



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we close another successful academic year, I want to thank you for being such wonderful partners in your children's education. Your support, kind words, prayers and generous spirit have strengthened our school community in so many ways. I'm truly grateful to lead such a remarkable school.

Thank you to all who attended our 20th anniversary summer festival - it was such a lovely way to come together to enjoy fun, entertainment and food as a community, whilst also raising funds for the school. Thanks to all who worked so very hard to make it possible.

Please remember that the school year ends on Friday with an early close and no after-school care club.

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).

I hope that you enjoy a restful and happy summer holiday.

May God bless you and all your loved ones,

Mrs Zamora.

It has been such a busy yet successful year for our school and our children have achieved so much - we are so proud of them! Here you can read about just a few of their successes:

Sporting Heroes!

There have been so many opportunities for the whole school to come together for additional sporting events - for example, the Santa Dash, Sports Days, the Annual Healthy Community Week Fun Run, Stantonbury Athletics Finals, Catholic Schools' Sports Day, A-team and B-Team football matches and league matches, Girls' football league and friendly matches, MK competitive opportunities and Catholic Schools' tournaments, St Bernadette's football festivals - senior boys, junior boys and girls' events. Bikeability took place for Y5-6 pupils and enrichments clubs afterschool included: Running Club, Dance Club, Netball Club, Football (A team, B Team and Girls' Team) and Athletics Clubs, Multi-sports, Basketball and Tennis Clubs. An Olympic Volleyball player visited school in February, carrying out a fitness circuit with each class and a motivational assembly. The event raised £802 thanks to the generosity of our school families for sports and games equipment.

The Year 6 Residential took place 29th Sept - 1st Oct. It was very successful - the children engaged well in all the activities - kayaking, high ropes, archery, and raft-building,

Below you can see the competitive events we won (or nearly won!).

- KS2 girls' Football Festival - 1st place trophy
- Stantonbury Athletics Finals, whilst we did not win the event, we came in 2nd place out of the 16 large MK Schools at the Finals Event. This was our best performance to date with 14 medals across the events!
- Catholic Schools' Sports Day - we came first out of all the local Catholic Primary Schools - beating the 2nd place school by over 60 points! This was our 3rd consecutive winning year and the 8th time we have won the shield. We have won this event more times than any of the other Catholic schools.
- Friendly fixtures with Monkston Primary Girls won 2-0
- Y3/4 Boys' Football Tournament: 2nd Place (missing 1st place by goal difference)
- Y5/6 Boys' Football Tournament: 1st Place
- Y6 Netball Tournament: 1st Place
- Y4-6 cross country competition - 1st place
- Badminton Tournament Y5/6 1st place
- Basketball Tournament Y3/4 - 2nd place

Thank you to all those who braved the heat to join our various sports days. It was lovely to see so many of you there and the incredible speed of our parents in the parent races shows where our children get their sporting talents from!



Successes in the Performing Arts

Music and the performing arts remain at the heart of life at St Bernadette's. This year, our children have showcased their remarkable talents through an incredible range of performances.

Musical performances

- Termly choir concerts for parents
- Community performances at Woburn Sands Christmas Fair and carol concerts at Christ the King and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches
- A special performance at the Pastoral Area Mass celebrating Pilgrims of Hope
- Year 4 world percussion concerts in partnership with the Music Hub
- Three electrifying Rock Band concerts featuring children from Reception to Year 6

Theatrical productions

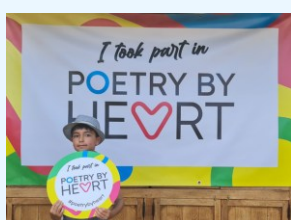
- Reception and Year 1 Nativity plays
- Year 4's moving and beautifully presented Holy Week musical
- Year 5 and Year 6's powerful Carols and Readings concert
- Year 6's spectacular end-of-year musical - a true feast for the eyes and ears! One parent remarked, "This should be shown at the West End!" - and I couldn't agree more. Watching these talented young people, many of whom started with us in Acorns at age 3, was incredibly poignant. The standard was exceptional, and I'm certain we witnessed many future stars!

Speaking and poetry

- Nursery Poetry Recital Competition, won by Toby with a wonderful rendition of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'
- FS2-Y2 Poetry Recital Competition, won by Paris in Year 2 with an incredibly inspiring poem
- KS2 Speech Competition, judged by St Paul's staff and students, featuring diverse topics including Football, The Ocean, Artificial Intelligence and the importance of Water. The St Paul's team were highly complimentary about our children's skill, eloquence and confidence. Congratulations to Damien in Y5 for his winning performance.

Well done to all children who took part in the class-based heats and those chosen by their classmates to perform in the final. Thanks also to all parents who supported their children in preparing for the competitions.

Our inaugural Summer Festival was a wonderful celebration featuring choir performances, Year 4 samba, local folk and award-winning singers, student piano recitals, dance performances and an open-jamming session led by Rock Steady Band Leaders.



National Finalist!



We are incredibly proud to share that St Bernadette's has achieved national recognition in the Poetry By Heart competition for the second consecutive year.

What is Poetry By Heart? More than 1,600 schools and 128,000 students across England take part in this prestigious annual competition. After our school-level heats and final competition, recordings of our finalists were sent to national judges.

Our achievement For the second year running, one of our pupils was selected to compete in the national final at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. This year, Ryan, (Year 3) represented us at the KS2 national final on 6th July 2026 - making him the youngest of the 10 national finalists! Following our 2025 national win, this is an extraordinary achievement and a testament to the confidence and eloquence we nurture in our children.

Why this matters These opportunities help prepare our children for their future academic journey and the modern world of work. We encourage self-expression, courage, confidence, eloquence and resilience, alongside humility - skills that many employers highlight as increasingly important for young people entering public-facing roles. We are immensely proud of all our children!



Impressive Academic Performance

On Thursday we will enjoy a number of award ceremonies celebrating the academic achievements of pupils from across the school with their parents - congratulations to all the award winners of 2026!

Whilst unfortunately, the release of the Y6 end of KS2 SATs results have been delayed and will not be available until Thursday at the earliest, we are able to share very strong performance in a range of other national statutory tests:

- This year we have achieved our **best ever** EYFS outcomes with 75% of our Saplings children reaching a Good Level of Development - GLD (This compares with 68% nationally last year)
- We achieved **excellent** Y1 phonics outcomes - 95% passed the national screening the test (national 2025 was 80%);
- We achieved our **best ever** Y4 times tables outcomes: 80% scoring full marks compared with only 37% nationally in 2025.

It is important to note that these assessments reveal only a tiny fraction of what goes on at St Bernadette's from day to day. The government does not assess the many other skills, qualities and strengths of our wonderful children. The children at our school receive a broad and balanced curriculum and learn the importance of Christian virtues alongside their responsibilities as citizens of the world. They have many opportunities to take on leadership roles and contribute to the life of our school and to the lives of the vulnerable in our locality and beyond. These are qualities of St Bernadette's pupils that would be impossible to give a numerical value to or to judge within national league tables, but they are what makes our children so special and unique.

I hope that you found the end of year reports helpful and informative. You can find out more about our curriculum and what your children have been learning via our website: <https://www.stbernadettesschool.com/our-curriculum/> and <https://www.stbernadettesschool.com/curriculum-newsletters/>

Parent Questionnaire

I would be grateful if you would follow this link and complete the parental questionnaire if you have not done so already: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JCDBYM5> This helps us to celebrate what is going well and also helps us identify areas for development for the coming year. The outcomes of this questionnaire are shared with our staff and the school's Governing Board. It is optional to include your children's names in your questionnaire response. If you have any specific queries or concerns you would like to raise regarding your own children, please do include their names or alternatively, please do not hesitate to contact me directly so that I can address them as a priority.



Sensational Year 6 Pupils

As our Year 6 pupils prepare to move on to secondary school, we celebrate everything they've achieved and the remarkable young people they've become.

A memorable final week Our Year 6 enjoyed a special end-of-year Mass celebrated by Fr Francis on Wednesday, followed by their spectacular musical performance - a talent-filled production bursting with humour, skill and 100% commitment from every child, even in sweltering conditions! On Friday, they celebrated with a well-deserved end-of-year party.

Leadership and service So many of this cohort have embraced leadership roles throughout their time at St Bernadette's - as Mini Vinnies, Junior Park Rangers and Bully Busters. They've represented our school with outstanding sportsmanship at countless events and tournaments, helping us achieve some of our best ever performances in competitive sport and bringing home a wide range of trophies and awards.

Many pupils have also dedicated their own time to the Ministerium Award, deepening their understanding of faith and carrying out acts of service with increasing independence. Most recently, they worked alongside Community Mini Vinnies and Ministerium Award pupils to plan and lead our fabulous, fun-packed Summer Charity Bash. They have been wonderful role models for our younger children.

Our pride and best wishes Year 6 have conducted themselves with great maturity, resilience and positivity throughout their time here. They are a true credit to their families and our school. They have been thoroughly 'St Bernadette-ed' and we hope they will always feel part of our school family, returning to visit us often. Our prayers and very best wishes go with them as they embark on the next exciting stage of their school careers. I am immensely proud of them and could not be more confident in their future success.

Thank you to our families Many of our Year 6 pupils are the youngest siblings in families who have been part of St Bernadette's community for so many years. I thank all Year 6 families for their unwavering support - it is certainly the end of an era in so many ways!

Fond Farewells and Warm Welcomes

At the end of this week, we are saying farewell to a number of much-loved staff who have contributed a great deal to St Bernadette's over the years. We wish Miss Poppy, Mrs Nelta, Mrs Goddard, Mrs Lazzari and Mrs Morris every blessing for the future and thank them for all their contributions to our school community.

We wish Miss Hannigan the very best wishes as she marries during the summer holidays, returning as Mrs Boateng to teach our Year 1-2 Dolphins.

We also welcome two new midday supervisors - Mrs Martins and Mrs Ho - we are delighted that they are joining our staff team to support our children outdoors during their lunchbreaks.



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

live simply

End of Year Newsletter 2026



The teachers of our new Y1-2 classes for September 2026 provided *Meet the Teacher* Sessions for parents on Tuesday. We are providing parents and carers of all other year groups the opportunity to meet with the Year Group teachers early in the new term. We understand that remote meetings are preferable for some parents and therefore we plan to continue to offer the choice of a face-to-face meeting or a remote meeting. **3:30 pm face-to-face sessions will take place in the classroom and a 5pm session will be provided via Microsoft Teams. A link to the Teams meetings will be sent out in September.**

- Tuesday 8th September: Year 4 and Year 6 - 3:30pm Face-to-face or 5:00 pm remote meetings
- Wednesday 9th September: Year 5 - 3:30pm Face-to-face or 5:00 pm remote meetings
- Thursday 10th September: Year 3 and Reception (Saplings) - 3:30pm Face-to-face or 5:00 pm remote meetings

The June newsletter detailed the staffing for next year - the information is provided again in the table below.

Class and Year Group from September 2026-27	Current Class (2025-2026)	Class Teachers from September 2026-27	Support Staff
Nursery (FS1) Acorns		Miss Fletcher Mrs Dalton (1/2 day)	Mrs Perrin
Reception (FS2) Saplings Lourdes	Nursery (FS1) and New starters	Mrs O'Brien (2 days)	Mrs Tyerman
Reception (FS2) Saplings Bernadette		Mrs Irvine (3 days)	
Year 1/2 Starfish		Mrs Patel (3 days) Mrs Dalton (2 days)	
Year 1/2 Turtle	Saplings L Saplings B Y1 Seahorse Y1 Starfish	Mrs Evison (Mon - Wed 3 days) Ms Sohal (Thurs - Fri 2 days)	Mrs Agnel
Year 1/2 Dolphin		Miss McNally (Mrs Lowe 1 1/2 days)	Mrs Rodriguez
		Miss Hannigan (Ms Sohal 1/2 day)	
Year 3 Panda	Y2 Dolphin	Mrs Bond Mrs Rodricks (1/2 day)	Mrs Kent Mrs Moore Mrs Perry Ms Iskrzynska
Year 3 Kangaroo	Y2 Turtle	Ms Rodricks (Mon-Wed 3 days) Mrs Rodricks (Thurs- Fri 2 days)	
Year 4 Lion	Y3 Kangaroo	Mr Waghorne Mrs Chennan (1/2 day)	
Year 4 Leopard	Y3 Panda	Mr Cowan (Mrs Chennan 1/2 day)	
Year 5 Eagle	Y4 Lion	Mr Sangle Mrs Chennan (1/2 day)	
Year 5 Falcon	Y4 Leopard	Mrs Richards Mrs Chennan (1/2 day)	
Year 6 Meteor	Y5 Eagle	Mrs Pughe Mrs Lowe (1 1/2 days)	
Year 6 Comet	Y5 Falcon	Mrs McGinn Mrs Chennan (1 day)	

Our dedicated SEND support team across the school are:

Mrs Saunders, Ms Fajuto, Ms Boatemaa, Mrs Rankin, Miss Bida, Miss Dereva, Mrs Denieffe, Mrs Drakele, Ms Whiting and Mrs Turner

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

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Headteacher: Jane Zamora BA Hons PGCE NPQH

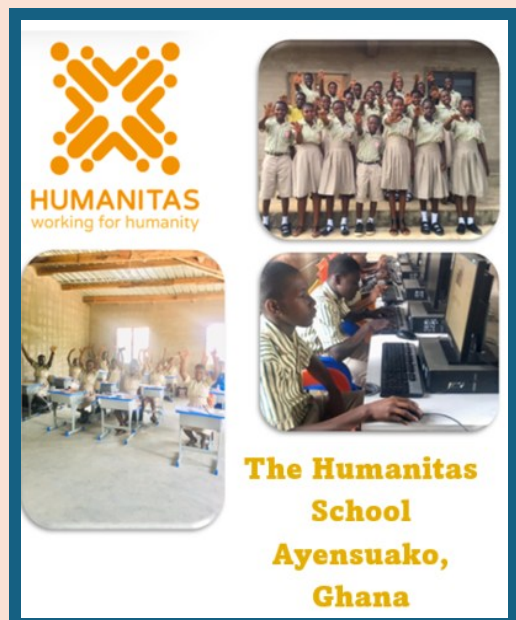
Diocese of Northampton

Deputy Head: Melanie Smith B.Ed. Hons

Milton Keynes Council



Our Charity Work



Thanks to your generosity and the wonderful efforts of our children and staff, we have been able to support the MK Foodbank, St Mark's Meals (£394), Christmas Bags of Kindness for the most vulnerable in MK, the Humanitas School in Ghana (£534 for uniforms and writing materials) and CAFOD World Gifts this year. We also provided Christmas Cards and decorations for every resident of a local care home.

The incredible work of the children and support of school families has meant that the children achieved all the CAFOD World Gifts goals they set themselves in autumn and have been able to fund the following: a community water supply (£750), chickens (£20), Medical support for a newborn baby and mum (£43) and an education programme (£63). They worked so hard that they have raised well in excess of this with £963 to spare! On Friday I will be asking the children if they would like this additional money to be used to support the disaster relief response to the terrible recent earthquakes in Venezuela.

Thank you so much to all who have contributed to our charitable fundraising this year

Thank you to our PTA

Thank you so much to the PTA for all of their efforts this year. They have provided uniform sales, ice-lolly sales, Break the Rules Day, Christmas Shop, discos, Christmas Fair, Summer Festival and much more. They work hard, with the support of parents and staff members to provide fun activities for our children whilst raising much-needed funds for the school. It would be lovely to see the team of hardworking parents carers and staff grow in numbers for the year ahead- sharing the load certainly helps.



School Uniform

On return to school in September, please do ensure that your child is complying with the school's uniform policy. Children will continue to come to school in PE kit on their PE days and it is essential that they wear the correct PE uniform - the standards have slipped notably with regards to PE uniform. I would very much appreciate your support in returning to our usual high standards.

Please note that leggings and cycling shorts are NOT part of the school PE uniform.

When buying school shoes, please make sure that they are appropriate, black, supportive school shoes. Sports shoes are not part of the main school uniform.

For pupils in Year 1 and above, please support us by teaching your child to tie the school tie and fasten shirt buttons. The details of the school uniform can be see below:

Boys' Uniform	Girls' Uniform
Jumper with school logo White Shirt (white polo shirt in Saplings Class) School Tie (Y1-6) Navy School Trousers Formal Navy School Shorts if preferred during hot summer months Black School Shoes Plain white, navy, grey or black socks	Jumper or cardigan with school logo White Shirt (white polo shirt in Saplings Class) School Tie (Y1-6) Navy Skirt, Pinafore Dress or Navy School Trousers Formal Navy School Shorts or navy/white checked school dress if preferred during hot summer months Black School Shoes Plain white, navy, grey or black socks or tights

PE Uniform - worn to school on PE days:

Plain navy blue school PE shorts or plain navy blue jogging bottoms

Plain white t-shirt

Plain navy blue hoody (in cooler weather).

PE kit with the school logo can be bought from the School Gateway and does look particularly smart but this is not essential. If you choose not to buy the items with the school logo, please ensure that the PE kit worn by your child is smart, fulfils the given description and has no company/brand logo, pattern, lines or additional colours.

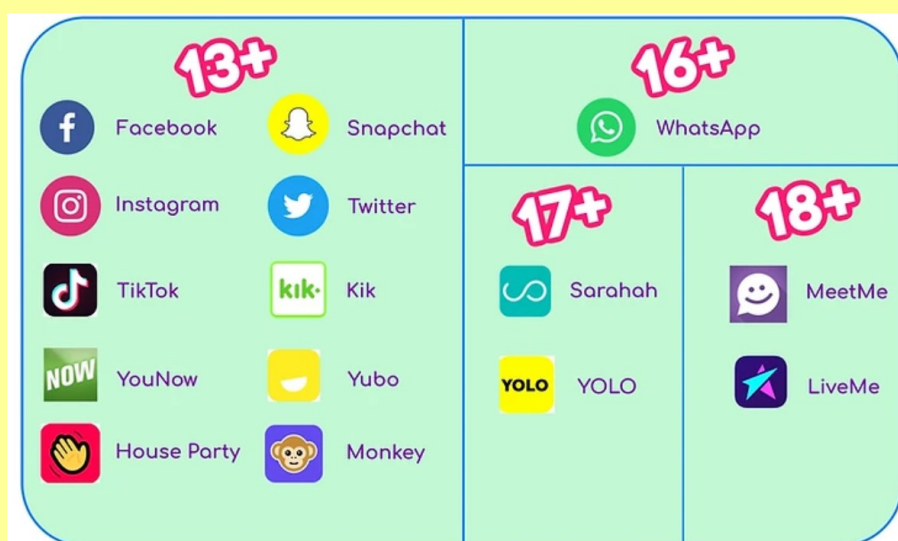
Additional Uniform Expectations:

Any hair accessories should be purely functional (e.g. to tie hair back), small and in school colours. Oversized or colourful hair bows/decorations, shaved patterns or lines in the children's hair, colourful hair extensions and colourful weaves are not permitted. Nail varnish should not be worn. Any earrings worn should be small studs and should be removed on PE days.



Internet Safety

Throughout the year, I have been called upon to address unkind/inappropriate comments being made by children via social media outside of school hours. Please do be vigilant regarding your child's access to social media and other online content, particularly over the summer holidays. Please see below for a reminder of age restrictions for social media platforms:



Grounds Development

Thanks to a generous donation from PTA following years of fundraising and the use of capital funding held by the Diocese, we are finally in a position to replace our MUGA - the work will take place over the summer holidays.

We had a wonderfully successful 'Bring a Plant to School Day' and were overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community. With the addition of a donation from the PTA, a further donation from the Parish Council and the hard work of our Site Manager - Mrs Smith and Mr Painter, a very committed volunteer, we now have a beautiful sensory garden accessible to all our pupils which was officially opened on 1st July.

We made a successful application for further capital funding via the Diocese to replace our canopies, providing much-needed shade during the current heatwave.

Finally, believing we were voting for our school to win some bags of bark chip, our families rallied round and so many of you kindly voted for St Bernadette's to win the competition run by local business Firewood Fuel MK. Following a site visit they have offered to completely revamp and renew our forest area, carrying out quite extensive work over the summer holidays! We are so grateful to them for their kind generosity and for all the family and staff members who voted for St Bernadette's.



Stay connected with St Bernadette's on social media!

Please follow us and engage with our posts. We also encourage you to like and follow our Facebook page to keep up with all our updates!

https://www.instagram.com/stbernadettes_catholic_school/#

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087749677571>



Please see the following page for dates in the first half term of next academic year



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

End of Year Newsletter 2026

Dates For Your Diary

16/07/2026	FS2 Achievement Awards Ceremony 9:15am KS1 Achievement Awards Ceremony 2:00pm KS2 Achievement Award Ceremony 5:00pm - 6:00pm Parents of award winners have received their invites to the ceremonies
17/07/2026	End Of School Year Early Close - KS1 & FS2 2:20pm. FS1 & KS2 2:30. No Care Club
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	
New Virtue: Generosity New Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Option for the Poor	
Thurs 3 Sept	First day of new school year for children
Tues 8 Sept	Year 4 and Year 6: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams
Wed 9 Sept	Year 5: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams
Thurs 10 Sept	Year 3 and Reception (Saplings): Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm Microsoft Teams
Fri 11 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
Tues 15 Sept	Y3/4 Football Tournament - St Paul's 3:45 - 5:00pm
Fri 18 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
Tues 22 Sept	1:45 Mini Vinnies Commissioning Service Y5/6 Football Tournament - St Paul's 3:45 - 5:00pm
Fri 25 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
28 th - 30 th Sept	Y6 Residential Visit - Rock UK
Tues 29 Sept	2pm PTA Annual General Meeting - new members warmly welcomed to join Y3/4 Netball Tournament - St Paul's 3:45 - 5:00pm
Thurs 1 Oct	5:00 pm RSHE Parent Information Evening - small hall
Fri 2 Oct	8:10 Rosary in the chapel Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
w/c 5 th Oct	House Group Art Competition
Tues 6 Oct	1:30pm Harvest Celebration Mass - Parents are warmly welcomed to join Y3-6 for Mass Y5/6 Netball Tournament - St Paul's 3:45 - 5:00pm
Wed 7 Oct	Rosary Pilgrimage at St Bernadette's
Fri 9 Oct	8:10 Rosary in the chapel Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
Sat 10 Oct	Pastoral Area Mass of Celebration at St Paul's Catholic School, Leadenhall
12 th - 23 rd Oct	St Bernadette's Safety Fortnight Network Rail Assembly - Rail Safety
Tues 13 Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings open nearer the time) school hall
Thurs 15 Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings open nearer the time) Remote Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams 6pm - 8pm St Paul's Open Evening Y6 - Y7 transition
Fri 16 Oct	8:10 Rosary in the chapel Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am Individual and sibling photographs taken - full school uniform (not PE kit) on this day
Wed 21 Oct	MK Innovates STEM Festival
Fri 23 Oct	8:10 Rosary in the chapel PTA Break the Rules Day Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am Last day of half term - normal home times

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Diocese of Northampton

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Milton Keynes Council