

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 4
24 October 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.

Assistant Headteacher Message

I can't quite believe we've already reached the end of our first half term and my first half term as Assistant Head at St. Bernadette's! As a new member of staff, I just wanted to take a moment to say how truly impressed I've been with the children here. Their behaviour, manners and positive attitude are a real credit to both the school and their families. It has been a wonderfully busy eight weeks, filled with learning, laughter and plenty of exciting events. From padel and football to cake sales and discos, the children have had lots to enjoy. The enthusiasm and engagement they bring to everything they do makes St. Bernadette's such a special place to be. I'm very much looking forward to the rest of the year and to getting to know even more of our wonderful pupils and families.

Wishing you all a restful and happy half term break!

Miss Di Pierri

Sunday Gospel

The Gospel from St Luke will be shared with us at Mass on Sunday
Luke 18: 9-14

⁹There were some people who thought that they were very good and looked down on everyone else. Jesus used this story to teach them: ¹⁰"One day there was a Pharisee and a tax collector. Both went to the Temple to pray. ¹¹The Pharisee stood alone, away from the tax collector. When the Pharisee prayed, he said, 'God, I thank you that I am not as bad as other people. I am not like men who steal, cheat, or take part in adultery. I thank you that I am better than this tax collector. ¹²I give up eating twice a week, and I give one-tenth of everything I earn!'

¹³"The tax collector stood at a distance. When he prayed, he would not even look up to heaven. He beat on his chest because he was so sad. He said, 'God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, when this man went home, he was right with God. But the Pharisee was not right with God. Everyone who makes himself great will be made humble. But everyone who makes himself humble will be made great."



Young Disciple Spotlight



Our Young Disciple from Year 4 have shared their ideas for this week's Gospel reflection:

The Gospel teaches us to be humble and not to judge others. Doing good things doesn't make you better than anyone else because nobody is perfect and we can't do good things without God's help. We shouldn't try to make ourselves look better than others. Instead, we should pray to God and ask Him to help others. God loves a humble heart.

Light a candle to offer a prayer

We light a candle and offer our prayers for members of our school community and their loved ones:

In our last newsletter we shared the news that Mrs. Smallwood's husband, Paul, sadly passed away. As a school community, Mrs. Smallwood and her family remain very much in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

We also remember all those in our school community who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

Micky and family
Jacob and family
Gabriel and family
Arthur and family



We hold them in our thoughts and prayers.
Eternal rest give unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.

Charity Fundraiser Update



Showing we care
Solidarity



Putting people most in need first
**Preferential Option
for the Poor**

Year 3 have been busy this half term raising money for their chosen charity, CAFOD. They have held a disco and a cake sale, and we are so grateful for your generosity and support. Thanks to your contributions, we have raised £136.00 from the school disco. We are still awaiting the total raised from the cake sale, but we are confident that CAFOD will receive a generous donation from our fundraising efforts.

This fundraising is a wonderful way to teach our children the importance of helping others in need, caring for their global community, and putting their faith into action.

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 0121 303 1888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker.

Diary Dates

Friday 24th October

Break up for the half term holiday Monday

Friday 31 October 2025

Closing date for secondary school applications

Monday 3rd November

Return to school

Prospective parent meeting 5pm

Tuesday 4th November

Basketball Y5 & Y6 (Yardley School)

Wednesday 5th November

SALT coffee morning 9-10am

Y6 Parents Confirmation Meeting 2:30pm

Friday 7th November

EYFS Communication and Language workshop 9am
(more info to follow)

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

Monday 10th November

SEN multisports year 5 and 6

Prospective Parents Meeting 9am

Bikeability all week

Tuesday 11th November

Class photos

Remembrance Day Service

Wednesday 12th November

SALT coffee morning 2-3pm (invitation only)

Owl Sanctuary-Nursery

Thursday 13th November

Reception Journey to Writing Workshop RLC and RCB

Gym Festival SEN

KS2 Mass 1:30pm parents welcome (Holy Family Church)

Friday 14th November

Reception Journey to Writing Workshop REL

Monday 17th November

Bikeability all week (except Friday)

Sibling photos 8.30

Nursery Stay and Play (Red Group) 9am

Tuesday 18th November

History workshop (year 3)

Nursery Stay and Play (Blue Group) 9am

Wednesday 19th November

Girls football

Nursery Stay and Play (Green Group) 9am

Year 4 Mass in school-parents welcome.

First Holy Communion Meeting 5pm

Thursday 20th November

Coffee afternoon with Occupational Therapist 2:30-3:15

Nursery Stay and Play (Yellow Group) 9am

Friday 21st November

Year 6 Stay and Pray

Jubilee Celebration Day – Pilgrims Passport event

The feast day of St Cecilia (Saturday 22nd
November) SET can wear own clothes

Class Saint Feature



Celebrating the Feast of St. Cecilia Saturday November 22

St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians is the class saint 5ET. St. Cecilia lived in Rome during the 2nd or 3rd century and is remembered for her deep faith and love for God. Even though she lived a long time ago, her story continues to inspire people of all ages. According to tradition, St. Cecilia loved to praise God through music. She is said to have sung to God in her heart, even while facing challenges in her life. She became the patron saint of singers, musicians, and anyone who uses music to honour God. St. Cecilia reminds us that we can use our talents to praise God, whether through music, art, or other gifts. She teaches the importance of faithfulness, courage, and prayer, even when life is difficult. 5ET will remember their class saint on Friday 21st November when they are allowed to wear their own clothes for the day.

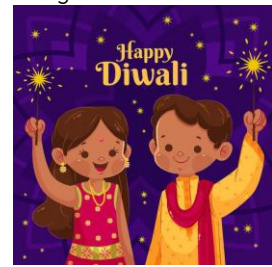
Liturgical Celebrations



November is a month of reflection, remembrance, and hope.

November is a special month in the Church's liturgical calendar, dedicated to remembering the saints, praying for the faithful departed and reflecting on eternal life. We begin with All Saints' Day on November 1st, celebrating those who lived holy lives and now share in God's glory, followed by All Souls' Day on November 2nd, when we pray for the souls of loved ones who have died. The month also leads to the Feast of Christ the King which reminds us that Jesus reigns over all creation and marks the close of the Church year. November is a time for families to reflect, pray, and remember that our hope in God extends beyond this life.

We would like to wish all our families who are celebrating a very **Happy Diwali!** May this Festival of Lights bring joy, prosperity, and togetherness to you and your loved ones.



Harvest

On Wednesday 15th October we celebrated our Harvest Mass with Fr Fretch at Holy Family Church. A huge thank you to all the families that donated produce for our harvest collection. The donations were taken to the SIFA Fireside Charity based in Digbeth, and will help support people living in poverty and facing homelessness in our city. Thank you again for helping us to support this worthy cause.

Thank you!



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 Bluesky 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.

Reminders



Secondary School Applications

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2025 at 11:59pm. It is very important to apply on time as late applications are less likely to secure one of your preferred schools.

Applications submitted after 31 October 2025 will be treated as late and will not be processed until after offer day on 2 March 2026.

You can apply through the Birmingham City Council website:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Primary School Applications



If your child turns 4 before 31 August 2026, it's time to apply for their Reception school place for September 2026.

Applications are now open. Apply online before 15 January 2026 to ensure your child gets a place.

Apply here: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions



Flu Vaccinations – 26th November

Flu vaccinations will take place in school on **Tuesday 26th November**. Please make sure the forms are filled in and returned to school **before the date**. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community healthy this winter!

Meeting for Prospective Nursery/Reception entry in September 2026

Open sessions for parents of children who would like to consider St Bernadette's for a Nursery/Reception place in September 2026.

3 November 2025 – 5pm
10 November 2025 – 9am

If you know anyone who may be interested, please let them know.



SCHOOL FUND FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 TO 2026

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

This donation will go directly towards:

- Workshops and hands-on learning activities
- Food tasting and cultural experience days
- Visitors such as authors, theatre groups or scientists
- Whole school events and celebrations

Please donate via www.parentpay.com

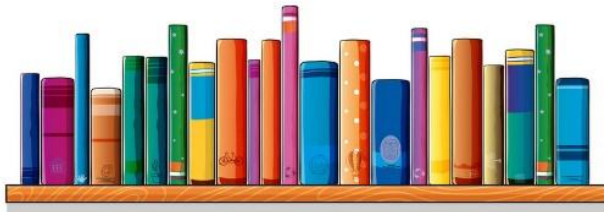
Thank you for your continued support.

Reading Week



A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for Reading Week. It was wonderful to see so many of you sharing stories, supporting our activities, and celebrating the joy of reading with the children. Your involvement makes such a difference and helps foster a love of books in our pupils.

Book Fair



We're excited to announce that the Book Fair will be running during Parents' Evening week, both before and after school. The fair will be open from **Tuesday 25th November to Friday 28th November**, with the following opening times:

Morning: 8:30am – 9:00am

Afternoon: 3:00pm – 3:30pm (Friday: 2:00pm – 2:30pm)

We look forward to welcoming you and hope you find some wonderful reads to take home!



A Journey to Writing Workshop

Parents or Guardians of Reception children are invited to attend a 'Journey to Writing' Workshop with your child. Reception teachers will explain the importance of fine motor skills and you can complete a fun activity with your child. The workshop will begin at 9am. Dates below:

RLC & RCB- Thursday 13th November

REL- Friday 14th November



Prayer Gardeners Club

The following children have been chosen to be in the Prayer Gardeners Club.

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Araya 4AMJ | Alfie 5MF | Sadhika 6CC |
| Amelia 4FM | Michelle 5CG | Leia 6CC |
| Esther 4FM | Janet 5CG | Liyana 6CB |
| Greer 4KL | | |

The children wrote beautiful applications to be part of the club, and we were delighted with the response! We had so many applications that it was really hard to choose. In their writing, the children shared how they already look after the world and how they could work together as a team to care for God's creation, our Earth. The club will meet once a month. Each session will begin with a reflection on our environment, both here at school and in the wider world. After the reflection, the children will take part in a practical activity to improve our school environment and then reflect on how grateful we are to have each other, working together as a team.

Rosary Cluster



On Tuesday, via the power of technology, the children across school joined our cluster of schools to pray the Rosary. Our Year 5 and Year 6 Mini Vinnies took responsibility for leading a decade of the Rosary together with children from the other cluster schools. Our children were incredibly reverent throughout the session and offered up their own personal prayers for their private intentions. Please encourage your child to pray the Rosary during the month of October.

Sports News

Year 5 Padel Festival at Moseley RFC



On Tuesday 7th October, some of our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at the Padel Festival hosted by our School Games organisers at Moseley RFC. Everyone showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the day, with lots of smiles and encouragement on and off the court.

Year 5 & 6 Girls Football



The Year 5 & 6 girls started their football season with matches at The Rosary. The girls showed incredible determination and spirit, never giving up throughout.

Mrs. Robinson awarded Kacey as her Player of the Night, recognising her outstanding performance and enthusiasm on the pitch. Meanwhile, Mr. MJ's Superstar of the evening was Hennessey, who never gave up, and he was delighted with her fantastic goal.

Well done to all the girls for a fantastic start!

Mental Health and Wellbeing



To support the mental health and wellbeing of your children we have arranged some workshops for you and/or your children. Starting after the half-term holiday Compass will be working with a group of Year 2 and 3 children on maintaining Healthy Friendships.

Wednesday 26th November Beacon School Support will be holding a workshop for all parents on How to Help Your Child Sleep Well. All parents are welcome and you will be given some tips and tactics to try if this applies to our child.

After Christmas, Compass will be working with a group of Year 3-Year 6 children on How to Manage Worries.

There is a new part to the School website for you to access. If you are on the Homepage and choose the "Our School" on the toolbar you will be able to find out everything we are doing to support your children at St Bernadette's.

It is really important to us that we all share the load of caring for your children. We hope you will benefit from these interventions.

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.

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 3EG, 4KL and 4AMJ for best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done to RLC for the best attendance in the Foundation Stage!

| Nursery | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|---------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| 92% | RLC 97% ★ | ICOT 92% | 2SH 96% | 3DA 95% | 4FM 95% | 5MF 89% | 6CB 96% |
| | RCB 94% | IOB 93% | 2EOB 95% | 3EG 98% ★ | 4AMJ 100% ★ | 5CG 96% | 6CC 89% |
| | REL 91% | | 2RW 91% | 3DH 95% | 4KL 98% ★ | 5ET 96% | 6ZB 95% |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--|
| Whole School Attendance | 95% | Currently, the whole school attendance is 95% which is below the 96% that is expected. |
|-------------------------|-----|--|

SEND Parent Sessions

Meet the *experts*

Come along to our Coffee Mornings & Afternoons – a relaxed space to meet other parents and chat with visiting professionals about ways to support your child.

OCT
9

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

9-10AM

Practical tips on supporting speech, language and communication

NOV
20

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

2:30 - 3:15PM

Strategies for independence, motor skills and sensory support.

DEC
10

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

9-10AM

Understanding learning, behaviour and emotional development.

JAN
26

COMMUNICATION AND AUTISM TEAM

2-3PM

Advice and support for children and young people with communication differences and autism.

FEB
2

COMPASS

Online safety

9-10:30AM

FEB
3

COMPASS

Supporting your child with worries

9-10:30AM

FEB
11

LANGUAGE, LEARNING AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT

9-10AM

Support for children with learning and language needs to build confidence, engage in school and achieve their best.

MAY
5

COMPASS

Build self-esteem

9-10:30AM



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.

Shining Light Award

| CLASS | NAME | How children who have brightened the lives of others through their actions and/or attitude. | CLASS | NAME | How children who have brightened the lives of others through their actions and/or attitude. |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|---|----------------|---|
| Nursery (Blue) | Kyon | For trying hard in Nursery. | Nursery (Yellow) | Albie | For following our nursery rules perfectly and making good choices. |
| Nursery (Green) | Erin | For doing really well with her full time transition. | Nursery (Red) | Laila | For making good choices in Nursery. |
| RCB | Lacie-Leigh | For always being a kind and caring member of our class! | 4AMJ | Jiyon | For being a perfect role model all the time. |
| | Iremide | For excellent work in Phonics! | | Orla | For showing amazing strength and flexibility in her PE lesson. |
| REL | Alfie | For showing off good friendship skills when he noticed someone playing alone. | 4FM | Reah | For taking time out of her day to help others. |
| | Yemi | For writing a wonderful dual language prayer in our prayer book. | | Keavy | For taking time out of her day to help others. |
| RLC | Aiden-James | For making the right choices and always trying his best! | 4KL | Charlie | For being so kind to other children in his class. |
| | Grady-Bleu | For always being a kind friend to others. | | Sophie | For always having a big smile on her face! |
| ICOT | Ibrahim | For always trying his best and being a super role model. | 5CG | Johan | For always being so polite and working hard. |
| | Ariah | For being so kind and helpful. | | Namira | For always approaching each day with a smile and resilience. |
| IOB | Zakariya | For always joining in during lessons and producing beautiful work! | 5ET | Ruth | For reading so beautifully in our year band mass. |
| | Tiana | For always working so hard and being a super role model! | | Gracie-Mae | For making such an effort to put a smile on everyone's face. |
| 2EOB | Sarah | For being a kind friend to everybody. | 5MF | Micah | For always being a wonderful role model and setting an excellent example to everyone in class! |
| | Carter | For fantastic progress and confidence at lunch time! | | Poppy | For brilliant reading in our whole school Harvest mass. |
| 2RW | Erlyn | For her lovely black history month postcard. | 6CB | Shaan | For being so kind and helpful to the newest member of our class! |
| | Nevaeh-Julia | For her lovely black history month postcard. | | Mohammad Farid | For making such a fantastic start to his time in 6CB at St. Bernadette's! |
| 2EOB | Jesudabira Delight | For always working incredibly hard in all you do! | 6CC | Cole | For trying really hard to work independently and reading aloud in class. |
| | Kyla-Rose | For always being a helpful and polite member of our class! | | James | For setting a perfect example of excellent behaviour every day and always trying his very best. |
| 3DA | Isla | For her amazing effort in lessons! | 6ZB | Callum | For always joining in during lessons and producing beautiful work! |
| | Olivia | For always trying her best in whatever she does! | | Hansikka | For always working incredibly hard in all she does. |
| 3DH | Bethany | For always working really hard and being a fantastic role model. | <p style="text-align: center;">Shining Light Award <i>'You are the light of the world.'</i> Matthew 5:14</p> | | |
| | Conal | For being a sensible, helpful boy and always trying his best. | | | |
| 3EG | Jonathan | For trying hard in all lessons. | | | |
| | Tehilah | For providing such a warm welcome to our new starters. | | | |



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

| | |
|--|--|
| Chickenpox | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over |
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting | 48 hours after their last episode |
| Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19. |
| Impetigo | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics |
| Measles | 4 days after the rash first appeared |
| Mumps | 5 days after the swelling started |
| Scabies | they've had their first treatment |
| Scarlet Fever | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics |
| Whooping Cough | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics |

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
| Head lice | Tonsillitis |
| Threadworms | Slapped cheek |



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

SEND-FRIENDLY BONFIRE PARTY

Parks for Play

SUN 26 OCT
5.30-8pm

Cash & card bar
Indoor sensory Glow in
the Dark Party

Available to purchase:

- Soup, Sausages,
Samosas & Snacks
- Sparklers
- Toasted
marshmallows
- Stay dry apple
bobbing
- Glow sticks

Coronation Road Play Centre,
Coronation Road/Dawlish Road
Selly Oak, B29 7DE

ADVANCE TICKET PRICES

£6 child (2-15)
£5 adult
£18 family (2 adults, 2 children)
£2 per extra child (age 2+) on
family ticket

This is a firework-free event.

Pre-book to avoid disappointment. Limited to 150 people. Tickets on door if still available

[TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/PARKS-FOR-PLAY/](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/parks-for-play/)