the Cross, jumped on his horse and advanced toward the dragon. He used his long spear to hurt the dragon badly. Then he asked the princess to throw her long belt to him. He put the silk belt around the dragon's neck and the dragon followed the girl.

The Princess and Saint George took the dragon back to the city of Silene, where the people were terrified to see the dragon enter. But Saint George told them not to be scared. He said that if the people became Christians and went to Church to be baptized, he would kill the dragon immediately.

The king and the people of Silene converted to Christianity, George killed the dragon with his sword, 'Ascalon', and its body was taken out of the city on carts. Fifteen thousand men were baptized, not counting women and children. On the site where the dragon died, the king built a Church for the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint George.

On St George's day some people in England wear a red rose, or put an English flag in their window. The flag of England is white with a red cross. The design of the flag is often called 'The Saint George Cross'.

Attendance

Every minute counts





Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 days of education are missed.
- A score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year.

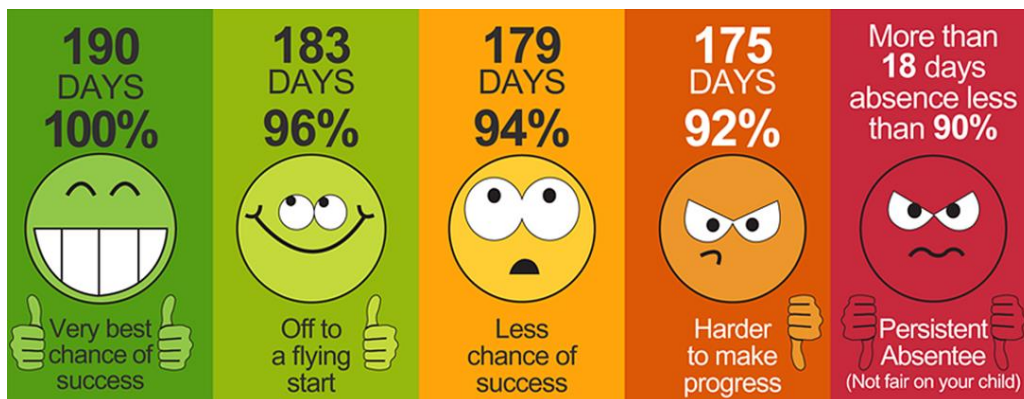
Attendance figures can be seen below. Congratulations to ICOT, 2SH and 3CK for the best attendance in KSI and KS2! Also a big well done RLC for the best attendance in the Foundation Stage!

Attendance update

We continue to track attendance every week and work hard to ensure every child in school demonstrates good attendance and punctuality. If children are to reach their full potential they need to be in school every day, unless they are too unwell to attend. **We will make home visits from time to time, particularly if we have safeguarding concerns or if a child's attendance is causing a concern.** Even if a parent has called the school to give a reason for their child's absence, a home visit may still occur. We aim to offer both support and challenge where needed, but always have the child's best interest at heart.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
91%	RSJ 91%	ICOT 96% 	2SH 96% 	3DA 93%	4RW 95%	5MF 94%	6CB 95%
	RCB 93%	IML/NL 93%	2EH 94%	3EG 94%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 93%	6LC 95%
	RLC 94% 	IOB 94%	2EOB 95%	3CK 97% 	4KL 96%	5FM 95%	6ZB 94%

Whole School Attendance	94%	Currently, the whole school attendance is 94% which is below the 96% that is expected.
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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)	Jax	For wonderful recall on St Bernadette.	Nursery (Red)	Darcy	For super letter formation during phonics.
Nursery (Green)	Avaya	For always doing her best and being a super example to others in Nursery.	Nursery (Yellow)	Orlagh	For exploring in different areas of nursery.
RCB	Shaylagh	For trying your best when writing sentences independently. Well done!	3EG	Asher	For always trying her best.
	Kyron	For fantastic work in Gymnastics your teachers are very proud of you.		Leo	For putting in lots of effort to his art lessons.
RLC	Joann	For trying hard with her independent writing!	4AMJ	Sumayyah	For her effort and determination in English lessons.
	Nevaeh-Julia	A huge improvement in her handwriting and presentation.		Erin	For her effort in Maths lessons.
RSJ	Abel	For being confident and enthusiastic in Phonics!	4KL	For all of the Y4 children involved in the Holy Week play For learning their lines and having the courage to perform.	
	Theresa-Maria	For her wonderful, independent writing about Minibeasts.			
ICOT	Tiara-Vogue	For always being a super role model.	4RW	Ayah	For always trying her best.
	Adam	For leading our class prayers beautifully.		Alfie	For his significant improvement with his handwriting.
IML/NL	Zebiba	Her enthusiasm during science lessons.	5CG	Olivia	For always trying her best in all curriculum lessons and her gentle nature with others
	Ahsan	For his hard work in Maths!		Amelie	For trying really hard in our small group sessions in Topic.
IOB	Mariah	For always trying her best!	5FM	James	For his great contribution in lessons.
	Ynanna	For being such a good role model to her peers.		Danielle	For trying hard in all her English lessons.
2EH	Jason	For his fantastic answers in RE.	5MF	Aidan	For brilliant contributions during lesson.
	Tehilah	For always being kind to others and her school environment.		O'Laiyah	For a beautiful psalm in RE.
2EOB	Seamus	For trying hard in his RE lessons.	6CB	Maverick	For giving up his evenings and being amazing when helping with parent's evening.
	Keegan	For trying to improve his handwriting.		Teddy	For super effort with his afternoon classwork.
2SH	Isaiah	For amazing reading aloud in class.	6LC	Zoey	For producing wonderfully creative work in her free-writing sessions.
	Jaiden	For fantastic effort in his English lessons this week.		Macey	For giving up her evenings and being amazing when helping with parent's evening.
3CK	Saanvi	For always being a super role model to her peers.	6ZB	Rumaisa	For giving up her evenings and being amazing when helping with parent's evening.
	Tiara-Vogue	For always being a super role model.		Martin	For giving up his evenings and being amazing when helping with parent's evening.
3DA	Tyler	For using his lovely manners always.			
	Alfie	For trying his very best in his RE work.			



BIRMINGHAM FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE



**AT: WASHWOOD HEATH ACADEMY
BURNEY LANE, STECHFORD, BIRMINGHAM, B8 2AS**

STARTING: WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 2025

Wednesdays:	Group 1: School Years Reception & Year 1.....5.00pm-6.00pm
	Group 2: School Years 2 & 3.....6.00pm-7.00pm
	Group 3: School Years 4, 5 & 6.....7.00pm-8.00pm

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last **25 years**, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting in April 2025. The course will run for approximately 12 weeks and the programme is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 12.

About our Course

- The unique practice techniques are specifically designed to work with children of all abilities, ranging from the absolute beginner to the more advanced player.
- The course is run by **F.A qualified coaches**, who are **DBS** checked, and hold an advanced premier skills qualification, they are currently working with children, enabling them to learn essential football techniques, building **CONFIDENCE**, improving **FITNESS** and providing the most important ingredient **FUN!**
- Children will be fully supervised at all times, although parents are welcome to stay and watch.
- Each child will be provided with a football for individual practice and their progress will be recorded each week.
- It is an **indoor** course held in the sports hall, therefore children may wear trainers and sportswear. We may go outdoors during the summer term.
- **Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Fulham player Geoff Horsfield** quotes, "I've coached on these courses with the team and they are fantastic in the way they deliver their coaching sessions!"
- **Ex England World Cup star and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson** quotes, "I have presented trophies to the children on these courses and it's great to see the smiles on their faces and sense of achievement!"

Presentation of trophies and award

- On the final week of the course, we hold a presentation, whereby **EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED TROPHY.**
- Children also have a chance to win many other special individual awards and trophies for various skills, including '**premier league**' and '**penalty shoot out**' competitions.
- Parents and friends are most welcome to attend the presentation and watch the children being presented with their awards, as this encourages a fantastic atmosphere.

The cost of the course is £9 per week; payment is made every 4 weeks, with the first payment of £36 due on week 1. **Please Note: With a high response expected and limited places available, bookings will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis. Mark Frith (course co-ordinator)**

TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT:

**WASHWOOD HEATH + CHILD'S FULL NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3)
and receive confirmation by text to:**

07827 322780

