

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 1

10th September 2021

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

Welcome back!

It was lovely to welcome back all our families, old and new, at the start of the academic year. May I congratulate the children for returning to school looking very smart in their winter uniforms and eager to learn. I would also like to take the opportunity to ask you as parents for your continued support to ensure that your child's attendance and punctuality remains as high as possible this academic year.

Inset Day

School will be closed to all pupils for staff training on Monday 20th September.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Mr Blount who has jet washed the playground areas during the summer break. They look amazing with many of the children commenting on how bright the rainbow seems on the KS2 playground. The staff, governors and children are very grateful to Mr Blount for all his work.

Forgotten Items

It is school policy that if a child forgets to bring an item for school e.g. a lunchbox, PE Kit, swimming kit or homework etc. it will not be accepted by office staff. In the case of a forgotten lunchbox, the child will be provided with a school meal which will be charged to your Parent Pay account.

Lunchboxes

All lunchboxes provided for children should contain a healthy option. Sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Children may bring a small packet of crisps or a chocolate bar only on a Friday as a treat. On all other days the lunch provided should be healthy and nutritious. Please see <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes> for ideas

Reflection

Don't start your day with the broken pieces of yesterday. Every day is a fresh start.
Each day is a new beginning.
Every morning we wake up is the first day of our new life.

Autumn Term 2021	Spring Term 2022	Summer Term 2022
Thursday 2 nd September 2021 To Friday 22 nd October 2021	Monday 10 th January 2022 To Friday 18 th February 2022	Tuesday 26 th April 2022 To Friday 27 th May 2022
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
Tuesday 2 nd November 2021 To Wednesday 22 nd December 2021	Tuesday 1 st March 2022 To Friday 8 th April 2022	Monday 6 th June 2022 To Thursday 21 st July 2022
INSET DAYS		Please note that these dates may be subject to change
Monday 20 th September 2021, Monday 1 st November 2021, Friday 7 th January 2022, Monday 28 th February 2022 and Monday 25 th April 2022 Bank Holiday - Monday 2 nd May 2021		

Secondary Schools Applications

All children in Year 6 are required to complete an online application for Secondary School in September 2021. Details can be found online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Please 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. It is important that you include at least one realistic preference for a school that your child would have met the criteria for in previous years. Please note that some local Catholic schools require you to complete additional information regarding baptismal details. The final date for acceptance of preferences and online applications is 31st October 2021.

Open Evening - John Henry Newman Catholic College

The open evening for John Henry Newman Catholic College takes place on Thursday 16th September and will be a full face to face experience. Please book one of the 3 time slots (5pm, 6pm and 7pm) through this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/john-henry-newman-catholic-college-open-evening-tickets-169813598043>

Welcome Meetings

Welcome Meetings for parents began in school this week with more to follow next week:

Monday 13th September – 9.00am Year 1 Welcome Meeting
Tuesday 14th September – 9.00am Reception Welcome Meeting
Thursday 16th September – 9.00am Nursery Welcome Meeting
Friday 17th September – 9.00am Year 6 Welcome Meeting.

The purpose of these meetings is to inform parents about the academic year ahead and relay important information about your child's learning. If you have missed a meeting or are unable to attend the PowerPoints used in the meetings will be uploaded to the Parents section of the school website:

<https://www.stberns.co.uk/parents>

You may need to scroll down the page to find them.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Unfortunately, due to the rise in number of COVID cases within the community we feel it would be unwise to hold our usual Macmillan Coffee morning in school. This has therefore been cancelled. However, should you wish to make a donation to this very worthy charity then this can be done via ParentPay.

Swimming

Swimming will commence on Monday 13th September at Fox Hollies Leisure centre for children in 3EL and 5KH. Children in these classes should bring a complete swimming kit (including towel) to school so that they can undertake this part of the curriculum. Girls with long hair should have it plaited or tied back. The children will be transported to the swimming baths via coach and the school mini-bus.

Phonics Reading Meeting

There will be a meeting for Reception parents to explain how phonics and reading is taught at St Bernadette's and to help you support your child at home. This meeting will take place in the school hall at 2.00pm on Tuesday 21st September.

Contact Details

Please ensure that the office staff have two emergency contact telephone numbers for your child which are current and up-to-date. If you have changed your contact details over the Summer holidays (address, telephone number, email address) please inform the office via telephone – 0121 783 72132 or email at

enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk

Tuck for children in KS2

Children KS2 may bring a piece of fruit to eat a break time. Children should not be bringing sweets or crisps onto the school site.

Children in KS1 and EYFS will receive a piece of fruit as part of the government 'fruit for schools' scheme.

Asthma and Allergy

If your child suffers with Asthma or a life-threatening allergy it is vital that school are made aware of this and that there is in date medication in school, clearly labelled with your child's name and dosage. Please note the expiry date of any medication sent in to school so that you can always ensure there is valid in-date medication available in the event of an emergency.

Nuts

We have a significant number of children in school who have a serious and life-threatening allergy to nuts. No nut based products are used in school and we would please ask parents to ensure that no nut based products are sent in lunchboxes – this includes Nutella sandwich filling. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Values and Virtues

The values and virtues we are focusing on this half term are: Eloquent and Truthful. Pupils are growing to be eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

What does this mean?

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by developing an eloquent language which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

Punctuality

It is important to be on time for school as the first few minutes of the school day are often used to hear readers or organise schoolwork for the rest of the day. Children must attend on time to be given a present mark for the session. If your child misses this short but vital session, their learning may be affected. Late arrivals are disruptive to the whole class and often embarrassing for your child. Arrival after the close of registration may be marked as unauthorised absence in line with the DfE guidance.

Morning registration is at 8.45am. This is the time your child must be in class. The doors open at 8.30am to allow for a prompt start.

Lateness is classed as any child coming into school between 8.45am and 8.55am. All children arriving after 8.45am must enter through the KS2 doors and after 8.55am report to the office. Lateness after 8.55am is classed as an unauthorised absence (code U as per DfE compulsory attendance codes).

Lateness is continually monitored. Where children have persistent lateness the Attendance Officer will invite the parents into school for a formal meeting. Should the lateness persist thereafter, further action may be taken which may result in the issue of a penalty notice.

Covid update

As the number of positive cases of Coronavirus still remains high within Birmingham we would ask that parents continue to wear face coverings when entering the school site and whilst on the playground. Face coverings will be required for any meetings attended 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.

As a precaution, and to ensure the safety of our community, we would strongly advise that families undertake a twice weekly LFD test to check for Covid so that people who are asymptomatic are not unwittingly spreading the virus. Tests are readily available from local pharmacies or can be order online: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> Remember if your child tests positive they will need to isolate for a period of 10 days from the day after symptoms began or the day after the positive test, whichever is earlier.

Importance of Reading

Of all the subjects taught in school, reading is first among equals – the most singular in importance because all others rely on it. Excellence in almost any academic subject requires strong reading. People who read lots attain more. They also develop: general knowledge; vocabulary; a better attitude to writing; higher overall attainment; emotional awareness; a wider understanding of the world and greater expression through speech and writing.

There is significant correlation between reading ability and GCSE results across all subjects. Children who are weak readers will struggle as much in Maths and Science at GCSE as they do in English and in Arts subjects.

The consequences of illiteracy are immense:

- reduced access to higher education;
- more limited job choices;
- on average, lower income;
- higher risk of permanent exclusion;
- poor health;
- poor housing;
- more likely to have a mental health problem;
- higher risk of imprisonment;
- shorter life expectancy.

Reading Records

- Each child has a reading record, which must be signed at least three times a week.
- Children who have their diary signed at least three times per week will be entered into a termly prize draw.
- Teachers will check diaries weekly.
- If a child does not have their diary in school, they will not be able to receive their reading star for that week. Children must collect at least ten stars to enter the prize draw.

Hearing children read at home

- This should happen for at least fifteen minutes each night.
- Try to make this a special time for you and your child – it should not feel stressful or pressurised for the reader.
- Please focus your attention entirely on your child for this time. Turn off devices and remove other distractions.
- Use strategies such as echo-reading or choral reading to help your child's fluency and expression.
- Even the most confident readers need to be heard reading aloud – encourage older pupils to read a page or two aloud, before then reading independently.

Reporting a Pupil Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school you should report the absence by ringing school before 9.00am on the first morning of all absences stating the reason and saying when your child will return. Parents are expected to maintain contact with the school throughout the absence.

In addition to this, we have also added a form on the school website to enable you to report school absence for your child. This form can now be found using the following link:

<https://www.stberns.co.uk/pupil-absence>. This new method will allow school to have a written record of any absences and hopes to alleviate some of the congestion that occurs on the telephone lines when absences are reported.

Please note: If school does not receive a reason for a child's absence then the absence will be recorded as **unauthorised** and appropriate procedures will be followed in line with the school's attendance policy. Furthermore, if your child is attending a medical appointment during the school day please ensure that you present the appointment letter/ card to the office when signing the child in/out so that the reason can be recorded.

Every Sunday from 5th September 2021



Corpus Christi Children's Liturgy

5th September 2021

As we return from Covid restrictions, we'd like to invite all children to come back to the children's liturgy - there are some exciting new changes!

Little Kids -

{those who haven't yet made their First Holy Communion}

Parents can stay in Mass while Christine and her team take the little ones in to the parish room to listen to the Word of God and learn about Jesus, with prayers, songs and crafts!

Big Kids -

{those who have made their First Holy Communion and are still at primary school}

Stay with your parents and enjoy listening to the Word of God and welcoming Jesus in the Eucharist.

After Mass, join the team in the Lady Chapel for half an hour to discuss the Gospel and learn more about your faith!

Water Bottles

Children in KS2 should have a water bottle in school clearly labelled with their name. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that their child has a water bottle, which is cleaned on a regular basis.

Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter

The monthly Ten:Ten parent Newsletter can now be found on the school website using the following link:

<https://www.stberns.co.uk/ten-ten-parent-newsletter>

Worried about a child?

If you have concerns about the safety and/or welfare of a child or young person then please contact one of the designated Safeguarding Leads in school: Miss Cowings, Mr Lavin, Mr Carroll or Miss Connaire. Alternatively, you can contact Birmingham Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888

Health Days

Over the next couple of weeks the children will be involved in a Health Day where they will have the opportunity to experience different sports and learn about ways to keep their bodies healthy. The children should attend school in their tracksuits and trainers on these days

Tuesday 21st September - Year 4

Wednesday 22nd September - Year 3

Thursday 23rd September - Year 2

Monday 27th September - Year 1

Tuesday 28th September - Reception

Children in Year 5 & 6 will attend the Ackers on the following dates:

Tuesday 21st September - Year 6

Wednesday 22nd September - Year 5

Please ensure the necessary forms for the Ackers have been completed on Parent Pay to ensure your child can attend.

Letter from our new school cook

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to introduce myself as the Schools new Catering Supervisor. My name is Sharon Worth and I have twenty four years' experience in this role.

I am passionate about providing our children with a tasty, healthy school lunch. Almost all of the food we serve is cooked from scratch using fresh locally sourced ingredients. We provide a salad cart with fresh bread daily.

I am developing a new menu for 2022 and have lots of ideas for the coming months which include tasting sessions at parent evenings and regular theme days.

If you would like to contact me about your child's dietary needs, or for any queries about school lunches please email me at sharon.worth@birmingham.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

Sharon Worth

FUN AT THE FAYRE-CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH NEWS

Dear Parents and Staff, exciting news! Corpus Christi Church Summer Fayre is on **SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 11.30 -2.30** in aid of their Church Building Project.

Come and enjoy the Bottle and Children's Tombolas, Cake Sale, Samosas, BBQ and Auction.
Music by our favourite DJ – Roger!

Look out for the GRAND RAFFLE with amazing prizes:

SIGNED MEMORABILIA from football star Jack Grealish

A MANICURE from Jenny Longworth, a top manicurist to stars Jessie J, Rihanna, Harry Styles and others

A PRIVATE GUITAR LESSON from Tom Longworth, Lead Guitarist for Robbie Williams

A £50 NOTE

A CASE OF RED WINE or WHITE WINE

And much more! Don't miss this fun, family event!

Diary Dates

Dates are correct at time of printing but may be subject to change

SEPTEMBER 2021	
Monday 13 th	9:00am - Year 1 Welcome Meeting
Tuesday 14 th	9:00am - Rec Welcome Meeting
Wednesday 15 th	9:00am - Year 6 Mass (school)
Thursday 16 th	9:00am - Nursery Welcome Meeting
Friday 17 th	9:00am - Year 6 Welcome Meeting
Monday 20 th	INSET DAY - Cluster day
Tuesday 21 st	2:00pm - Phonics & Reading Meeting for Rec parents
Friday 24 th	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 29 th	9:00am Year 4 Mass (School)
OCTOBER 2021	
Friday 1 st	Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux (3TK own clothes)
Monday 4 th	Feast of St Francis of Assisi (RND own clothes)
Wednesday 6 th	9:30am Whole School Harvest Mass (Church)
Monday 11 th	Reading Open Week - Rec-Year 6
Monday 18 th	International Week
Friday 22 nd	Feast of St John Paul II (4CB own clothes) Feast of St. Jude (for 28th -5KH own clothes)
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
NOVEMBER 2021	
Monday 1 st	INSET DAY Term Begins (7 weeks 3 days) Year 5 Charity
Wednesday 3 rd	2:15pm – Year 6 Confirmation Meeting
Tuesday 9 th	Parents' Evening (Maths focus)
Wednesday 10 th	10.00am - New Parents Meeting Parents' Evening (Maths focus)
Thursday 11 th	Remembrance Assembly - KS2

Diary Dates

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NOVEMBER 2021	
Friday 12 th	1.30pm Meeting for Year 6 parents regarding FGM & CSE
Monday 15 th	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 17 th	1:30pm - KS2 Mass (Church) 5.00pm - First Holy Communion Meeting (Belonging)
Thursday 18 th	1:00pm – Year 6 Confessions (in preparation for Confirmation)
Friday 19 th	EYFS nursery rhyme craft competition.
Sunday 21 st	10:30am – Year 3 Enrolment Mass (Church)
Monday 22 nd	Stay and play week in Nursery Feast of St.Cecilia
Wednesday 24 th	9:00am – Year 5 Mass (School)
Monday 29 th	Assessment Week Year 1-6 9:00am - Advent Service in school
Tuesday 30 th	St Andrew's Day (50p -all to wear blue or white)
DECEMBER 2021	
Wednesday 1 st	9.00am - RSD Fine motor and Handwriting Workshop
Thursday 2 nd	9.00am - RPD Fine motor and Handwriting Workshop 1:00pm - Yr5 Confessions
Friday 3 rd	9.00am - RND Fine motor and Handwriting Workshop
Monday 6 th	Feast of St Nicholas (1EG own clothes) 1:30pm - Year 1 dress rehearsal
Tuesday 7 th	9:30am - Year 1 play for parents 1:30pm – Year 2 dress rehearsal
Wednesday 8 th	9:30am - Year 2 play for parents
Thursday 9 th	1:00pm – Year 4 confessions
Friday 10 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 13 th	Feast of St Lucy (1OB own clothes) 1:30pm - Reception dress rehearsal

Diary Dates

Dates are correct at time of printing but may be subject to change

DECEMBER 2021	
Tuesday 14 th	9:30am - Reception Play for parents 3.15pm Christmas craft for EYFS
Wednesday 15 th	Children's Christmas Dinner 1:30pm Nursery dress rehearsal 2:00pm Parents' Forum
Thursday 16 th	9:30am - Nursery play for parents 6:00pm - Year 5 & 6 Carol Service at Holy Family Church
Friday 17 th	9:30am - Nursery play for parents
Tuesday 21 st	9:30am - Whole School Mass (Church) Christmas party afternoon
Wednesday 22 nd	Finish for Christmas Toy day 100% attenders own clothes Feast of St. John the Beloved (for 27th 4RW own clothes)
Thursday 23 rd – Thursday 6 th January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY