



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

live simply

Advent Term 1

Virtue: Thankfulness

CST: Care of Creation

Newsletter September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to welcome the children back to school. They have settled so well into their new classes and there is a calm, positive and happy atmosphere across the school.

I hope that you are finding this week's Meet the Teacher sessions helpful - thank you to all who have attended the face-to-face or virtual meetings.

I am delighted to share with you that Mrs Irvine and her husband welcomed their new baby girl - Sabrina May - on 15 August. Both mum and baby are doing very well.

Please do read to the end of this newsletter and check the dates pages - there are many events planned for this term.

Mrs Zamora (Headteacher)

International Evening

Share and Celebrate Your Cultural Heritage

Please do come to our fabulous PTA International Evening on Tuesday 14th October at 5:30pm. Bring your traditional food to share (please note down the ingredients used); dress in traditional clothing or colours; bring your music or instruments to play and songs to sing, but most of all come and have fun together as one school community



Harvest Collection



Our harvest collection for MK Food Bank runs from Monday 15th September to Friday 10th October. The MK Food Bank supports more than 5,000 families in Milton Keynes each year for a variety of reasons, with family crises, loss of employment or benefits and debt problems all common reasons for seeking their support. Sometimes people coming out of hospital or prison need immediate practical support, as do those placed in emergency accommodation. Whatever circumstances leave families struggling to keep a roof over their heads, the MK Food Bank can provide short term, crisis food support. They also work hard to ensure people are receiving help with their underlying issues. The Food Bank relies entirely on donations and we would be so grateful if you could help us to support them through our harvest collection.

They urgently need the following products: Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Long Life Milk, Juice or Squash, Cooking Oil, Spreads - Jams, Tinned Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fruit, Dried Rice - 500g, Tinned Veg, Dried Pasta, Tinned Soups, Savoury Snacks/Cereal Bars, Toiletries

Please send any donations to school with your child and they will be placed in front of our school chapel until they are collected on 10th October. Many thanks in advance for your help.

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



School Uniform

I have noticed that a number of children are not complying with the school's uniform policy - particularly with reference to the PE uniform, hair colours and earrings. I would very much appreciate your support in returning to our usual high standards.

Children come to school in PE kit on their PE days. **Please note that leggings and cycling shorts are NOT part of the school PE uniform.**

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.**

The PE days for the academic year ahead are as follows:

Class PE Days - children should come to school in smart PE uniform on their PE days	
Acorns (FS1) - Tuesday	Y3 Panda – Wednesday and Friday
Saplings L (FS2) – Wednesday	Y3 Kangaroo – Monday and Wednesday
Saplings B (FS2) – Tuesday	Y4 Lion – Tuesday and Wednesday
Y1 Seahorse – Tuesday and Friday	Y4 Leopard - Tuesday and Wednesday
Y1 Starfish – Wednesday and Friday	Y5 Eagle – Monday and Thursday
Y2 Turtle – Tuesday and Friday	Y5 Falcon – Monday and Thursday
Y2 Dolphin – Tuesday and Thursday	Y6 Meteor – Monday and Friday
	Y6 Comet – Monday and Friday



Mass for the Harvest and the New School Year

Fr Francis will be joining us to celebrate a special Mass in thanks for the harvest and the new school year with Years 3-6 on Thursday 9th October at 1:30pm. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us. We would love to see you there.



The Ministerium Award



In 2023, we launched the Ministerium Award at St. Bernadette's. We worked alongside staff from St. Paul's to create an award, endorsed by Bishop David (who kindly presented our first gold award in July 2025), in the areas of Theology, Prayer and Service. All children who are interested in taking part are given an evidence booklet to work through at their own pace with increasing independence. Their evidence is checked by staff members from the staff Healthy Spirit Team at lunchtimes on Tuesdays. There are bronze, silver and gold awards to work towards and children will be recognised for their achievements during whole-school assemblies when they complete a level. All children who choose to take part start with the bronze level award, irrespective of their age/year group.

Some tasks may need to be carried out at home or in the local community. Therefore, we are happy for you to sign these tasks off in the booklet when your child carries them out. Please do ask your child if they would like to take part and encourage them to request an evidence booklet from their class teacher or Mrs Pughe. We look forward to working with your children in achieving this prestigious award and growing in their faith journey over the coming years.

St Bernadette's Afterschool Care Club

I extend my thanks to Mrs Dyett who has been manager of St Bernadette's Breakfast and Afterschool Care Clubs over a number of years. She remains Breakfast Club Manager whilst Mrs Potter and Mrs Drakeley take over the role of managing Afterschool Care Club.

They are busy planning fun and engaging activities for the half term ahead.

Do consider using our afterschool Care Club - it is a very good value childcare provision, run by our own school staff from 3:20 pm - 6 pm each school day.

Enrolment paperwork is available from the school office.

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Class Collective Worships

We hope that parents and carers will be able to join their children in the small hall and chapel for class collective worships this year. This half term we have Y5 Eagle class collective worship on Monday 13th October 2:45 in the school chapel. Please see the dates page at the end of this newsletter for the details.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation Meetings will take place on 21st and 23rd October between 3:30 and 6:00pm. Further information will be circulated nearer the time. The meetings on 21st October will be face-to-face in the main school hall and those on 23rd Oct will be virtual via Microsoft Teams.

Home-School Communication

Home-school communication is crucial. If you have any concerns or questions, do speak directly with the class teacher at the end of the school day or contact them by email, using **surname** followed by **first initial** followed by @stbernadettesschool.com e.g. ZamoraJ@stbernadettesschool.com Staff names can be accessed via the website: <https://www.stbernadettesschool.com/staffing/>

Please be aware that a number of our staff members work part time. No staff member is expected to check or respond to work-related emails outside of their working hours, at weekends, or when absent due to sickness.

I endeavour to be present on the playground at the end of day pick-up time - please do come and speak with me if you have any questions, concerns or general feedback - or just to say hello! If I am not available, there will always be members of our leadership and/or pastoral team present to speak with at pick-up time. Formal meetings can of course also be arranged via the school office.

Year 6 Applications for Secondary School

The deadline for applying for secondary school places for our current Year 6 pupils is 31st October. Applications are made via the council website. The portal for applications is currently open: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-secondaryupper-school-september-2026> Please make sure you do state all four preference schools in your application. If your child is taking the 11+, please **do not** only select grammar schools as your preferences. These schools are over-subscribed, therefore, **passing the 11+ does not automatically ensure a place for your child.**

Our local Catholic secondary school is St Paul's. <https://www.st-pauls.org.uk/> We highly recommend visiting to see them in action. Year 5 & 6 parents and carers are warmly welcome to make visits to St Paul's each Friday at 9:30 until Friday 24th October. Please contact St Paul's to make an appointment: 01908 669735

We also recommend their Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Parents on Thursday 9th October 6.00pm-8.00pm. No prior appointment is necessary for the Open Evening.



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Dates For Your Diary - Advent Term 1

New Virtue: Thankfulness New Catholic Social Teaching Principle (CST): Care of Creation

Mon 8 Sept	Year 1: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams
Tues 9 Sept	Year 4 and Year 6: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams
Wed 10 Sept	Year 3 and Year 5: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams
Thurs 11 Sept	Reception (Saplings - FS2) and Year 2: Face-to-Face 3:30pm in classroom or 5:00 pm virtual via Microsoft Teams
Fri 12 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
w/c Mon 15 Sept	Harvest collection for MK Foodbank commences, running until 10 th Oct.
Tues 16 Sept	Y3/4 Football Tournament - St Paul's
Fri 19 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
Mon 22 Sept	SEND parent drop-in sessions with Mrs Lazzari 1:30 - 3:30 (bookings in advance)
Tues 23 Sept	1:45 Mini Vinnies Commissioning Service Y5/6 Football Tournament - St Paul's
Thurs 25 Sept	Y5/6 Boys' football league match
Fri 26 Sept	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
29 th Sept - 1 st Oct	Y6 Residential Visit - Rock UK
Tues 30 Sept	Y3/4 Netball Tournament - St Paul's
Thurs 2 Oct	5:00 pm RSHE Parent Information Evening Y5/6 Boys' football league match
Fri 3 Oct	8:10 am - join us in the chapel for Rosary Club Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am CAFOD Family Fast Day
Sat 4 Oct	St Barnabas Cluster Pilgrimage and Pilgrims of Hope Mass at St Paul' school
w/c 6 Oct	Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year - revisit and renewing our pledges,
Tues 7 Oct	Y5/6 Netball Tournament - St Paul's
Thurs 9 Oct	1:30pm Harvest Celebration Mass - Parents are warmly welcomed to join Y3-6 for Mass Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Pupils and Parents 6.00pm-8.00pm St Paul's Y5/6 Boys' football league match
Fri 10 Oct	8:10 am - join us in the chapel for Rosary Club Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am
Mon 13 Oct	Y5 Eagle Class parents are invited to join their children for a class collective worship 2:45
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 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	Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am 8:10 am - join us in the chapel for Rosary Club
Mon 20 Oct	Y6 House Captain Elections
Tues 21 Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings open nearer the time) Face-to-Face in school hall
Thurs 23 Oct	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm (bookings open nearer the time) Remote Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Fri 24 Oct	PTA Break the Rules Day 8:10 am - join us in the chapel for Rosary Club Y4-6 Parent visits to St Paul's 9:30am Last day of half term - normal home times

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