

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

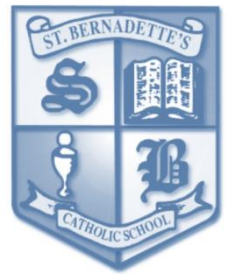
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Newsletter 1
6 September 2024

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.

This week's Gospel is taken from Mark chapter 7

Miraculous Healing

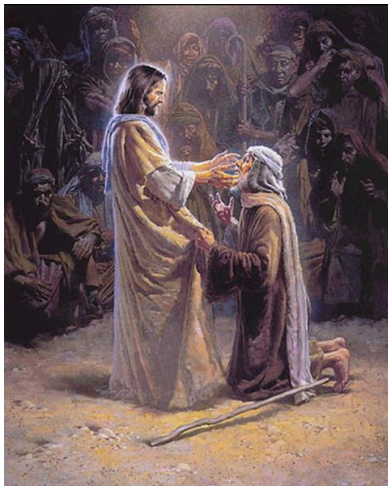
Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis.

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him.

He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" – that is, "Be opened!" – And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it.

They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."



Gospel Reflection

The readings we hear at mass on Sunday highlight God's healing and justice. They remind us of God's care for the needy and the importance of treating everyone equally.

Welcome Back

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school on Monday this week. Most were very excited to be back, though I'm less convinced that the staff felt the same! A huge thanks to all parents as the children were immaculately turned out in their uniforms and looked extremely smart. Please remember that all children should now be wearing their winter uniform, which is a formal shirt and tie and either straight legged trousers or a skirt. We do not allow any children to wear jewellery in school so please ensure all ear-rings are removed if you haven't done so already.

We welcome our new staff to St Bernadette's

We are delighted that Miss O'Brien in Year 2, Miss Adu in Year 3 and Miss Friar in Year 5 have joined our teaching team this academic year. I know you will give them your full support and I have no doubt that their contribution to St Bernadette's will be significant and will benefit many of our children. We also welcome Mrs Khan and Miss Odeta to our team who will be supporting our children in Year 4 and Year 6. There will be an opportunity for parents to meet our new staff at the Welcome meetings that will take place over the next couple of weeks.

Light a candle to offer a prayer

The mother of Safana in Year 1
The mother of Mason in Year 2
Conall in Year 4 and family
Hope and Mrs Harston
Nancy in Year 1
Mrs Begum's family
Nuala in Year 6, Cathal in Year 5 and family



Our Focus for the New Academic Year

This year, our School Improvement Plan will focus on developing our math's provision throughout the school, so children make accelerated progress in this area of the curriculum. We hope that by supplementing our existing resources with some new material, we will be able to offer our children further opportunities to develop their mathematical understanding across the year bands. Our second priority will be working towards the 'School of Sanctuary Award.' As we see more families across the world seeking refuge in other countries, we hope to be able to work with our children and their families to offer support to those families who have been displaced, fostering a sense of community and promoting diversity within the school. As part of this project, we aim to create an awareness with children of why people become refugees, where they come from and how they are different to other migrants. We also aim to create age appropriate awareness amongst children of the roots of prejudice, the impact it has and how they can reduce prejudice and bias. Further details can be found on our school website.



8th September - Our Lady's Birthday

This Sunday we celebrate Our Lady's birthday which falls exactly nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne. In a way we not only celebrate Mary's birth on Sunday but also the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception that made her different from other humans. Mary was designated by God to be born without Original Sin. This is a feast day that is often forgotten, so take some time in your day to give thanks for her love.

Diary Dates for This Academic Year

Attached to this newsletter are the diary dates for this academic year. This lists the dates for our Nativity plays, our consultation meetings, sports' days, open days, sacramental meetings, whole school masses and year band masses. Please keep these dates in your diary as they are unlikely to change. They can also be found on the school website.

Diary Dates



Monday 9th September

Year 2 Welcome meeting for parents 9.00am

Monday 9th September

Photographer in school for class photographs

Tuesday 10th September

Year 1 Welcome meeting for parents 9.00am

Wednesday 11th September

Whole School mass Holy family Church 9.30am

Thursday 12th September

Reception Welcome meeting for parents 9.00am

Thursday 12th September

Year 4 out at ecopark

Friday 13th September

Year 6 Welcome meeting for parents 9.00am

Monday 16th September

Nursery Welcome Meeting 9.00am

Wednesday 18th September

Reception mass 9.00am in school

Friday 20th September

Meeting for parents of children in Year 6
Attending Alton Castle Residential 1.30pm

Monday 23rd September

School closed Staff Training Day

Wednesday 25th September

Inscription Mass 9.00am in school for Year 6

Thursday 26th September

Year 1 out at ecopark

Friday 27th September

Year 2 Stay and Pray 8.50am

Friday 27th September

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2pm in school

Parent Helpers Wanted

Are you available for a few hours each week to support in school? Would you be willing to listen to some of our children read? We have a small team of parent helpers who currently support us in school and we are looking to grow this team of voluntary helpers. If you could give some time to work in school, we would be very grateful. Please call into the office and complete the necessary paperwork as all volunteers will need to complete a DBS check before they commence work.

TERM DATES FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR
September 2024 – July 2025

Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 2 September 2024 To Friday 25 October 2024	Monday 6 January 2025 To Friday 14 February 2025	Monday 28 April 2025 To Friday 23 May 2025
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
Monday 4 November 2024 To Friday 20 December 2024	Monday 24 February 2025 To Friday 11 April 2025	Monday 2 June 2025 To Friday 18 July 2025
INSET DAYS		
Monday 23 September 2024 Friday 25 October 2024 Monday 24 February 2025 Tuesday 6 May 2025 Monday 21 July 2025	Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 2025	<i>Please note that these dates may be subject to change</i>

Alton Castle Residential

A group of children from Year 6 will attend the residential trip to Alton Castle on 7th -9th October. Mr Markham Jones will hold a meeting for parents on Friday 20th September at 1.30pm. Please make every effort to attend this meeting if your child is travelling to Alton Castle.

Welcome Meetings

All parents are strongly encouraged to attend the Welcome Meetings which will be held this term, at 9.00am in school. The dates can be seen above and are specific to year bands. At this meeting you will be informed about the topics that will be covered with your children this academic year and staff will share with you the important dates that are relevant to you and your children. Please make every effort to attend.

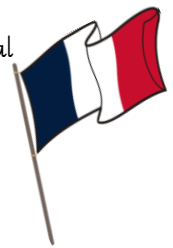


Class photographs September 2024

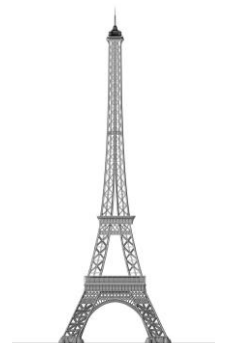
The photographer will be in school on Monday 9th September to take class photographs throughout the school. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase these if they wish. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform on this date.

Year 6 Paris Trip 2025

Each year, Y6 have a wonderful opportunity to take part in a residential trip to France. This trip includes a full day at Disneyland Paris, a trip to the Somme battlefields, a visit to a local market and beach and lots of activities on site. For the trip to run, 35 children or more must travel, less than 35 children will result in the trip not taking place. Currently, numbers are significantly lower than 35.



The total cost for the week is £712 which includes travel, food, insurance, accommodation, excursions and all rides and shows at both Disney parks. If you would like your child to take part in this amazing experience, a non-refundable deposit of £100 is required to secure a place, this is now open on ParentPay and deposits need to be paid by 30th September at the latest. A payment plan for the following months will follow if there is enough interest for the trip to go ahead.



School meals

Please remember that if you wish to move your children from a school meal to a packed lunch this can only be done at the end of a half term break. The school office must be notified of this the week before the half term break. You can either notify us by email on enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk or call into the office and notify the staff there.

End of Day Collection

As we have a number of classes exiting from the KSI door and the Reception doors at the end of the day, the playground area can become quite congested. Please stand back from the doors, as this allows staff to see parents when releasing the children. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Homework Update

Following our parent questionnaire last term, a number of parents stated that they did not agree with their children having to complete homework each week. Many parents stated that accessing the work online was problematic and staff commented that significant numbers of children were not completing the homework set. Therefore, we have decided to revise our homework policy. This academic year, the decision has been made that homework will be set twice weekly for all children. Those children in Reception and Key stage 1 will be expected to learn their number facts using the numbots platform and they will be tested on these weekly in school. Children in KS2 will need to access Times tables Rockstars each week and will be tested on their tables weekly in school. All children will be expected to learn their weekly spellings using Spelling Shed and every child must read every night at home, with parents signing their child's diary after they have read.

In addition to this, the children in Year 5 and Year 6 will have a comprehension task to complete each week and a piece of math's homework. Homework books will be provided for these children. Parents must ensure that their children do complete the homework set as this will help children to retain the information they have learned in school and will also prepare them for secondary school. Thank you for your support in this matter.



School Snacks

In the summer term, children in KS2 were asked not to bring in snacks for school as many children were eating large bags of crisps or chocolate during their break time. The Governing Body agreed to pay for fruit for every child in KS2 as children in both Key stage 1 and Foundation Stage receive a daily piece of fruit from the Government scheme. I am delighted to say that our children in KS2 did eat the fruit provided and as such we will continue to fund this throughout the new academic year. Children therefore, should not bring any other snacks into school. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Developing a Love of Reading

We will continue to promote regular reading both in school and at home this year. Children will read in school every day and we ask that parents listen to their children read every night at home, and document this in their reading record. Those children who read to a parent at least three times weekly and have their diary signed, will receive their Gold Star and will earn their reward at the end of each term. We have a number of authors who will be visiting school throughout the year to inspire our children and we ask that parents take their children to the school library on a regular basis.



Mass for Children and Parents in Reception

We will be celebrating mass in school on Wednesday 18th September at 9.00am and would like to invite our parents of children in the three Reception classes: Rec LC, Rec CB and Rec SJ to this special mass. This will be a lovely opportunity for you to meet our Parish Priest Fr Fretch and to celebrate the mass with your children and their class teachers. Every child in Reception will be given a copy of our School Prayer Book at the end of the mass, which we hope they will treasure for the rest of their lives. If parents are willing to do a reading at mass, please let Mrs Jones know by the end of next week. We look forward to seeing you then.

6CB – Class Saint – St Teresa of Calcutta

The children in 6CB celebrated the feast day of their class saint, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, on Thursday of this week. Catholics and non-Catholics alike celebrate this amazing woman and acknowledge her many accomplishments and good deeds all over the world!

Mother Teresa was born in a city called Skopje, located in Macedonia and her parents called her Agnes. When she was just twelve, she realized God was calling her to become a missionary. She read all the stories she could find about the work of Catholic missionaries around the world and she studied geography to learn about the lands where missionaries worked.

When Agnes was eighteen years old, she joined the Sisters of Loreto who were a community of Irish sisters who did missionary work in India. In India, Agnes took her first vows as a sister. She chose Teresa as her religious name in honour of Saint Teresa of Ávila and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

From the time she first arrived in India until 1948, Mother Teresa was a teacher but the city of Calcutta where she worked, was very large, and many people who lived there were very poor. Day after day, Mother Teresa saw the difficult lives of Calcutta's poor people. She wanted to help these poor people to live better lives.

In 1948 Pope Pius XII and Teresa's order allowed her to devote her life to caring for the homeless people on the streets of Calcutta. Teresa studied nursing so that she would be able to help the sick. She opened a school for Calcutta's poorest children. She stopped wearing the religious habit of the Sisters of Loreto and instead she wore the clothes of a poor Indian woman: a plain cotton sari and sandals.

Mother Teresa said, "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." Today, the Missionaries of Charity—the order of religious sisters that Mother Teresa began in 1950—serve the poorest of the poor in countries around the world, from the streets of India to the streets of New York.

During her long life among the poor, Mother Teresa received many honours. One of these was the Nobel Peace Prize, which she received in 1979. When she died, her adopted country of India gave her a state funeral. In 2003, only six years after her death, Mother Teresa was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II. On September 4, 2016, Mother Teresa was canonized a saint by Pope Francis.

Catholicreadings.org

"Not all of us
can do great things.
But we can do
small things
with great love."

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta



After school clubs this term

We are delighted to be able to offer a great selection of after school clubs again this school year. The clubs will run until 4.15pm and children must be collected promptly from the KS2 doors. We do have some spaces available for some clubs, so please contact the school office if interested.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
KS1 Football KS2 Dodgeball	KS2 Dance J Y3/4 Football	KS2 Gym (Before School) KS1 Gym (after school)	KS1 Dance Y5/6 Football

All clubs will commence the week beginning 9th Sept and run until Last week of Xmas term (the last clubs will be Thursday 19th December.)

Year 6 Secondary Transfer

Parents of children in Year 6 will now be thinking about their child's secondary school for September 2025. This is a difficult time for parents and one which I know causes some parents real anxiety. My advice would be to visit as many schools as possible for their Open Evenings and to carefully consider the individual school's admission criteria before listing them as a choice. We have invited staff in from a number of schools in the area to meet with parents at the Year 6 Welcome meeting which will allow parents to ask questions about a particular school.

In recent years, we have encountered some very disappointed parents as their children have not been allocated a school place at any of their preferred schools. Parents often want their children to go to one of the city's Grammar Schools, but such schools are selective and if children do not score the desired result in their test they will not be offered a place. If your child will be sitting the selective test for entry to grammar schools, we strongly recommend that you do not submit your online application until you know the results of your child's grammar school test. The test results for grammar schools in Birmingham will be available before 31 October 2024.

If parents have listed only selective schools on their application form and their children have not met the required standard, they will then be allocated an alternative school which could be one located on the other side of town. Whilst all parents have the right to appeal if their child is not allocated a school they have listed, they will only win their appeal if they can demonstrate that the school has not followed their admission criteria.

Please gather as much information as you can about a school, before making your choice. Be realistic, if you don't live in Solihull, you are unlikely to get a place in a Solihull School for your child. If your child is not academic, they are unlikely to secure a place in a Grammar School.

You can list up to six different secondary schools as preferences in your application. This can include schools outside of Birmingham. If you are applying for schools in another local authority, then I recommend that you contact them for their admission arrangements as this will help you to decide if your application is likely to be successful.

Applications open on 1 September 2024 for secondary school applications for entry in September 2025. Applications are made via the Birmingham City Council website at <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> The closing date is 31 October 2024 at 11:59pm. It is really important that you apply on time. If you apply late you are less likely to get offered a place at any of your preferred schools. **Applications received after the 31 October 2024 will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 3 March 2025.**

DIARY DATE 2024 – 2025

SEPTEMBER 2024	
Monday 2	Term Begins Nursery children begin part time Year 3 Charity New Reception
Wednesday 4	Year 5 Welcome Meeting
Thursday 5	Year 4 Welcome Meeting Feast of St Teresa of Calcutta (6CB)
Friday 6	Year 3 Welcome Meeting
Monday 9	Year 2 Welcome Meeting
Tuesday 10	Year 1 Welcome Meeting
Wednesday 11	9.30 am - Whole School Mass
Thursday 12	Reception Welcome Meeting Year 4 – Eco Park
Friday 13	Year 6 Welcome Meeting
Monday 16	Nursery Welcome Meeting
Wednesday 18	Reception Welcome Meeting 9.00 am - Mass
Monday 23	INSET Day – School closed
Wednesday 25	9.00 am - Year 6 Inscription Mass
Thursday 26	Year 1 - Eco Park
Friday 27	Year 2 - Stay and Pray 2.00 pm Macmillan Coffee Morning
OCTOBER 2024	
Tuesday 1	Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux (3DA)
Wednesday 2	Whole School Harvest Mass
Friday 4	Feast of St Francis of Assisi (RSJ) Year 3 Stay & Pray
Monday 7	FS and KS1/Reception Phonics Open Week - Reception Year 6 Alton Castle
Tuesday 8	Year 2 - Phonics Open Week Year 6 at Alton Castle
Wednesday 9	Year 6 at Alton Castle
Thursday 10	Phonics Open Week - Year 1 Year 2 - Eco Park
Friday 11	Year 5 - Open Week Feast of St Carlos Acutis (1COT)
Monday 14	Year 3 - Reading Open Week
Tuesday 15	Year 4 - Reading Open Week
Wednesday 16	9.00 am - Year 5 Mass
Thursday 17	Year 5 – Eco Park
Friday 18	Year 6 - Reading Open Week - KS2
Tuesday 22	Feast of St John Paul II (4AMJ)
Thursday 24	Black History Day
Friday 25	INSET DAY – School closed Feast of St Jude (5CG)
Monday 28	Half term week

NOVEMBER 2024	
Monday 4	Term Begins Year 4 Charity
Wednesday 6	2.15 pm - Year 6 Confirmation Meeting
Friday 8	Year 4 Stay & Pray 10.00 – Prospective Parents' Meeting
Sunday 10	Remembrance Sunday
Monday 11	Remembrance Day 10.45 Remembrance Assembly
Wednesday 13	9.00 am - KS2 Mass 5.00 pm - FHC Meeting
Sunday 17	Year 3 & Year 6 Enrolment Mass
Monday 18	Stay & Play - Nursery
Wednesday 20	Year 4 Mass
Thursday 21	9.00 am - Rec Fine Motor & Handwriting
Friday 22	Feast of St Cecilia (5FM) Year 5 - Stay & Pray
Monday 25	9.00 am – Family photographs
Tuesday 26	Parents' Evening - English
Wednesday 27	Parents' Evening - English
Friday 29	1.00 pm - Advent Service St Andrew's Day (for 30th - 50p - all to wear blue or white)
Saturday 30	St Andrew's Day
DECEMBER 2024	
Thursday 5	pm - Year 5 Confessions
Friday 6	11.00 am -Advent Livestream Feast of St Nicholas (1CB)
Thursday 12	9.30 am - Year 2 Play for Parents Year 6 Confession
Friday 13	9.30 am - Nursery Play for Parents Gold Star own clothes day
Monday 16	9.30 am - Nursery Play for Parents
Tuesday 17	9.30 am - Reception Play for Parents 6.00 pm - Year 5 & 6 Carol Service – Holy Family
Wednesday 18	9.30 am - Whole School Mass Christmas Jumper & Dinner for Children
Thursday 19	Year 1 - Prayer Service Year 4 - Confession Feast of St. John (for 27th 4RW)
Friday 20	Finish for Christmas Party/Toy Day
Monday 23	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
JANUARY 2025	
Monday 6	School reopens Year 1 - Charity
Tuesday 7	9.00 am - Year 2 SATS Meeting for Parents
Wednesday 8	Whole School Mass
Thursday 9	9.00 am - Year 6 SATS Meeting for Parents

Thursday 16	Year 6 Maths Open Week
Friday 17	Year 5 - Maths Open Morning
Monday 20	Year 1 - Maths Open Morning
Tuesday 21	Year 3 - Maths Open Morning
Thursday 23	Year 2 - Maths Open Morning
Friday 24	Reception - Maths Open Morning
Monday 27	Nursery - Maths Open Morning
Tuesday 28	Year 4 - Maths Open Morning
Wednesday 29	9.00 am – Year 2 – Mass
FEBRUARY 2025	
Monday 3	International Week
Tuesday 4	International Week
Wednesday 5	International Week 9.00 am - KS1 Mass
Thursday 6	International Week
Friday 7	International week (pm)
Tuesday 11	Whole School Mass Our Lady of Lourdes (10B) Internet Safety
Wednesday 12	5.00 pm – First Holy Communion Meeting
Friday 14	St Valentine (14th Feb) (4KL) Year 6 Stay & Pray
Monday 17 – Friday 21	HALF TERM
Monday 24	Inset Day – School closed Year 2 Charity
Wednesday 26	9.00 am Year 3 - Mass in School
Thursday 27	Year 4 – Confession
Friday 28	Feast of St David (for 1st March) (6LC & all to wear red 50p)
MARCH 2025	
Saturday 1	Feast of St David
Monday 3	Individual photographs
Wednesday 5	Ash Wednesday 10.30 am Service 2.00 pm Service
Thursday 6	World Book Day Children to dress as book character
Monday 10	Book Fair in School all week
Wednesday 12	9.00 am - Year 1 Mass 4.30 pm - First Confession in Church
Monday 17	Feast of St Patrick (5MF & all Children to wear green- 50p) Year 3 - Condover Hall British Science Week - 14/03/2025-23/03/2025
Tuesday 18	Year 3 – Condover Hall

Wednesday 19	Year 3 – Condover Hall
Monday 24	Feast of St Oscar Romero (3EG)
Tuesday 25	Parents Evening – Maths
Wednesday 26	Parents Evening – Maths
Thursday 27	Year 5 – Confession
APRIL 2025	
Thursday 3	Year 4 – Confession
Friday 4	Gold Star own clothes
Monday 7	Holy Week Focus 2.30 pm - Year 1 Behaviour Assembly
Tuesday 8	2.30 pm - Year 2 Behaviour Assembly
Wednesday 9	9.30 am - Whole School Mass
Thursday 10	Year 6 Confession Easter Bonnet Parade Easter Egg Competition
Friday 11	Term Finishes Feast of St Bernadette (NUR)
Monday 14 – Friday 27	Half Term – Easter
Wednesday 16	Easter – Feast of St Bernadette (Nursery)
Friday 18	Easter – Good Friday
Sunday 20	Easter Sunday
Tuesday 22	Easter – World Earth Day
Monday 28	Year 5 Charity Feast of St George (2SH)
Tuesday 29	St Catherine of Sienna (2EO) World Earth Day
MAY 2025	
Thursday 1	2.30 pm - Year 3 Behaviour Assembly
Friday 2	1.15 pm - Year 4 Behaviour Assembly
Monday 5	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6	INSET Day – School closed
Wednesday 7	Year 3 – RE Inspire
Thursday 8	Reception – Eco Park
Sunday 11	Vocations Day
Monday 12	Year 6 – SATS
Tuesday 13	Year 6 – SATS
Wednesday 14	Year 6 – SATS Year 4 Residential
Thursday 15	Year 6 – SATS Year 4 Residential
Friday 16	Year 4 Residential
Tuesday 20	2.30 pm - Year 6 Behaviour Assembly
Wednesday 21	5.00 pm – First Holy Communion Meeting Year 3 - Eco park
Thursday 22	2.30 pm - Year 5 Behaviour Assembly
Friday 23	Finish for Half Term Stay & Pray - Year 1 Vocations Day
Monday 26 – Friday 30	Bank Holiday Half Term
JUNE 2025	

Monday 2	Term begins Year 6 - Paris Year 2 SATs Year 6 Charity week Reception Charity
Tuesday 3	Year 6 - Paris Year 2 - SATs 2.00 pm - New Nursery Parents
Wednesday 4	Year 6 - Paris Year 2 - SATs
Thursday 5	Year 6 - Paris Year 2 - SATs
Friday 6	Year 6 - Paris Year 2 - SATs
Sunday 8	Pentecost
Thursday 12	Year 6 – Eco Park
Friday 13	Feast of St Anthony of Padua (6ZB)
Sunday 15	Father's Day
Tuesday 17	2.00 pm - New Reception Parents
Wednesday 18	EYFS Mass - School
Thursday 19	National Refugee Day
Wednesday 25	9.00 am – Year 5 Mass
Thursday 26	Year 3 - Confession Year 6 - Eco Park
Friday 27	Feast of St Peter & Paul (3CM) Stay & Pray - Reception & Nursery 9.30 am - Whole School Mass
Saturday 28	9.30 am – First Holy Communion
JULY 2025	
Friday 4	9.00 am - Going Forth Mass Photographer for communion children
Wednesday 9	9.00 am - Year 4 Mass
Thursday 10	9.30 am - Year 5 Sports 1.30 pm - Year 6 Sports
Friday 11	Nursery Sports Gold Star - own clothes
Monday 14	9.30 am - Year 1 Sports 1.30 pm - Year 2 Sports
Tuesday 15	9.30 am - Year 3 Sports 1.30 pm - Year 4 Sports
Wednesday 16	9.30 am - Reception Sports Online Safety
Thursday 17	Feast of St Augustine (for 28/08/2025) (2EH) Online Safety
Friday 18	9.15 am - Outdoor Leaver's Mass Toy Day Feast of St Margaret Clitheroe RLC
Monday 21	INSET Day School closed for the summer holidays

Please note all dates are subject to change.

Information for parents:

Reception baseline assessment



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Reception baseline assessment

Do you have a child starting reception class?

If so, your child will be participating in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6.

What is the RBA?

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with.

What does participating in the RBA mean for my child?

The RBA is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils.

'I have had the pleasure of observing RBA in practice and can assure you that the RBA should not be stressful in any way and your child is unlikely to realise they are doing an assessment. The activities undertaken are fun, simple in design, short and age-appropriate. Evidence from the trial and pilot shows that the children were interested in the tasks and enjoyed it, and I'm sure your child will do too.'

Claire Harnden

Deputy CEO, Director of Teaching School Hub
South Farnham Educational Trust

How will the RBA benefit my child?

The RBA will provide an opportunity for your child to have valuable one-to-one time with their teacher at an early stage, so the teacher can get to know your child better. It will provide a helpful snapshot of where your child is when they enter reception, so they can be supported in the most appropriate way.

'As school leaders, we know how important the first weeks of school are to a child and perceive the opportunity for our teachers to take time to sit with each child individually to be hugely beneficial. The RBA helps to facilitate this and our teachers have a better idea of how to design learning for them.'

Claire Harnden

Deputy CEO, Director of Teaching School Hub
South Farnham Educational Trust

How will the RBA benefit me as a parent?

When your child reaches year 6, the end of key stage 2, you will be able to see how well your child's school has supported the year group in their time at primary school, compared to other schools nationally.

'RBA will mean parents are better able to see how well the school is supporting its pupils throughout primary school. Parents will be able to compare the performance of schools nationally based on the progress they make with their pupils, enabling parents to make better, more informed decisions when choosing the school they want their children to attend.'

Claire Harnden

Deputy CEO, Director of Teaching School Hub
South Farnham Educational Trust

How do I prepare my child for the assessment?

You do not need to do anything to prepare your child for the assessment. Your child is unlikely to even know that they are taking part in an assessment when they are completing the tasks.

What if my child cannot access the assessment?

Your child will answer questions verbally or by pointing at or moving objects. The assessment has been designed to ensure that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND), or English as an additional language (EAL). The teacher can pause the assessment at any time if your child needs a break. There are also modified materials available for children with visual and hearing impairments.

How will the data be used?

The data from the assessment will only be used by the Department for Education when your child has reached the end of year 6, to provide the baseline to measure the progress of your child's year group from reception to year 6. The data from the assessment, including numerical scores, is not shared with you, pupils, teachers, or external bodies, including schools, and there will be no published scores at pupil, school or national level.

Will I receive feedback on my child's assessment?

Your child's teacher will receive a set of statements, which provide a narrative description of how your child performed in the assessment. Schools can choose whether to send these to you directly, but they must provide them to you on your request.

For more information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions about the RBA. For more details, you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.

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Information for parents: reception baseline assessment

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