



## Newsletter October 2025

**Advent Term 1**

**Virtue: Thankfulness**

**CST: Care of Creation**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you will find the upcoming parent consultation sessions helpful. Please do remember to sign up for a slot on either on 21<sup>st</sup> (face-to-face) or 23<sup>rd</sup> October (remote via Microsoft Teams).

Year 6 recently enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to Rock UK, taking part in a wide range of exciting, challenging and team-building activities. I congratulate the children on all their achievements. I understand they were the cleanest, most organised group of children - the staff were very impressed! I extend my grateful thanks to all the staff members who gave their time and energy to provide these enrichment opportunities for our children.

I do hope to see lots of you at tomorrow's International Evening - it is always such a lovely opportunity to come together to share and celebrate the many cultures and traditions of our school community.

We break up for the half term holidays on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, which is also the annual PTA 'Break the Rules' day (normal pick-up times). School resumes on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Please see the dates page at the end of this newsletter for the planned activities for the rest of this term.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Zamora

## Our Catholic Schools Week

We will be celebrating Our Catholic Schools, starting with a special Mass on Sunday 9 November, 11:30 am at Christ the King Church in Kents Hill. Mrs Pughe has sent out a letter with more details - we would appreciate as many pupils as possible attending this special Mass. Our children will be leading the hymns, readings and prayers. Please indicate via the School Gateway if your child is able to attend. Please could all pupils wear their school uniform at the Mass. Thank you, as always, for your support.

## Spread the Word ...

Lower birthrates locally and nationally have resulted in many schools having surplus places.

At St Bernadette's, we have an increasing number of available spaces in our younger year groups.

This is a great opportunity for new families to join us. However, lower numbers of children can create a concern for school finances and the future structure for our school. Please do support Catholic education and our school by telling people about us. Word of mouth from you to your friends and families could help us a lot. Do recommend us to families with babies, toddlers and young children. You can also request a school poster from us to share on notice boards at your work or to display information about our upcoming school tours. If you have other great ideas of how we can promote St Bernadette's across Milton Keynes, please do reach out to us.

We are a welcoming and inclusive school and families do not have to live locally nor be Catholic to attend.



## Applying for a Place at St Bernadette's for Sept 2026

You can now apply for a place at our lovely school or nursery for September 2026. To apply for a place in Reception (FS2 - children born between 1st Sept 2021 and 31st August 2022), there are two necessary steps. Applications MUST be made via the council <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-or-juniormiddle-school-september> Additionally, supplementary forms should be completed and returned directly to St Bernadette's. You can find out more and download our Admissions Policy and supplementary forms from our website or collect them from the school office. <https://www.stbernadetteschool.com/school-admissions/>

**Even if your child already attends our nursery, you still must make a formal application to the council for a place in Reception for September 2026.**

If you know of parents of children who are applying for school or nursery places for September 2026, please encourage them to come and see our school in action - we have tours available at the following times and days:

- Thursday 13 November 2025 at 10:00 am and 5:30 pm
- Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 10:30 am and 4:00 pm
- Tuesday 9 December at 2025 10:00 am and 5:00 pm

Please book a place via the school office 01908 692438 and remember to provide the office with a contact number and email address.

## Join Our Governing Board

We are pleased to advise that there are currently two vacancies to join our school's Governing Board in the voluntary role of Parent Governor.

Although not essential, if you have a Public Finance or Educational background and can spare the time to be part of our active Governing Board, we would love to hear from you - an email has been sent out to all families with nomination forms attached. Please ask at the office if you require a hard copy.

The role of the Governing Board is:

- o Head Teacher and staff appointments
- o Strategic Planning and Change Management
- o Educational Standards
- o Financial Planning and Control

Induction and ongoing training is made available to all Governors. If you are interested in the role, please contact Dr Sandro Lanzon-Miller, Chair of the Governing Board, to arrange an informal chat:

[slanzon-miller@stbernadetteschool.com](mailto:slanzon-miller@stbernadetteschool.com)



## International Evening

### Share and Celebrate Your Cultural Heritage

Please do come to our fabulous PTA International Evening on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30pm.** Bring your traditional food to share (please note down the ingredients used to avoid allergies); dress in traditional clothing or colours; bring your music or instruments to play and songs to sing, but, most importantly, come and have fun together as one school community. If there is any specific music you would like us to play or photos for us to display from different countries you represent, please email them to the school office. [office@stbernadetteschool.com](mailto:office@stbernadetteschool.com)

## Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Mass



Thank you to all the children and families who attended the special celebration Mass last Saturday at St Paul's School. It really was a joyous occasion, bringing parishioners together from all across our Deanery.

Our children who attended looked very smart in their uniforms and those who read and sang in the Diocesan choir represented the school and their families so beautifully. Many thanks to all members of our school community who attended this special event. You can read more about the Mass in an article on the

Diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/latest-news/pastoral-area-jubilee-mass-a-joyful-celebration-of-faith-and-community/>

## Our Charitable Work Harvest Donations



Thank you so much for your generous donations to MK Food Bank. Thanks to your help, the Food Bank will be well-stocked to provide food for some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in Milton Keynes. I cannot thank you enough.

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

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## Humanitas School

Dearest Joanne and all of the staff, pupils and parents at St Bernadette's, thank you ever so much for raising a BRILLIANT £2,166.84 for our school in Ghana. We are incredibly grateful for your support. You have helped us to buy science sets, material

for making school uniforms, writing pads and pens and equipment for our art room. On behalf of all of the teachers and pupils at the Humanitas school in Ghana..THANK YOU! With love  
Team Humanitas  
XXX

Thank You For Being Brilliant,  
St Bernadette's

You Raised:  
£2,166.84

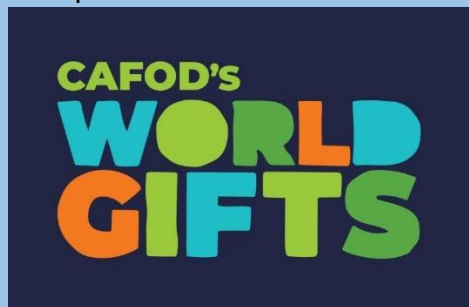
For Humanitas Charity

TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

We recently received the above thank you letter from the Humanitas school in Ghana for the wonderful support our charitable fundraising achieved last year. In addition to the items listed above, we were also able to fund several months of a Malaria Prevention Programme for the local area of Ayensuako. Through their own hard work, the children achieved so much more than we could have hoped.

In the coming weeks, we will be looking at other actions we can take to support the Humanitas school this year. We will also be launching our main charitable funding focus for this academic year - CAFOD World Gifts. World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that transform the lives of families and communities living in poverty. Before half term, I will be meeting with the children to discuss the range of gifts available so that they can decide on their priorities for the year.

You can find out more by clicking on the picture below:



## Update Medical Needs



If there have been any changes to your child's medical needs, please let the office staff know. This includes any allergies, diagnoses or required medication. It is vitally important that our records are accurate and up-to-date.

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## St Bernadette's Christmas Fayre



We are extremely excited that we will be having a Christmas Fayre this year at St Bernadette's. It will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 12:00-4:00. There will be a range of craft and food stalls in addition to fun activities and games along with a performance from our fabulous choir. Father Christmas himself will even be there! More details will follow as we get closer to the event.

We are looking for volunteers to help with setting up and running stalls. There will be a sign-up via the School Gateway for parents and pupils in Year 5 and Year 6. If you or anyone you know would like to have their own stall at the fayre, please speak with Mr Smith [SmithC@stbernadettesschool.com](mailto:SmithC@stbernadettesschool.com)

If you work for a large corporation who would be willing to donate a gift/prize please let us know

## Early drop-off and late pick-up

There have been a growing number of children being dropped off at school in the morning in advance of the gates opening at 8:30am. Please note that staff are not available to supervise the children at that hour and they remain under the responsibility of parents until the gates open. Please do remember that we have a breakfast club on-site that opens at 7:30am. Enrolment papers can be requested from the school office.

The school day ends at 3:15pm for FS2 - Y2 and at 3:20pm for Y3-Y6. Please do pick your children up on time - we have an increasing number of children being collected late which can cause the children to feel anxious and worried. It also has an impact on the admin staff being able to continue with their work duties. Please use our afterschool care club if you are unable to collect your children on time. If you have been unavoidably delayed, for what whatever reason, please call the school office to alert us so that we know that you are safe and well and we can reassure your child.



## Year 6 SATs 2026

The Y6 end of Key Stage 2 national tests - SATs - will take place from Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May 2026. Please do not book any appointments or visits away on those dates.

## Secondary School Applications

A reminder to Y6 parents that the application window for secondary school places closes at the end of the month. Please do not forget to apply for a school place for your child. Once the application window closes, you will have very little chance of being allocated the school of your choice.

I am very much aware that many children in Y6 took the 11+ test this year and will have received their results recently. Please do be careful when applying for secondary schools. Even if your child passed the 11+, please choose at least one non-grammar school. Please choose wisely - the grammar schools are over-subscribed and each year there are children who pass the 11+ with flying colours but do not get a place within a grammar school. We very much recommend visits and applications for our local Catholic Secondary school - St Paul's. Apply for secondary school by the deadline (31<sup>st</sup> October) by following the link below: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-secondaryupper-school-september-2026>

## Sporting Success

We have had a great sporting start to the school year with a number of tournaments and competitions at St Paul's against the other local Catholic schools as well as Y5/6 Boys' Football League matches. Congratulations and many thanks to all who have represented the school so well.

- Y3/4 Boys' Football Tournament: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (missing 1<sup>st</sup> place by goal difference) Great effort, with no goals conceded! Well done to all the boys, especially those playing in their first match for the school football team. The Y3/4 Boys team will have a friendly on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November against Monkston Primary School in preparation for the Milton Keynes Football League which begins in January.
- Y5/6 Boys' Football Tournament: Joint 1<sup>st</sup> Place - excellent performance by the team - Well done!
- Y6 Netball Tournament: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - great team play by all involved! Congratulations! Lots of great play by the team, keeping possession of the ball well to create many chances for our goal shooter and goal attack in each game, whilst conceding very few shots on our own net.
- Y5/6 Boys' football league: a number of tough and challenging matches. The boys have shown great teamwork and resilience, and Mr Marchant is very pleased with the way they are improving week on week. We have one more week of league fixtures before we find out which finals night, we will take part in. Finals night is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

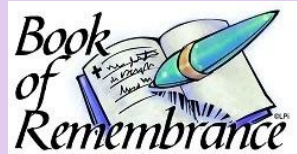
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November is the month when we particularly remember our lost loved ones. On return from the half term holidays, we will have a Remembrance Book outside our school chapel where we add the names of anyone from our school community and extended families who we wish to be remembered in our prayers. Please do let the school office know ([office@stbernadetteschool.com](mailto:office@stbernadetteschool.com)) of any names you would like to be added to the special book.



## October Rosary Prayer Group

It has been lovely to welcome families to our early morning Friday Rosary Prayer Group at 8:10am in the school chapel.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October will be the final chance - please do consider joining us between now and then. We have plenty of sets of rosary beads available for your use.



## First Reconciliation and First Communion 2026

In our cluster of parishes (Christ the King, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Bede's, St Edward's and St Mary's), preparation for Reconciliation and Communion will begin after half term. The programme is for children in Year 3 and upwards. This year parents are to come to the Open House on any Monday in October to register their child. Open House takes place at Christ the King Church, Frithwood Crescent, Kents Hill, MK7 6HQ, each Monday between 5.30pm and 7pm. Please come on any Monday evening during October, to register. The programme will begin with a meeting for parents on Monday 3rd November.

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# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

*live simply*

## Dates For Your Diary - Advent Term 1

New Virtue: Thankfulness		New Catholic Social Teaching Principle (CST): Care of Creation	
Tues 14 Oct	International Evening 5:30 - 7:30	Have fun sharing your traditional food, dress and music	
Wed 15 Oct	Jubilee Year school grounds	Rosary Pilgrimage of Faith	
Thus 16 Oct	Individual and sibling photographs taken - full school uniform (not PE kit) on this day	Y5/6 Boys' football league match	
Fri 17 Oct	8:10 am - join us in the chapel for Rosary Club	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am	
Mon 20 Oct	Y6 House Captain Elections		
Tues 21 Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings are open)	Face-to-Face in school hall	
Wed 22 Oct	STEM Innovates Festival - Years 5 & 6 (consent via School gateway)		
Thurs 23 Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings are open)	Remote Virtual	
Fri 24 Oct	PTA Break the Rules Day 8:10 am - join us in the chapel for Rosary Club	2:30 pm Phonics Workshop for Saplings Parents	
Last day of half term - normal home times			
HALF TERM HOLIDAY			
New Virtue: Trust		New Catholic Social Teaching Principle (CST): Community & Participation	
Mon 3 Nov	Pupil return to school	All Souls Day	
Tues 4 Nov	First set of flu immunisations		
Thurs 6 Nov	Anglian Water Assembly		
Sun 9 Nov	Special school Mass Christ the King Church Kents Hill 11:30		
w/c 10 Nov	Anti-bullying week	St Paul's Cross Country Competition Y3/4/5/6	
Tues 11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Y5 Falcon Class parents are invited to join their children for a class collective worship 2:45	
Wed 11 Nov	10:00 am and 5:30 pm Tour of school for prospective parents		
Mon 17 Nov	Y4 Lion Class parents are invited to join their children for a class collective worship 2:45		
w/c 24 Nov	Bikeability for Y5 and Y6 (sign up via School gateway AND online Bikeability form)		
Tues 25 Nov	Y4 Leopard Class parents are invited to join their children for a class collective worship 2:45		
Wed 26 Nov	10:30 am and 4:00 pm Tour of school for prospective parents		
Fri 28 Nov	Y5 Visit to Bletchley Park (consent via School gateway)		
Mon 1 Dec	Advent Wreath Service for the children		
Tues 2 Dec	PTA Christmas Shop	2pm Saplings (FS2) Nativity for their families	
Wed 3 Dec	Rocksteady performance for their parents		
Thurs 4 Dec	Catch-up set of flu immunisations		
Sat 6 Dec	Christmas Fair 12:00 - 4:00pm		
Mon 8 Dec	2pm Year 1 Nativity for their families		
Tues 9 Dec	10:00 am and 5:00 pm Tour of school for prospective parents		
Wed 10 Dec	Christmas Lunch (order via St Paul's Wisepay)	9:30 am and 6:00 pm - Y5 and Y6 Carols and Readings for their families	
Thurs 11 Dec	9:15 Nursery Christmas Concert for their parents		
Mon 15 Dec	Y6 Africa WOW day		
Tues 16 Dec	PTA Disco (FS2 - Y3) 3:15 - 4:15		
Wed 17 Dec	School choir concert for their parents 4:00 pm		
Thurs 18 Dec	PTA Disco (Y4 - Y6) 3:20 - 4:20		
Fri 19 Dec	MUFTI day End of term. Early Close: FS2 (Saplings) & KS1: 2:15pm. Nursery & KS2 2:30pm		

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