



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

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Lent Term 2

Virtue: Perseverance

Catholic Social Principles: Human Dignity

Newsletter March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a great day celebrating World Book Day earlier in March. The children and staff looked fantastic dressed as their favourite book characters and the 'Books Over Breakfast' session earlier in the week was extremely popular. It was a lovely opportunity to come together to enjoy stories along with a tasty treat. The children also worked very well in mixed aged groups 'stepping into' a range of different genre of texts throughout the day. Thank you to Miss Hannigan for organising this.

This week our Year 4 children performed a beautiful, reverent Easter reflection, retelling events of Holy Week and Jesus' glorious resurrection through acting, singing and prayer. It was a privilege to watch their performance. Thank you and congratulations to the children, many thanks to the Year 4 staff for all their efforts and the support of the parents who attended.

A reminder that we break up for the Easter holidays this **Friday 27th March with an early end to the day**. KS1 and FS2 (Saplings, Y1 and Y2) close at 2:20 pm. Nursery and KS2 (Acorns, Y3, 4, 5 and 6) close 2:30 pm. There will be no care club on this day. The children return to school on Monday 13th April.

This Friday is also our Mufti Day in support of CAFOD World Gifts and our pledge to provide a community water supply. Please donate as usual via the Gateway or bring cash on the day.

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and blessed Easter.

Kindest regards, Mrs J Zamora

Sporting Success

An update from Mr Marchant, our Sports Coach:

Well done to the Y5/6 Badminton Team who won the Catholic Schools Badminton tournament. Some really impressive performances all round, meant we racked up a good total of points. Aside from last year when the tournament was cancelled, this is now the 4th year in a row we have won the tournament. A great success for the school.

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 Girls Football Team who have made an excellent start to their league, playing six games, winning two, drawing four and not conceding a single goal. The team have been playing some really good football and have grown in confidence with each game. We finished 4th out of 16 teams in our league and have now progressed to the top finals night in Milton Keynes, where the 8 best teams will play. We have been dealt a tough quarter final draw against county champions Middleton. Let's all wish the girls the best of luck for their final's night this Thursday.

Well done to the Year 4 Basketball Team who finished in 2nd place at the Catholic Schools Basketball Tournament. Good team play from everyone and some excellent baskets scored.

A huge congratulations to the Year 3/4 Girls Football Team who finished in 2nd place at the football tournament at Monkston Primary School. The girls were up against 5 teams in total and only missed out on first place by the number of goals scored. The girls played four games, winning three of them and drawing one. This is a huge achievement for the girls, as they are a brand-new team, with 75% of them only starting to play this half term. Really pleasing to see the progress they have made in this short period of time.

Our Y5/6 boys' football team played with great heart, skill and sportsmanship at yesterday's football festival. This year we did not keep the trophy but we are very proud of the team - they dominated most of the five games they played and we are very proud of them. Thanks to Mr Marchant, Mr Smith, St Paul's student referees, Romanelli Pizzas and all who made it such an enjoyable event.

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I am extremely grateful to Mrs Pughe and the Prayer Mini Vinnies who provided a reverent, moving and thought-provoking experience through the Stations of the Cross over the last four Fridays before school. The sessions were so well attended by pupils, parents, staff and parishioners from the St Barnabas Cluster.

On Tuesday we also led an online Stations of the Cross with the MK Catholic Schools which was very well received.

Lenten Charitable Acts

As you are aware, our main charitable fundraising focus this year is supporting CAFOD World Gifts. We have raised £503 so far and hope that we can add to this impressive total before the end of term. Year 3 are currently organising an Easter basket raffle and **we will have a whole-school MUFTI Day on the last day of term: Friday 27th March.**

Donations can be made via your Gateway Account or through a cash donation on the day.

You can find out more about CAFOD World Gifts here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqWfenfKJc&feature=youtu.be> Many thanks for your ongoing support.



There will be year group fundraising activities carried out in the coming months. Please look out for details coming soon!



Our children have voted to buy:

- 1) Community Water Supply (£750)
- 2) Medical support for a newborn baby and mum (£43)
- 3) Chickens (£20)
- 4) Education programme (£63).



MUFTI DAY
Friday 27th March

Donate a minimum of £1 via school gateway or bring your donation into school



We are carrying out 40 Acts of Generosity throughout the 40 days of Lent. Please ask your child about this activity and support them if they have selected one of the acts to carry out at home.

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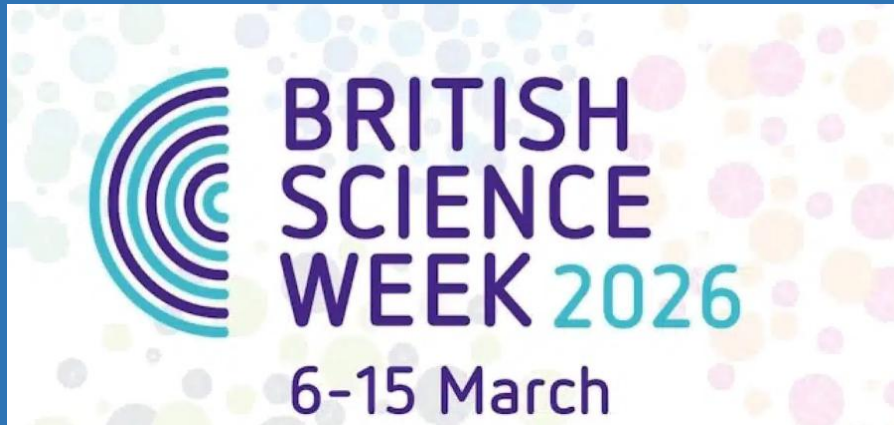
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British Science Week



We enjoyed a fabulous British Science Week WOW DAY when all of our children had the opportunity to participate in scientific experiments and learning. We had a wide range of science activities related to Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Sustainability. These workshops included animals and their habitats with real live guinea pigs and insects; rocket design and building; density and floating experiments; does toast always land face up investigations; lava lamps; aerodynamics with paper airplanes. The children had a great time investigating their many scientific questions.

POETRY BY HEART

Last week saw an exceptional Poetry by Heart final for the pupils in KS2. The winners from the class heats recited their poems to their classmates, teachers and parents in the main hall. We enjoyed listening to a wide range of poems from different eras.

The judges praised the children's outstanding performances for being expressive, dramatic and very well enunciated. Well done to all the children who participated in this annual event and special praise for our finalists and this year's winners. Anne-Marie - Kangaroo Class (Runner-Up); Sera - Panda Class (Runner-Up); **Ryan - Panda Class (Winner)**, Megha - Falcon Class (Runner-Up); Anne Stefna - Meteor Class (Runner-Up); Tansia - Meteor Class (Runner-Up); **Charlotte - Comet Class (Winner)**.

Recordings of the winning performances will now be sent to the national stage of the competition. Many thanks to Miss McNally for organising the competition, all the children who took part and the family members who supported at home.

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St Bernadette's Nursery



We are currently accepting applications to enrol in our nursery for September 2026. Please collect admission forms from the office or access them via the school website: <https://www.stbernadetteschool.com/nursery/> There are currently morning (15hr) and full time (30hr) places available. Please visit the school website for more details and do encourage friends and family to consider our warm, welcoming nursery. Reception Year Baseline Assessments consistently show the positive impact that having attended our school nursery has for our pupils.

Staff Leavers

On Friday we say a fond farewell to two members of staff. Mrs Moore leaves her role as Midday Supervisor and we wish her the very best for the future and thank her for her hard work and contributions as a valued member of our lunchtime support staff team. Mrs Addo also leaves us after 8 years at St Bernadette's, working tirelessly supporting many of our children with additional needs and vulnerabilities, making a positive difference to so many.

I am sure you will join me in wishing them both every blessing for the future and every success, wherever their paths lead them next.

We are currently advertising for a temporary Midday Supervisor to work Mon - Wed 11:30 - 1:30 until the end of the school year. You can find out more and access the application paperwork here: <https://www.stbernadetteschool.com/staff-vacancies-teacher-training/>

Please see the following page for the events planned for the remainder of Lent term and next half term.



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Half Term Holiday

New Virtue: Perseverance

New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Human Dignity

Thurs 26 Mar	Y1 Seahorse Class Collective Worship - Parents and welcomed to join them in the Small Hall - 2:45pm Y5/6 Girls' Football League matches
Fri 27 Mar	Mufti in aid of CAFOD world Gifts and our aim to fund a community water supply. Y3 Kangaroo group Forest School session End of term. Early Close: FS2 (Saplings) & KS1: 2:20 pm. Nursery & KS2 2:30pm

Easter Holiday

New Virtue: Service

New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Option for the Poor

Mon 13 April	Return to school for the summer term - Pentecost Term
Wed 15 April	Class photos - please wear full winter uniform with jumper/cardigan and school tie
Thurs 16 April	St Bernadette's Feast Day Mass - 1:40 - all parents are welcome to join Y3-6 in the main hall
Tues 21 April	Y4 - Y6 PTA Spring Disco 3:20 - 4:20
Wed 22 April	Y4 - Santander MoneyWise session 1 FS2 - Y3 PTA Spring Disco 3:15 - 4:15
Thurs 23 April	Y4 - Santander MoneyWise session 2
Fri 24 April	Y3 Panda Class Forest School Y4 - Santander MoneyWise session 3
Tues 28 April	9-11:30 Mrs Lazzari, Inclusion Manager Drop-in session
Fri 1 May	8:10 - join us for early morning Rosary in the chapel Bring a Plant Day (please donate a plant for our sensory garden - info to follow) Y3 Kangaroo Class Forest School 2:45 pm Starfish Class Collective Worship

Monday 4th May is Bank Holiday Monday - School is closed

Tues 5 May	Plant a Plant Week 3:30 - 6:30 Y3/4 Boys' Football Festival - St Bernadette's
Wed 6 May	Y5 Red Bull Racing Workshop
Fri 8 May	8:10 - join us for early morning Rosary in the chapel
w/c 11 May	Mon - Thurs Year 6 SATs tests with early morning breakfast for the Y6 children
Thurs 14 May	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
Fri 15 May	8:10 - join us for early morning Rosary in the chapel
w/c 18 May	Healthy Communities Week Y6 Empower and Challenge Workshop Y2 - Assessment Week - using non-statutory optional Year 2 SATs materials
Tues 19 May	3:30 - 6:30 Y3/4 Boys' Football Festival - at St Bernadette's
Wed 20 May	School Danceathon MK Catholic Schools Rosary Session
Thurs 21 May	FUN RUN KS1 10:00 - 10:30 and KS2 2:30 - 3:00
Fri 22 May	8:10 - join us for early morning Rosary in the chapel Saplings Class Collective Worship 2:45 End of Term - normal home times

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