



Newsletter September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to welcome the children back to school. They have settled so well into their new classes and there is a happy, industrious atmosphere across the school.

I hope that you are finding this week's Meet the Teacher sessions helpful - thank you to all who have attended the face-to-face or virtual meetings.

Please do read to the end of this newsletter and check the dates pages - there are many events planned for this term. **Please note that on Thursday 26th September, we have a special event for Y1-6 children - please send your child to school in their PE uniform on that day.**

Mrs Zamora (Headteacher)

Is your child eligible for the Pupil Premium and Free School Meals?

Where pupils are eligible for the Pupil Premium, schools can access additional funds and eligible pupils will continue to receive free school meals when they move to Y3 and beyond.

Not sure if you qualify?

Come to the school for a coffee/tea and cake with Mrs. Smith and Mrs Delaney on Thursday 19th September at 9:15 am or apply through the school website

<https://www.stbernadettesschool.com/apply-for-the-pupil-premium/> You will need your National Insurance number to apply.

Every parent who completes an application will receive a raffle ticket to be in with a chance of winning a £50 uniform voucher regardless of eligibility outcome.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium, you will be sent an email with an authorisation code. Please provide the school office with a copy of this email.

International Evening

Share and Celebrate Your Cultural Heritage

Please do come to our fabulous PTA International Evening on Tuesday 22nd October at 5:30pm.

Bring your traditional food to share (please note down the ingredients used); dress in traditional clothing or colours; bring your music or instruments to play and songs to sing, but most of all come and have fun together as one school community



Harvest Collection



Our harvest collection for MK Food Bank runs from Monday 16th September to Friday 4th October. The MK Food Bank supports more than 5,000 families in Milton Keynes each year for a variety of reasons, with family crises, loss of employment or benefits and debt problems all common reasons for seeking their support. Sometimes people coming out of hospital or prison need immediate practical support, as do those placed in emergency accommodation. Whatever circumstances leave families struggling to keep a roof over their heads, the MK Food Bank can provide short term, crisis food support. They also work hard to ensure people are receiving help with their underlying issues. The Food Bank relies entirely on donations and we would be so grateful if you could help us to support them through our harvest collection.

They urgently need the following products: Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Long Life Milk, Juice or Squash, Cooking Oil, Spreads - Jams, Peanut Butter, or Chocolate Spread, Tinned Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fruit, Dried Rice - 500g, Tinned Veg, Dried Pasta, Tinned Soups, Savoury Snacks/Cereal Bars and toiletries.

Please send any donations to school with your child and they will be placed in front of our school chapel until they are collected on 7th October. Many thanks in advance for your help.

Mass for the Harvest and the New School Year

Fr Francis will be joining us to celebrate a special Mass in thanks for the harvest and the new school year with Years 3-6 on Tuesday 1st of October at 1:30pm.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us.

We would love to see you there.





The Ministerium Award



Last year we were delighted to launch the Ministerium Award at St. Bernadette's. We worked alongside staff from St. Paul's to create an award, endorsed by Bishop David, in the areas of Theology, Prayer and Service. All children who are interested in taking part are given an evidence booklet to work through at their own pace. Their evidence is checked by staff members from the staff Healthy Spirit Team at lunchtimes on Tuesdays. There are bronze, silver and gold awards to work towards and children will be recognised for their achievements during whole-school assemblies when they complete a level. All children who choose to take part start with the bronze level award, irrespective of their age/year group.

Some tasks may need to be carried out at home or in the local community. Therefore, we are happy for you to sign these tasks off in the booklet when your child carries them out. Please do ask your child if they would like to take part and encourage them to request an evidence booklet from their class teacher or Mrs Pughe.

We look forward to working with your children in achieving this prestigious award and growing in their faith journey over the coming years.

Class Collective Worships

We hope that parents and carers will be able to join their children in the small hall and chapel for class collective worships this year. This half term we have Y5 Eagle class collective worship on Thursday 10th October. Please see the dates page at the end of this newsletter for the details.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation Meetings will take place on 15th and 17th October between 3:30 and 6:00pm. Further information will be circulated nearer the time. The meetings on 15th October will be face-to-face in the main school hall and those on 17th Oct will be virtual via Microsoft Teams.



Home-School Communication

Home-school communication is crucial. If you have any concerns or questions, do speak directly with the class teacher at the end of the school day or contact them by email, using **surname** followed by **first initial** followed by @stbernadettesschool.com e.g. ZamoraJ@stbernadettesschool.com Staff names can be accessed via the website: <https://www.stbernadettesschool.com/staffing/>

Please be aware that a number of our staff members work part time. No staff member is expected to check or respond to work-related emails outside of their working hours, at weekends, or when absent due to sickness.

I endeavour to be present on the playground at the end of day pick-up time - please do come and speak with me if you have any questions, concerns or general feedback - or just to say hello! If I am not available, there will always be members of our leadership and/or pastoral team present to speak with at pick-up time. Formal meetings can of course also be arranged via the school office.

Year 6 Applications for Secondary School

The deadline for applying for secondary school places for our current Year 6 pupils is 31st October. Applications are made via the council website. The portal for applications is currently open: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-secondaryupper-school-september-2025> Please make sure you do state all four preference schools in your application. If your child is taking the 11+, please **do not** only select grammar schools as your preferences. These schools are over-subscribed, therefore, **passing the 11+ does not automatically ensure a place for your child.**

Our local Catholic secondary school is St Paul's. <https://www.st-pauls.org.uk/> We highly recommend visiting to see them in action. Year 5 & 6 parents and carers are warmly welcome to make visits to St Paul's each Friday at 9:30 until Friday 18th October. Please contact St Paul's to make an appointment: 01908 669735

We also recommend their Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Parents on Thursday 10th October 6.00pm-8.00pm. No prior appointment is necessary for the Open Evening.

Parking

I know that end of day pick-up time can be particularly stressful and there are not sufficient parking spaces but I urge you to please be patient and kind to one another and considerate towards the local residents. When dropping off your children in the mornings, please do not do this at the roundabout as this is not a safe place for your child to get out of the car.

- If no space is available in our car park, do not leave your car unattended if blocking other cars in
- Please turn off your engines if parked and waiting in the carpark.
- Please only park in designated areas - do not park on the roundabout or any areas with double yellow lines
- Please do not park across local residents' access areas such as driveways
- Please consider walking if you live close enough to the school
- Consider parking at the green or the Waitrose car park and walking from there

I am aware that a small number of families are car-sharing. This is an excellent idea as not only does it ease the parking difficulties, it reduces costs and emissions.

I understand how difficult it can be at this busy time and I am extremely grateful for your support with this.

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



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

live simply

Dates for Advent Term

New Virtue: Generosity		New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Option for the Poor	
Mon 9 Sept	Year 1 and Year 2: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams		
Tues 10 Sept	Year 4 and Year 6: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams		
Wed 11 Sept	Year 3 and Year 5: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams		
Thurs 12 Sept	Reception (Saplings - FS2): Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams		
Fri 13 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am		
16 Sept - 4 Oct	Harvest Collection for MK Foodbank - please donate tinned, dried and long-life food for this worthy cause.		
Wed 18 Sept	Flu vaccinations Y3/4 Football Tournament - St Paul's		
Thurs 19 Sept	9:15 am Pupil Premium application support session for parents		
Fri 20 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am Bridgebuilder Trust Assembly		
Mon 23 Sept	Y6 Solar Farm Workshops (in school)		
Wed 25 Sept	Mini Vinnies Commissioning Service Y5/6 Football Tournament - St Paul's		
Thurs 26 Sept	Fit 4 Kids Workshops - all children Y1-6 come to school in PE kit Y6 Visit to Emberton Solar Farm		
Fri 27 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am		
Tues 1 Oct	1:30pm Harvest Celebration Mass - Parents are warmly welcomed to join Y3-6 for Mass 5:00 pm RSHE Parent Information Evening - this is a repeat of last year's session - all parents are welcome to come and find out about our RHSE curriculum, <i>Ten: Ten Life to the Full</i>		
Wed 2 Oct	Y3/4 Netball Tournament - St Paul's		
Fri 4 Oct	8:10 am Join us for Rosary in the school chapel Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am CAFOD family fast day Last day to bring in harvest donations for the MK Foodbank		
9-11 Oct	Y6 Residential Visit - Rock UK		
Wed 9 Oct	Y5 Netball Tournament - St Paul's		
Thurs 10 Oct	Y5 Eagle Class Collective Worship in Chapel 2:45		
Fri 11 Oct	8:10 am Join us for Rosary in the school chapel Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am		
Tues 15 Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings open nearer the time) Face-to-Face in school hall		
Thurs 17 Oct	Individual and sibling photographs taken - full school uniform (not PE kit) on this day Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings open nearer the time) Remote Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams		
Fri 18 Oct	8:10 am Join us for Rosary in the school chapel PTA Break the Rules Day Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am		
Tues 22 Oct	International Evening 5:30 - 7:30 - come and have fun sharing your traditional food, dress and music		
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		

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



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

live simply

Half Term Holiday

Mon 4 Nov	Children return to school Y3/4/5/6 Cross Country tournament - St Paul's
Sun 10 Nov	Special Mass Celebrating Catholic Schools - Christ the King Church, Kents Hill 11:30 am
W/C Nov 11	Anti-bullying Week
Tues 12 Nov	Y5 Falcon Class Collective Worship in Chapel 2:45
Tues 19 Nov	Y4 Leopard Class Collective Worship in Chapel 2:45
Thurs 28 Nov	School Council Meeting - St Paul's
Fri 29 Nov	Y5 Educational Visit - Bletchley Park Y4 Lion Class Collective Worship in Chapel 2:45
Mon 2 Dec	Advent Wreath Assembly
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 Bridgebuilder Trust Assembly
Fri 13 Dec	PTA Christmas Shop
Tues 17 Dec	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)
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).

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