



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

live simply

Newsletter October 2024

Advent Term 1

Virtue: Generosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you find last week's parent consultation sessions helpful. Home and school working closely together ensures that we can do the very best possible for our children.

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to Rock UK last week, taking part in a wide range of exciting, challenging and team-building activities. I congratulate the children on all their achievements. I also extend my grateful thanks to all of the staff members who gave their time and energy to provide these enrichment opportunities for our children.

We break up for the half term holidays on Friday 25th October (normal pick-up times). I wish you and your loved ones a fabulous half term break and look forward to seeing the children on their return on Monday 4th November.

Please see the dates page at the end of this newsletter for the planned activities for the half term ahead.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Zamora

Our Catholic Schools Week

We will be celebrating Our Catholic Schools, starting with a special Mass on Sunday 10th November, 11:30 am at Christ the King Church in Kents Hill. Mrs Pughe has sent out a letter with more details - we would appreciate as many pupils as possible attending this special Mass. Our children will be leading the hymns, readings and prayers. Please indicate via the School Gateway if your child is able to attend. Please could all pupils wear their school uniform at the Mass. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Spread the Word ...

Lower birthrates locally and nationally have resulted in many schools having surplus places, particularly in Milton Keynes, where the city is rapidly building new schools and extending others. At St Bernadette's, we have an increasing number of available spaces in our younger year groups. This is a great opportunity for more children to join us. However, lower numbers of children could create a concern for school finances and the future structure for our school. Please support Catholic education and our school by telling people about us. Word of mouth from you to your friends and families could help us a lot. Do recommend us to families with babies, toddlers and young children. You can also request a school poster from us to share on notice boards at your work or to display information about our upcoming school tours. If you have other great ideas of how we can promote St Bernadette's across Milton Keynes, please do reach out to us using the information below, we would like to hear from you. St Bernadette's is a welcoming and inclusive school and families do not have to live locally nor be Catholic to attend our award-winning school.

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, Tewkesbury Lane, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes, MK10 9PH

Tel: 01908 692438

Email: office@stbernadettesschool.com

www.stbernadettesschool.com

Headteacher: Jane Zamora BA Hons PGCE NPQH

Diocese of Northampton

Deputy Head: Melanie Smith B.Ed. Hons

Milton Keynes Council



Applying for a Place at St Bernadette's for Sept 2025

You can now apply for a place at our lovely school or nursery for September 2025. To apply for a place in Reception (FS2 - children born between 1st Sept 2020 and 31st August 2021), there are two necessary processes. Applications MUST be made via the council <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-or-juniormiddle-school-september> Additionally, supplementary forms should be completed and returned directly to St Bernadette's. You can find out more and download our Admissions Policy and supplementary forms from our website.

<https://www.stbernadetteschool.com/school-admissions/>

Even if your child already attends our nursery, you still must make a formal application to the council for a place in Reception for September 2025.

If you know of parents of children who are applying for school or nursery places for September 2025, please encourage them to come and see our school in action - we have tours available at the following times and days:

- Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 10am
- Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 5:30pm
- Monday 2nd December 2024 at 10:30am
- Monday 2nd December 2024 at 5:00pm

Please book a place via the school office 01908 692438 and remember to provide the office with a contact number.

Join Our Governing Board

We are pleased to advise that there are currently opportunities for practising Catholics to join our school's Governing Board in the voluntary role of Foundation Governor.

Although not essential, if you have a Public Finance or Educational background and can spare the time to be part of our active Governing Board, we would love to hear from you. Applications from retired or semi-retired individuals are of course most welcome.

The role of the Governing Board is:

- o Head Teacher and staff appointments
- o Strategic Planning and Change Management
- o Educational Standards
- o Financial Planning and Control

Appointments are made by Northampton Diocese Education Service (NDES.)

Induction and ongoing training is made available to all Governors. If you, or any practising Catholics you know are interested in becoming a foundation governor, please contact Dr Sandro Lanzon-Miller or Mrs Frankie Lazzari (joint Chairs of the Governing Board) to arrange an informal chat:

slanzon-miller@stbernadetteschool.com or LazzariF@stbernadetteschool.com

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International Evening

Share and Celebrate Your Cultural Heritage

Please do come to our fabulous PTA International Evening on the re-scheduled date of **Wednesday 27th November at 5:30pm**. Bring your traditional food to share (please note down the ingredients used to avoid allergies); dress in traditional clothing or colours; bring your music or instruments to play and songs to sing, but, most importantly, come and have fun together as one school community. If there is any specific music you would like us to play or photos for us to display from different countries you represent, please email them to the school office.

Humanitas School in Ghana

Dear Joanne and Jane and all of the staff and pupils at St Bernadette's School, THANK YOU so much for all of your incredible efforts to raise funds for our school in Ghana this year. We are so grateful for your support!
With love
Jo & Sarah (Team Humanitas)



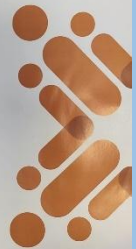
Thank You For Being Brilliant,
St Bernadette's School

You Raised:

£ 2629.50

For Humanitas Charity

TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE.



Earlier this half term, when learning more about our current virtue of *Generosity* and the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of '*Preferential Option for the Poor*,' we reflected on all that the children achieved through their fundraising for the Humanitas School in Ghana last year. Through their own hard work, they achieved so much more that I could ever have imagined. They reached their goals by funding a year of school meals for the 40 most deprived pupils; sponsoring a teacher for a year and providing art materials!

All Y1 - Y6 children have now come together to consider what they would like to focus on for this current academic year. I presented them with a range of options at varying costs - they listened carefully then voted in order of priority. It really was interesting to see how the overwhelming majority of children voted in unison to prioritise funding a month of a malaria prevention programme. Below you can see the first three key areas our pupils would like to focus on working towards. I look forward to seeing how much we can achieve together this year.

Action	Cost	Priority Number
Malaria Prevention Programme	£500 per month	1
A year of school meals for 40 children	£400	2
Writing pads and pens for the year	£300	3



Prayer Leaders' Commissioning Mass

Representatives of our Prayer Mini Vinnies team attended the Catholic Schools' Mass in Dunstable on 11th October. They joined with school prayer leaders from across the diocese for a special commissioning service celebrated by Bishop David. Every member of the Prayer Mini Vinnies Team received a very special letter from Bishop David himself! Congratulations to our children in fulfilling these important roles so well

Exciting Choir Performances

We are very excited that members of our school choir have been invited to perform at two important local events:

On Saturday 16th November we have been invited to sing on the stage at the city centre Christmas lights switch-on. This will take place at The Point. Please come along to enjoy the performance and support our children. We advise arriving in good time for our performance which starts at approximately 4:00pm

On Sunday 24th November, members of the choir will be singing at the Woburn Sands Christmas Fair lights switch on. We will let you know once we have confirmation of the timings.

Year 6 SATs 2025

The Y6 end of Key Stage 2 national tests - SATs - will take place from Monday 12th to Thursday 15th May 2024. Please do not book any appointments or visits away on those dates. Y6 parents are also able to buy SATs revision guides via the School Gateway for £13 (RRP £26)

Secondary School Applications

A reminder to Y6 parents that the application window for secondary school places closes at the end of the month. Please do not forget to apply for a school place for your child. Once the application window closes, you will have very little chance of being allocated the school of your choice.

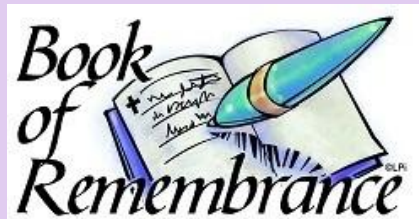
I am very much aware that many children in Y6 took the 11+ test this year and will have received their results recently. Please do be careful when applying for secondary schools. Even if your child passed the 11+, please choose at least one non-grammar school. Please choose wisely - the grammar schools are over-subscribed and each year there are children who pass the 11+ with flying colours but do not get a place within a grammar school. We very much recommend visits and applications for our local Catholic Secondary school - St Paul's. Apply for secondary school by the deadline (31st October) by following the link below: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-secondaryupper-school-september-2025>



Sporting Success

We have had a great sporting start to the school year with a number of tournaments and competitions at St Paul's against the other local Catholic schools as well as Y5/6 Boys' Football League matches. Congratulations and many thanks to all who have represented the school so well.

- Y3/4 Boys' Football Tournament: 2nd Place
- Y3/4 Netball - 1st Place
- Y5/6 Netball (Y5 players only as Y6 were at Rock UK) 1st Place
- Y5/6 Boys' football league 2 matches last week: 1st match: won 3-1, 2nd match: lost 3-2



November is the month when we particularly remember our lost loved ones. On return from the half term holidays, we will have a Remembrance Book outside our school chapel where we add the names of any one from our school community and extended families who we wish to be remembered in our prayers. Please do let the school office know (office@stbernadettesschool.com) of any names you would like to be added to the special book. Paper slips are also being sent home if you prefer to write names on those and return them to school.



We are selling Poppies and other items on behalf of the Royal British Legion in front of the main school entrance after school all week and throughout the first week back after half term..

Suggested donation are £1 /£2.00. Please do bring correct change as we are unable to give change.



Harvest Donations



Your generosity in donating to the foodbank was overwhelming. You have helped to ensure that the Foodbank will be well-stocked to help feed some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in Milton Keynes. I cannot thank you enough. Thanks also to the Community Mini Vinnies for helping to pack up all of your donations



October Rosary Prayer Group



It has been lovely to welcome families to our early morning Friday Rosary Prayer Group at 8:10am in the school chapel.

This Friday (25th October) is the final chance - please do consider joining us. We have plenty of sets of rosary beads available for your use.



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Dates for Advent Term

New Virtue: Generosity		New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Option for the Poor
Fri 25 Oct	8:10 am Join us for Rosary in the school chapel STEM Innovates festival Last day of half term - normal home times	
Half Term Holiday		
New Virtue = Compassion. New Catholic Social Teaching Principle = Human Dignity		
Mon 4 Nov	Children return to school Y3/4/5/6 Cross Country tournament - St Paul's	
Tues 5 Nov	9:00 Parent Wellbeing Café -meet the Mental Health Lead	
Thurs 7 Nov	FS2 (Saplings) Local Autumn Walk	
Sun 10 Nov	Special Mass Celebrating Catholic Schools - Christ the King Church, Kents Hill 11:30 am	
W/C Nov 11	Anti-bullying Week	
12 - 14 Nov	Y5 Bikeability	
Tues 12 Nov	Y5 Falcon Class Collective Worship in Chapel 2:45 with their parents	
Wed 13 Nov	Tours for prospective parents/pupils: 10:00 and 5:30 pm - book a place via the school office 3:30pm phonics workshop for parents	
Sat 16 Nov	Join school choir members at The Point in centre MK for Christmas Lights switch-on	
Tues 19 Nov	Anglia Water assembly - World Toilet Day (!) Y4 Leopard Class Collective Worship in Chapel 2:45 with their parents	
Wed 27 Nov	International Evening 5:30 - 7:30 - have fun sharing your traditional food, dress and music	
Thurs 28 Nov	Santa Dash School Council Meeting - St Paul's	
Fri 29 Nov	Y5 Educational Visit - Bletchley Park Y4 Lion Class Collective Worship in Chapel 2:45 with their parents	
Mon 2 Dec	Advent Wreath Assembly Tours for prospective parents/pupils: 10:30 and 5:00 pm - book a place via the school office	
Wed 4 Dec	2:15 pm Rocksteady performance for their parents	
Thurs 5 Dec	FS2 (Saplings) Nativity for their families 2pm Main Hall	
Mon 9 Dec	Year 1 Nativity for their families 2pm Main Hall	
Wed 11 Dec	Y5 & Y6 Carols and Readings 9:30am and 6:00pm Main Hall	
Thurs 12 Dec	9:15 FS1 (Acorns/Nursery) Christmas songs for their families - Small Hall Christmas Lunch - please book via St Paul's wise pay 4pm School choir concert for their parents	
Fri 13 Dec	PTA Christmas Shop	
Tues 17 Dec	Year 6 Wow Day - Africa PTA Christmas Disco 3:15 - 4:15 FS2, Y1, 2 and 3 (All children in these year groups can come to school in party clothes whether attending the disco or not)	
Wed 18 Dec	PTA Christmas Disco 3:20 - 4:20 Y4, 5 and 6 (All children in these year groups can come to school in party clothes whether attending the disco or not)	
Thurs 19 Dec	Celebration party for all the Spirits of St Bernadette from this half term	
Fri 20 Dec	Mufti Day for Humanitas School, Ghana Last day of term - Early close and no after-school care club on this day. KS1 and FS2 (Saplings, Y1 and Y2) close at 2:20 pm Nursery and KS2 (Acorns, Y3, 4, 5 and 6 close at 2:30 pm).	
Mon 6 Jan	Children return to school	

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