



St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Community Matters



Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Helping the Homeless in Milton Keynes (HHMK)

Our school charity focus for the next few months is to support those that are homeless in our local community. This time of year is particularly challenging for those who find themselves on the streets and without shelter. We are going to be helping two small charities in MK who offer support to those in most need. One of these is 'The Winter Night Shelter.' This is run by 5 local churches in MK and they offer a night of accommodation, a hot meal and a cooked breakfast. The charity also has other services that the users of the shelter can access, such as a chiropodist, health advice and support. They also provide toiletries and warm clothing. This service is run by volunteers and is available from the end of November until the end of March.

We will also be supporting 'The Soup Kitchen' which takes hot soup and sandwiches out onto streets of MK on a daily basis throughout the year.

Year groups will be arranging their fundraising activities during the Spring term, but we will launch the charity focus on **11th December** with a non-uniform day. This can be a Christmas themed MUFTI if you wish, but this is not necessary. Please send your child to school with at least £1 on this day.

The Christmas Giving Tree

We will be running the Christmas Giving Tree again this year. Please take a tag from the tree during December and provide a wrapped gift as described on the tag which should then be fixed to the gift and placed under the tree. This year the suggested gifts will be relevant to the Winter Night shelter and the Soup Kitchen.

There will also be a box in the reception area for donations of used adult clothes in good condition to donate to the homeless of MK.



We had several reasons to celebrate in the first half of Autumn term. Our 10th Anniversary Mass on 30th September was a very special occasion, and we are most grateful to Bishop Peter, the local priests and our Children's Chaplaincy Team for making it such a memorable day.

Inspectors found our Religious Education and Prayer life to be 'outstanding' in their recent inspection. We were delighted by this judgement and feel that it is a fitting reflection of the wonderful work and experiences our children and school community contribute to and take part in on a day to day basis.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called for a Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy from 8th December 2015 to 20th November 2016. The Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica will be opened for the first time since the year 2000. Pilgrims will walk through the door as a sign of their faith. Pope Francis is encouraging a "Door of Mercy" to be opened in places of worship and we look forward to inviting you to walk through our chapel "Door of Mercy" once the building work has been completed.



Year of Mercy

Riley's Tree

Thank you to all of the families that joined us in planting the cherry tree in memory of Riley Ferguson.

His parents and sister asked us to pass on their thanks for the kindness and support that has been shown to them. Please keep them in your prayers.

Prayerzone



Our weekly Prayer Zone sessions this term have been very well attended this term. We have explored what prayer is and what it means to us. We have considered the season of Harvest and expressed our thankfulness and over the last few weeks have spent some time focusing on remembrance and those who are no longer with us. We have created a lovely remembrance display using our hand prints and poppies to make a wreath on our Prayer Zone board. The children are increasingly offering their own personal prayers in our times of prayer and reflection at the end of our sessions which is wonderful to see.

Please keep all pupils who are currently preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in your prayers. Preparation for these sacraments takes place within each individual parish. However, Miss Symons will be running prayer groups at school for these pupils and will be in touch with families shortly to ensure that we are aware of all pupils preparing to take these key steps along their personal faith journeys.



Advent Mass and Service

You are warmly invited to join us for the first Mass of Advent on Thursday 26th November at 10:30 in the school hall. Father Paul will be saying Mass for pupils in Y3-6.

Later in the day, Sr Yvonne will join the younger pupils for an Advent Wreath building service.

Ubi caritas et amour Deus ibi est

(Where there is charity and love, God is there)

Liturgical Dates for your diary:

26/11/15	10:30 Advent Wreath building Mass Y3-Y6 - Fr Paul families are welcome to join us at this Mass.
26/11/15	2:00pm Wreath building assembly with Sr Yvonne FS2 - Y2
29/11/15	First Sunday in Advent
In December Please take a tag from the giving tree and buy a gift for a homeless person in MK, or bring in some adult clothing in good condition that you no longer need.	
02/12/15	2:50 Y3 Panda Class Worship with parents
03/12/15	2:15pm Acorns pm, Saplings L - Christmas Performance
04/12/15	9:30 am Acorns am, Saplings B - Christmas Performance
07/12/15	New Value: Responsibility
07/12/15	Bridgebuilder Trust assembly 9:00
08/12/15	Launch of the Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy And the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
09/12/15	2pm Starfish and Dolphin Christmas Performance
10/12/15	2pm Seahorse and Turtle Christmas Performance
11/12/15	MUFTI (Christmas themed if you wish) Please bring at least £1 to support our charity focus - Helping the Homeless in MK
17/12/15	9:30 am Y5/6 Christmas Carols and Readings - for wider community and families with babies/toddlers 6:00 pm Y5/6 Christmas Carols and Readings Please note that both performances are now on the same day
13/01/16	2:50 Y6 Meteor Class Worship with parents
18/01/16	New Value: Happiness
18 th - 25 th Jan	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
27/01/16	2:50 Y5 Eagle Class Worship with parents
03/02/16	2:50 Y4 Leopard Class Worship with parents
08/02/16	Bridgebuilder Trust assembly 9:00
10/02/16	Ash Wednesday Service Y3-6 & Parents. Ashes administered to FS/KS1 by Children's Chaplaincy Team 2:00pm
14/02/16	First Sunday in Lent
22/02/16	New Value: Tolerance
22/02/16	Bridgebuilder Trust assembly 9:00
Starting 25/02/16	Weekly Stations of the Cross Thursdays 8:15 - 8:45 Led by Children's Chaplaincy Team in chapel followed by quiet prayer and reflection - dependent on completion of building works.
02/03/16	2:50 Y3 Kangaroo Class Worship with parents
14/03/16	New Value: Cooperation
15/03/16	Forgiveness and Renewal service 1:45 - 2:00 Y3 - Y4 (children only) followed by 1:1 confessions for Y6 with Fr Paul in chapel.
18/03/16	2:15 Y3-6 & Parents - Mass for Lent with Fr Paul
22/03/16	2pm Y3/4 Kangaroo/Leopard Easter Reflection
23/03/16	2:30 Y2 Dolphin Class Worship with parents
23/03/16	2pm Y3/4 Panda/Lion Easter Reflection
25/03/16	Good Friday
27/03/16	Easter Sunday

