



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

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Newsletter May 2026

Pentecost Term 1

Virtue: Service

CST: Option for the Poor

Dear Parents and Carers,

We enjoyed a special Mass with Father Francis to celebrate our school's 20th Year on our Patronal Feast Day (16th April). The PTA provided ice pops for all the children and the staff enjoyed a celebratory cake. We are now busy planning for our 20th Anniversary Summer Festival on Saturday 4th July. If you have any suggestions for stalls or would like to perform a song or dance at the festival, please let us know. In order for it to be a success, we will need lots of volunteers to help through the day. If you or your Year 5/6 child can help - if even just for an hour - please sign up to volunteer via the School Gateway.



Thank you so much to all the parents and staff who nominated St Bernadette's on Facebook for the Firewood Fuel MK Community Giveaway. Thanks to your amazing support, we won! We have a meeting later this week to look at how they can support us in developing our outdoor area. If you have not done so already, please do 'like' and follow our facebook and Instagram pages - you can access them via these QR codes.

Next week is an important one for our Year 6 children - we wish them every blessing as they sit their end of KS2 SATs.

St Bernadette's Healthy Communities Week starts on 18th May with a range of activities, including **Fun Runs on Friday 22nd (please note this date change)**. It would be lovely if parents and other family members could join us for the Fun Runs - either to cheer the children on or to join in, gaining points for your child's house group: Years 1-3 will be 10:00-10:15 am and Years 4-6 will start at 2:30 pm.

A reminder that we break up on Friday 22nd May for the half term holiday with normal home times. Do please note that Monday 1st June is a staff INSET day at St Bernadette's and therefore children return to school on Tuesday 2nd June.

Please see the dates page at the end of this newsletter for the many events taking place. You can also view the calendar option on our revamped website: <https://www.stbernadettesschool.com/events-calendar>

**POETRY BY
HEART**

**We have a finalist
in the national competition!**

As reported in the March newsletter, the recordings of the winning performances from our school-based KS2 competition were sent to the national round of the Poetry by Heart competition.

57,948 poems were recited at school events across the country last year with 4,339 submitted for the national round of the competition. Only 40 finalists are chosen by judges to enter the national final at the Globe Theatre.

I am absolutely delighted to inform you that one of our pupils has been selected to take part in Grand Final at the world-renowned Shakespeare's Globe theatre on 6th July! Congratulations Ryan in Panda Class on this wonderful accomplishment! This is the second year running that St Bernadette's has a finalist in this prestigious competition - an incredible achievement for the school!

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Many of our children are celebrating the most wonderful sacrament of their first Holy Communion in June within our local parishes. Please do keep them in your prayers as they take this very special step on their faith journeys.

Rosary Club



Thank you so much to those who have been attending early-morning rosary club at 8:10am on Fridays in the chapel. It would be lovely to welcome more over the coming Fridays.



we have already achieved all of our goals for this year's fundraising for CAFOD World Gifts!!! Our Advent term fundraising raised £503. During Lent term, we raised £324 from the Mufti Day and Year 3 raised £79 from their Easter raffle - a total of £403 during Lent term.

This means we have raised £906 so far! We can buy all the gifts voted for by our children with £30 left over! A number of year groups are yet to carry out their year group fund-raising!

Watch this space to see what the children choose as their next gifts. At St Bernadette's we truly live out the Catholic Social Teaching Principles!

These are the wonderful gifts chosen by the children that we have been able to provide:

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

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St Bernadette's Speech Cup and Poetry Recital Competition

The ability to speak confidently and articulately, particularly in front of others, is a vital skill for success in today's society and we want to support our children as much as possible in acquiring the skills of public speaking.

Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 children are invited to learn and recite a poem of their choice. Key Stage 2 pupils are asked to prepare a speech of no longer than 5 minutes on a topic of their choice. They are welcome to use basic props, a presentation program, costume and notes etc. to support their delivery, although reading directly from scripts or screens is discouraged.

Heats will take place in classes shortly after half term. Staff and pupils will vote for the best poem or speech to go through to the finals on Monday 22nd June to represent their class. The final judging panel will include staff and pupils from St Paul's Catholic Secondary School.

Please support your child with preparations, particularly over the half term holiday, as there will only be minimal time at school to prepare.



We are asking children to bring a plant to school on Friday 5th June as part of our overall sustainability mission and our ongoing drive to be more eco-friendly.

If possible, please bring an outdoor perennial plant (one that comes back every year). Please label the plant with your child's name and class.

The plants will be great for pollinators such as bees and butterflies and will really enhance our lovely school grounds. We will be planting them in the allotments, prayer garden and our new (currently under construction) sensory garden.

Children who bring in labelled plants will be involved in the process of planting them w/c 8th June with Mr Smith and Mr Painter and in maintaining the plants by watering them and watching them grow.

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Sporting Success

This week we hosted St Bernadette's Annual Y3/4 Boys Football Festival. Seven schools took part and our boys finished in 5th Place, playing with great spirit and skill against some very strong teams. Well done to Tim who won our Team's Fair Play Award.

St Bernadette's Girls' Football Festival takes place on 19th May on our school field, starting at 3:30pm. We anticipate a very exciting afternoon - do come along to cheer on our girls.



We are very proud to be a partner of St Mark's Meals to support our families when they need it the most. They store emergency meal boxes in schools - including St Bernadette's. This means that families facing vulnerabilities and struggling to feed their children, for whatever reason, can take home a meal to cook any day they might need it. The boxes contain the ingredients needed to cook an easy, child-friendly, hot and healthy meal and a recipe card so families can cook it over and over - even on a small budget. If you are in need of this support, or know a family who is, please do not hesitate to contact me in strict confidence.

On Thursday 18th June, we will have a fundraising 'Dress for Dinners' MUFTI to support the essential work of this wonderful local charity. Donations of £1 or more would be gratefully received either via School Gateway or as cash on the day.

Uniform

On days when it is particularly hot and sunny, school ties are not required and can be left at home. Please do ensure that on cooler days, your child does wear a tie. Please label all pieces of clothing - there have been so many discarded jumpers and cardigans with no name on the playground and school field and it has been impossible to reunite them with their owners. Please also check to see whether any washed-out names need re-writing.

St Bernadette's children can look so smart on arrival at school but more recently, our high standards seem to be slipping and I appeal to you to ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. This has been particularly noticeable with PE kits. If you choose not to buy the PE items with the school logo, please ensure that the PE kit worn by your child is **smart, fulfills the given description** and has **no** company/brand logo, pattern, lines or additional colours. **Cycling shorts are not part of the PE uniform. Shorts should be navy school sports shorts.**

On non-PE days, all children should be wearing black school shoes.

There are a number of children who are coming to school with large, colourful hair accessories or hooped/dangly earrings. For safety reasons, only small stud earrings are allowed. Hair accessories should be functional (rather than simply decoration), simple, small and in school colours.

You can find out more on the school website: <https://www.stbernadettesschool.com/uniform/>

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Staffing Update

There are a number of staffing changes planned for next academic year within our leadership team that I wanted to make you aware of.

- Mrs Morris, our Foundation Stage Leader, will be leaving St Bernadette's at the end of the school year as she moves away from Milton Keynes to be closer to her wider family. She has dedicated many years to developing the provision for our youngest children and will be greatly missed. I am delighted that Mrs O'Brien was successful in her application to take on this role in our school. She has many years of experience working within the foundation stage as both a teacher and Early Years Leader. I am delighted that she is joining our leadership team at St Bernadette's in such a crucial role.
- Mrs Lazzari, our highly experienced and skilled Inclusion Manager will also be leaving us at the end of the year. Her plan was always to support us over the short-term when Mrs Romans left St Bernadette's to take on a new leadership role. She has provided wonderful advice and support to staff and parents over her time with us, enhancing our provision for pupils with additional needs. From September, Mrs Smith, our Deputy Headteacher, will be taking on the role. Mrs Smith has a wealth of experience as Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and already leads in the areas of mental health and wellbeing and the Pupil Premium. She also holds the SENCo qualification. She will be working closely with Mrs Lazzari after half term to ensure a smooth transition into the role.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Smith and Mrs O'Brien well in their new roles and in thanking Mrs Morris and Mrs Lazzari for the hard work, dedication and passion they have given to our school community.

In further staffing updates, we warmly welcome Mrs Turner to our lunch supervisor team and wish Mrs Crompton every blessing as she commences her maternity leave after half term. We will be welcoming Mrs Richards as Y2 Turtle Class teacher after half term.

Help Build the New St Bernadette's Library

Saint Bernadette's Catholic Primary School Library Expansion Project



What We Need



We would be so grateful for your help in developing our own stock of books in our school library. We aim to take ownership of our library rather than relying on the costly council library service. The first step on this journey is to seek donations of new or used books (in good condition). If you are able to help, please drop donations at the school office.

Thank you.



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New Virtue: Service	
New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Option for the Poor	
05/05/2026	3:30 - 6:00 Y3/4 Boys Football Festival St Bernadette's
06/05/2026	STEMX Red Bull Racing Workshop - Year 5
08/05/2026	8:10 Join Us for Rosary in School Chapel
W/C 11/05/2026	Mon - Thurs Year 6 SATs tests with early morning breakfast for the Y6 children
12/05/2026	3.45pm-5.00pm Y3&4 Tag Rugby St Paul's
13/05/2026	Y4 Handball Tournament at Giles Brook School
14/05/2026	Feast of the Ascension of The Lord
15/05/2026	8:10 Join us for Rosary in School Chapel
w/c 18/05/2026	Healthy Communities Week Ks1 Sats Week (option non-statutory tests)
18/05/2026	Beat The Teacher Y6 Empower and Challenge Workshop
19/05/2026	Year 5/6 Girls Football Festival
20/05/2026	Danceathon Choir Club Y4 Handball Tournament At Giles Brook School
21/05/2026	Spirit Party 10:00 Small Hall Y3 visit to Bradwell Abbey
22/05/2026	8:10 Join us for Rosary in School Chapel Fun Run (Y1-Y3-10:00-10:15), Fun Run (Y4-6 - 2:30-2:50) Saplings Class Collective Worship - Small Hall - 2:45pm End of half term - normal home times
Half Term Holiday	
24/05/2026	Pentecost Sunday 24th May
31/05/2026	Trinity Sunday 31st May
01/06/2026	Inset Day - School Closed to Children
New Virtue: Truthfulness	
New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Solidarity and Peace	
02/06/2026	Children Return to school
03/06/2026	STEMX Redbull Workshop Y5
05/06/2026	Bring a Plant to School Day Y5 Eagle - River Workshop Parks Trust
W/C 08/06/2026	Y1 Phonics Screening Week Plant A Plant Week
08/06/2026	Y5 Humanitas Fundraiser - Movie and Popcorn
09/06/2026	Y5 Falcon - River Workshop Parks Trust
12/06/2026	Forest School (Panda Final Session) Pirls26 NCS England - Y5 International Reading Test
16/06/2026	History Day
16/06/2026	SEND Parent Session Small Hall Rock UK Meeting for Y5 Parents 5pm

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17/06/2026	New to Reception Parents Evening St Paul's - Taster Day Year 5 Expressive Arts
18/06/2026	Mufti Day - Dress for Dinners - St Mark's Meals
18/06/2026	Steam Careers Day
19/06/2026	Stantonbury Athletics Competition
22/06/2026	Speech Cup and Poetry Recitals Finals FS1 9:10. FS2-Y2 9:45-11:15 KS2 1:30-3:00
23/06/2026	Catholic Schools Sports Day
24/06/2026	St Bernadette Award Assembly 9:15am New To Nursey Parent Evening
25/06/2026	Mufti - 20 th Anniversary Summer Festival Bag Return - watch out for information to follow
26/06/2026	Y6 Trip To Gulliver's Land
30/06/2026	Transition Morning and Assembly 9-11am PTA Summer Disco (FS2-Y2) 3:15-4:15 Bridgebuilder Y6 Transition Session (10:00-11:00 Main Hall)
01/07/2026	Fs2 Sports Day Y1-Y3 Sports Day 1:30-3:00pm
02/07/2026	Year 2 Trip - Peterborough Museum PTA Summer Disco (Y3- Y5) 3:20-4:20 St Paul's Induction Evening 5:30pm - 7:30pm
03/07/2026	TBC Forest School (Final Session) Kangaroo PTA Bake Off
04/07/2026	20 th Anniversary Summer Festival
07/07/2026	2:30 Main Hall Rock Steady Concert
07/07/2026	FS2 - Dino Park Gulliver's Land Trip
08/07/2026	Y6 Musical For Families (9:30am And 6:00pm) Yr4 Verulamium Museum Little City- Acorns
10/07/2026	Y6 Leavers' Disco
13/07/2026	Sports Day Y4-Y6
15/07/2026	9:30 Y6 Leavers' Mass Note date change Spirit Party - Small Hall - 11:30am Rock Steady Performance For Families (2:15pm) 4pm Choir Performance For Families - After School - Main Hall
16/07/2026	KS1 Achievement Awards Ceremony 9:15am KS2 Achievement Award Ceremony 5:00pm - 6:00pm
17/07/2026	End Of School Year Early Close - KS1 & FS2 2:20pm. FS1 & KS2 2:30. No Care Club

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