



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

live simply

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter January 2026

Lent Term 1

Value: Justice

Catholic Social Teaching Principle: The Dignity of Workers

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that 2026 has started well for you and your loved ones.

This half term is a short one, we break up for the half term holiday on Friday 13th February with normal end of day timings. We return on Monday 23rd February.

Do please check the dates page at the end of this newsletter to see a range of events planned for the remainder of this Lent term. Note that we have a mufti day in aid of the Humanitas school in Ghana on Friday 30th January.

Kindest regards, Mrs Zamora

Parent Consultations

Spring Term Parent Consultations are taking place on 10th and 12th February this year. We are following the same approach as we did in October, with the option to choose **either** a **remote session via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 10th February** or a **Face-to-Face meeting at school on Thursday 12th February**. Please look out for the email prompting you to sign up to a session which will be sent from *Primary Site* (our website provider). It will only be sent to **one** of your child's primary emergency contacts. If you experience any difficulty signing up for a slot, please liaise with the school office by phone (01908 692438) rather than via the class teacher because the office staff maintain the sign-up registers.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 2026 will take place from February 9th to February 15th, with the theme "This is My Place," We will be focusing on the vital importance of belonging in schools, communities, and friendships to build connection and support for our children's well-being.

During Mental Health Week, on Wednesday 11th February, Year 2 and Year 3 pupils will be receiving dance workshops with MOTUS Dance. The SOMEDAYS cast of 2 professional dancers will be joining us to deliver their new, family-friendly dance production, helping children explore their emotions, relationships and what makes them special and unique.

Year 2 and Year 3 students should wear their PE kits on 11th February

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PEP:mk
Primary Enrichment
Partnership



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Sporting Success

Our Y3/4 Boys' football team had their first league fixtures of 2026 last week and they played valiantly in driving rain! Despite the awful conditions, they showed great skills and confidence winning 3/5 games. Well done to the team! We wish them the very best for their set of matches this Thursday.

Our own St Bernadette's Football Festivals have become a greatly anticipated event in many MK schools' diaries and have become more and more popular over the years. Do put the dates in your own diaries and come along to cheer on our children: Y5/6 boys' festival: 24/03/2026, Y3/4 boys' festival: 05/05/2026, KS2 girls' festival: 19/05/2026 matches 3:45 - 6:00 pm on our school field.

POETRY BY HEART

Poetry by Heart is a free-to-enter national poetry speaking competition with a chance to perform at Shakespeare's Globe, London. If your child is in KS2 (years 3-6), we would like them to choose **two poems** from the Poetry by Heart website: poetrybyheart.org.uk learn them by heart and perform them out loud in school. **One poem must be published in or after 1914, and one from before 1914.**

The children will listen to all of their classmates' poetry performances in their classrooms before the best ones are chosen to perform in the school final on Thursday 19th March. As a school, we will then decide who will go forward to the national round of the competition.

The national winners will be chosen to perform on stage at Shakespeare's Globe. One of our own pupils, Laurissa, was the national winner for KS2 last year - you can see her perform one of her poems here: <https://poetrybyheart.org.uk/the-competition>

CAFOD'S
WORLD
GIFTS

Charity Update

Our fundraising in autumn term (Mufti Day, selling sweets and Foundation Stage Christmas Crafts sale) have set us well on the path to achieving the children's first goal of funding a community water supply through Cafod World Gifts. Our current amount raised is £503

Over the next two terms there will be a range of additional fundraising activities to support this wonderful charity.

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Starting Nursery in September 2026?

The application process for 15hrs and 30hrs places at our nursery for September 2026 is open for children born between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023. Applications for nursery places should be made directly to the school. Application forms are available via the school reception office. The closing date is 24/04/2026.

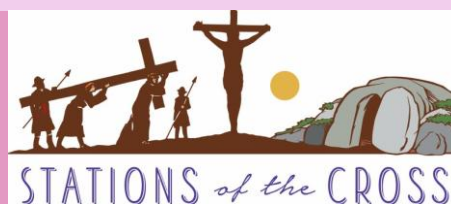
Starting Reception Class in September 2026?

If you know of any parents with children born 01/09/21 - 31/08/22 who have not yet applied for a statutory school place in reception class for September, please do encourage them to apply to our lovely school. The initial deadline for applications has passed but there is still time to apply to St Bernadette's. Please encourage parents to contact the school for a visit and make applications via the council.



Lent begins this year on 18th February - Ash Wednesday, during half term holiday.

Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter in the Christian calendar; it is a time of reflection as we prepare to remember the passion and death of Jesus and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.



A number of prayer Mini Vinnies will also lead weekly Stations of the Cross before school on Fridays in the chapel during Lent, starting on Friday 27th February. More information will be sent out nearer the time but we do hope as many as possible will join us for this very special, prayerful and reflective tradition.

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Virtues Mission Retreat

The Staff *Healthy Spirit Team* are preparing a *Values Mission Retreat* for our children on 27th & 28th January, focussing on our current virtue of *Justice*. Please do accompany your children at the end of the school day to the Small Hall and Chapel. Together you can access a range of activities and prayer stations exploring and promoting the concept of Justice. Thank you in advance to the Mini Vinnies and students from St Paul's who will be supporting the event.



World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March.

We have some lovely reading-related activities planned for the day - look out for further information that will be emailed to you.

We also encourage pupils and staff to come to school dressed as their favourite book character! We have arranged for Willen Hospice to provide a 'pop-up' costume shop at school from 3pm on Friday 13th February (last day of the half term). This is a wonderful opportunity to raise money for this vital charity and to pick a brand new or pre-loved costume. Maximum prices at £7.50.

Please see the following page for the events planned for the remainder of this term.

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Christmas Holidays

New Virtue: Justice

New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Dignity of Workers

Mon Jan	Staff INSET day
Tue 6 Jan	Pupils return to school (Feast of the Epiphany)
Thurs 15 Jan	Year 3/4 Boys Football League- Tattenhoe Pavillion
Fri 16 Jan	Y6 Meteor Class Collective Worship - Parents and welcomed to join them in the Small Hall - 2:45pm
Mon 19 Jan	St Paul's music assembly performance From 1:30pm Drop-in sessions with Mrs Lazzari - book a session in advance
Tues 20 Jan	Y3 Kangaroo group Forst School session
21 - 22 Jan	Y6 and FS2 health screening with school nurses
Thurs 22 Jan	Y5 Comet Class Collective Worship - Parents and welcomed to join them in the Small Hall - 2:45pm Year 3/4 Boys Football League- Tattenhoe Pavillion
Fri 23 Jan	Bridgebuilder Trust Assembly
27 - 28 Jan	Virtues Mission Retreat in Small Hall. Theme: Justice - come and join us after school in Small Hall
Fri 30 Jan	Y3 Kangaroo Class Collective Worship - Parents and welcomed to join them in the Small Hall - 2:45pm Mufti in aid of Humanitas School Ghana Y4 Wow Day with 'Mr Egypt'!
Thurs 5 Feb	Year 5 Knife Crime session with the Safety Centre Year 3/4 Boys Football League- Finals Night
Fri 6 th Feb	Y3 Panda Class Collective Worship - Parents and welcomed to join them in the Small Hall - 2:45pm (note date change from last newsletter)
w/c 9 Feb	Children's Mental Health Week
Tues 10 Feb	Internet Safety focus day Parent Consultation Evening - remote sessions via Microsoft Teams (links sent nearer the time)
Wed 11 Feb	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Dance assembly performance for whole-school followed by Year 2 and Year 3 Dance Workshops - Y2/3 please come in PE kit
Thurs 12 Feb	Parent Consultation Evening - face-to-face sessions in school hall
Fri 13 Feb	3:00 pm Willen Hospice Pop-up Costume Sale for World Book Day PTA pancake day after school in small hall End of half term - normal home time hours

Half Term Holiday

New Virtue: Perseverance

New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Human Dignity

Mon 23 Feb	Back to school
Tues 24 Feb	Y3/4 Badminton tournament at St Paul's
Fri 27 Feb	8:10am Join us for Stations of the Cross in the school chapel
w/c 2 nd Mar	Poetry by Heart Heats in Class Y3-Y6
Mon 2 Mar	Y7 school offer day for Y6 pupils Y5 Prayer Space day with Bridgebuilder Trust
Tues 3 Mar	PTA Annual General Meeting 2pm Small Hall

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Thurs 5 Mar	World Book Day - come dressed as your favourite book character Girls' Football League matches
Fri 6 Mar	8:10am Join us for Stations of the Cross in the school chapel
Mon 9 Mar	St Paul's science visit to Y6
Tue 10 Mar	Drop in sessions with Mrs Lazzari - Inclusion Manager Year 2 Turtle Class Collective Worship - Parents and welcomed to join them in the Small Hall - 2:45pm Y5/6 Basketball Tournament at St Paul's
Wed 11 Mar	St Bernadette's Delve into Science Day
Thurs 12 Mar	Y6 Victorian Wow Day
Fri 13 Mar	Y3 Panda group Forest School session 8:10am Join us for Stations of the Cross in the school chapel
Tues 17 Mar	Y2 Dolphin Class Collective Worship - Parents and welcomed to join them in the Small Hall - 2:45pm Y3/4 Basketball Tournament at St Paul's
Wed 18 Mar	Rock Steady Rockstar performance for their parents 2:15pm Main Hall
Thurs 19 Mar	School Final Y3-Y6 of Poetry by Heart Competition Y5/6 Football League matches
Fri 20 Mar	8:10am Join us for Stations of the Cross in the school chapel
Mon 23 Mar	Y4 Easter Reflection for their parents 2pm Main Hall
Tues 24 Mar	3:30 - 6:00 Y5/6 Boys - St Bernadette's Football Festival - come and cheer on the team!
Wed 25 Mar	Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord Choir Easter Performance for their families
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 Humanitas School Ghana Y3 Kangaroo group Forest School session End of term. Early Close: FS2 (Saplings) & KS1: 2:15pm. Nursery & KS2 2:30pm

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