



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

*live simply*

## Newsletter May 2025

**Pentecost Term 1**

**Value: Friendship**

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a memorable and uniquely special week we enjoyed last week with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day and the election of our new pope. Please do keep Pope Leo XIV in your prayers as he works to bring the peace and light of Christ to our troubled world.

I have been incredibly proud of our Y6 pupils who have been taking their end of Key Stage 2 SATs this week. It can be daunting to take formal examinations at such a young age but they have presented themselves with such maturity and positivity - they are a credit to their families and to St Bernadette's.

St Bernadette's Healthy Communities Week starts next week with a range of activities such as Fun Runs, a danceathon and a Beat the Teacher penalty shootout (sign up via the School Gateway). We do hope that you can join us for Fun Runs - see the dates page for details of timings - and that you can stay on at school for the PTA picnic on Thursday. Don't forget that the PTA is also running a 'bake off' competition on that day. Being one of the official tasters must be the greatest perk of my job!

**A reminder that we break up next week - on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - for the half term holiday with normal home times. Do please note that Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June is a staff INSET day at St Bernadette's and therefore children return to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.**

Please see the dates page at the end of this newsletter for the many events taking place for the remainder of this term.

Kindest regards,  
Mrs Zamora

# 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 stage of the Poetry by Heart competition. I am absolutely delighted to inform you that one of our pupils has been selected to take part in Grand Finale at the world-renowned Shakespeare's Globe theatre on 7<sup>th</sup> July! Congratulations Laurissa in Meteor Class on this wonderful achievement!

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## St Bernadette's Artists

We had a wonderful school art competition. Below are the 10 incredible finalists' entries. 6 pieces were then chosen to go forward to be displayed this weekend at the Westbury Arts Centre where the Milton Keynes competition will take place. We look forward to learning who the overall winners are.



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## Parks Trust Litter Poster Competition

We had lots of wonderful entries into the Parks Trust 2025 Litter Poster Competition. One of our entries was selected in the final stage of the competition. Congratulations to Michelle in Y3 Panda Class. We now await

the outcome of the public vote to decide which poster will be the face of Milton Keynes' anti-littering campaign. The winning poster design will be displayed across the city including on noticeboards in the parks and parish councils.



### First Holy Communion

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

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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 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 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Rosary Club



Thank you so much to those who have been attending early-morning rosary club at 8:10am on Fridays in the chapel. Next Friday will be the final opportunity for the month of May.

## Sporting Success

As always, our sports teams are representing the school so well. Congratulations to them all!

Y3/4 Boys - Football Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Y5/6 Boys - Handball League 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Girls Football Team beat St Mary's 6-1 in last week's friendly match.

Y5/6 Girls Handball League have started the league games with good teamwork, determination and resilience. They have 3 lost 2 so far.

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

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## Friendship Mission Retreat



Thank you so much to all who attended our Friendship Mission Retreat last week. It was lovely to see so many families taking part in the activities to explore the virtue of friendship. Thank you so very much to our Mini Vinnies and volunteers from St Paul's Catholic secondary school who led the activities so well. Thank you also to those who donated cakes to the friendship café. An incredible **£262** was raised, taking our ongoing total to **£1,022** in support the Humanitas School in Ghana. Thanks to your generosity, so far this school year, we have been able to fund a month of a Malaria Prevention Programme and provide school meals for the 40 most deprived pupils for a year. Today I met with Y1-Y6 and they overwhelmingly voted to try to raise funds for a further month of the Malaria Prevention Programme before the end of the school year.

Action	Cost	Priority Number
Science sets x 25	£400	
A year of school meals for 40 children	£400	2 - Achieved!
Materials to make uniform	£300	
Writing pads and pens for the year	£300	
Malaria Prevention Programme	£500 per month	1 - Achieved (1 month)

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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 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

I have always been so proud of how smart the children of St Bernadette's look on arrival at school but more recently, these 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.

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/>

Please see the following page for events for the remainder of the school year

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## Pentecost Term

**New Virtue: Friendship**

**Catholic Social Principles: Community and Participation**

Fri 16 May	8:10 join us for rosary in the chapel 3:45 - 6:30 Y4-6 Girls' Football Festival - St Bernadette's. Come and cheer our team on!
w/c 19 May	St Bernadette's Healthy Communities Week Y6 Empower and Challenge Workshop
Tues 20 May	Class photos
Wed 21 May	Beat the teacher penalty shootout - sign up via the School Gateway Y5/6 Girls Handball League
Thurs 22 May	FS - Y3 Fun Run 10 - 10:20 am and Y4 - Y6 Fun Run 2:30pm - do come to join in the run or to cheer your children on. 3:00 pm PTA Picnic
Fri 23 May	8:10 join us for rosary in the chapel Danceathon - sign up via the School Gateway 2:45 pm Saplings Class Collective Worship for parents in the chapel Last day of half term - normal home times
<b>Half Term Holiday</b>	
Tues 3 June	Pupils return to school (Monday is staff INSET day)
Fri 6 June	Pilgrims of Hope Pledge Day
Tues 10 June	Y5 Rivers Workshop with the Parks Trust Y3 visit to Bradwell Abbey
Wed 11 June	Y5 Taster Day at St Paul's - RE and music Y2 visit to Claydon House 5:30 pm Parent information evening for those joining nursery in September
Fri 13 June	Cafod - Y2 and Y5 workshops Y4 Taster Day at St Paul's - science and technology
Tues 17 June	Year 5 parents information - Rock UK Y6 autumn term residential trip
Wed 18 June	5:30 pm Parent information evening for those joining reception class (Saplings) in September
Thurs 19 June	Nursery Poetry Recital Final Competition Saplings, Year 1, Year 2 Poetry Recital Final Competition Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Speech Final Competition
Fri 20 June	Mufti day in aid of St Marks Meals - please donate £1+ via the School Gateway
23 - 26 June	Book Fair after school
Mon 23 June	School Council trip to St Paul's Stantonbury Athletics Competition
Thur 26 June	Catholic Schools Sports Day Y1 Shuttleworth Visit
Fri 27 June	Y6 trip to Gullivers Land
Mon 30 June	Transition morning
Tues 1 July	FS2 Dinosaur WOW Day with Dinomania visit to Saplings Y4 visit to St Albans Verulamium Museum 9:15 Nursery (FS1) Sports Day
Wed 2 July	9:30 Saplings (FS2) Sports Day 2:15pm Rocksteady performance for their parents and pupils

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Thurs 3 July	1:30 Y1 - Y3 Sports Day
Wed 9 July	Year 6 Musical Performance for their parents - 9:30am and 6:00pm
Thurs 10 July	9:30 FS2 academic awards 2:00pm KS1 academic award 5pm KS2 academic awards
Fri 11 July	9:30 St Bernadette's Award Ceremony 3:00 pm Y6 Leavers' Disco
Mon 14 July	Y4- Y6 Sports Day
Tues 15 July	1:30 pm Y6 Leavers' Mass
Wed 16 July	Little City visit to Acorns Class 3:15-4:15 PTA disco FS2 - Y2
Thurs 17 July	3:20 - 4:20 PTA disco Y3 - Y5
Fri 18 July	Last day of term. Early Close KS1 and FS2 - 2:20pm, FS1 and KS2 2:30pm

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