



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Advent Term

## Newsletter December 2017 Issue No.8

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see so many of you supporting our recent school events. We had our largest ever attendance at the beautiful Advent Wreath Building Mass on Thursday; I would like to sincerely thank all of those who came to this special Mass; it makes a real difference to our children to see members of our community actively supporting our faith events. The staff were extremely appreciative of the parent-led prayer at the end of Mass - thank you.

The Christmas Fair on Friday was a roaring success and I would like to thank all of the parents, staff and pupils who worked so hard to ensure its success, especially our Office Elves, the PTA, Our Mini Vinnies and the wonderful pupils of St Paul's. Fr Christmas himself sent me an email to comment on what a well-organised, joyous event it was. I apologise to any who were frustrated by the time-slot ticket approach to seeing Santa; this was to reduce queuing and was generally successful.

The season of Nativities is upon us with Foundation Stage performing on Tuesday. Please see the dates page at the end of this newsletter to ensure you don't miss any of the forthcoming events.

## Living our Mission in Mind, Body and Spirit

As this term draws to a close, I could not be more proud of our children and want to share with you some of their wonderful achievements:

Our new team of **Mini Vinnies** celebrated their Commissioning Ceremony on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, attendees included Sr Yvonne and local members of the SVP. It is a fabulous reflection of our children that over a third of the pupils in Y4-Y6 applied for leading roles within the Mini Vinnies Teams.

Our new **Junior Road Safe Officers** have been chosen from an extremely strong set of applications. Reading the application forms was a joy in itself and it was hard to believe that such wise words on the theme of promoting safety in and around our school were written by children as young as 9-11 years old. The JRSOs will begin their crucial work in the New Year. Congratulations to Damien, Emily, Tadiwa, Holly, Kenan, Tai, Marie and Lavinia.

A group of girls in Y6 have independently set up a group entitled '**Friendship Believers Forever**'. They made a presentation in assembly in front of all pupils from Y1-6 to explain how they are available at breaks to support pupils who may be struggling with friendships or are feeling sad, alone or worried. What a wonderful example of pupils living our school mission. Thank you to Kinga, Shanae, Meaghan, Sia, Nicole, Cloda, Gemima, Tadiwa and Shekina.

Fi Jones, the Milton Keynes' Speaker Coordinator and puppy trainer who has been a regular visitor with Tiger, told me at a recent visit that she has never been to a school with such lovely, well-behaved and enthusiastically engaged children - they are a credit to you, their families and to our school.

**Our Choir and Community Mini Vinnies** are planning to visit the local Care Home and Local Memory Club for early sufferers of dementia. I think that this is another wonderful example of how the children of St Bernadette's bring great hope for the future of our country; they truly are the potential leaders who can change the world for the better.

**Sporting Update** for this half term: We won the Catholic Schools' Cross Country event and our Boys' Football Team remain undefeated so far this season. The team spirit and sportsmanship of our competitors should also be commended - well done!



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## Advent Prayer and Reflection

Please do join us on Tuesdays during Advent from 8:15 am. The chapel is open to the school community for personal prayer and reflection.

Do take advantage of this opportunity for a moment of calm in your busy days. Alternatively, please feel free to access the prayer garden from 8:35 - 8:55 am

## Safe End of Day Pick-ups

Please remember that we have a password system in place for when you need someone different to pick up your child at the end of the school day. Make sure that you provide the password to the school office and the person picking your child up.



10 people have signed up to the Giving Machine and have raised £6.52 in one month for the school at no cost to themselves. Imagine how much money we could raise as a school community if we all signed up and did our online shopping via this website! Once signed up, it adds about 30 seconds to the online shopping experience. Many of you will be shopping online more than usual during December – please sign up and do so via The Giving Machine.

Your own children benefit from funds raised.

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/st-bernadettes-catholic-primary/>

## Staffing News



We send our best wishes and congratulations to Mr and Mrs Perrett on the birth of their first child, Oscar James Perrett, born on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

# Welcome Back!

We welcome Mrs Homer and Mrs White back from maternity leave. They will be taking over the teaching of Year 3 Panda Class.

## Starting School September 2018?

If your child's birthday is between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014, you **must** apply for a school place for them for September 2018.

Those families who have children in our Nursery- **don't forget** to also apply for a school place. Just because your child is in the Nursery, this does not guarantee a place in FS2 (Reception) for September. You still **MUST** apply for a school place via the Local Authority using the on-line portal. Find out more from:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/admission-arrangements-september-2018-19>

You must make your online application before the closing date of **15th January 2018**. If your child is a Catholic or a Christian of other denomination then a Supplementary Form should be completed and returned to our school office to support the admissions process. The Supplementary Forms are available from the school office or the school website.

Our school's Admissions Policy, which includes our admissions criteria for 2018 can be viewed via the following link:

<http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/documents/StBernadettesAdmissionPolicy2018ApprovedNurseryAmendment30.03.1709.10.17.pdf>





## Attendance

Mrs Oldfield and I have been monitoring attendance and are concerned about the number of absences this term. I recognise fully that there are many genuine reasons for absences, such as unavoidable illness.

Here are some things to consider to ensure the best possible attendance for your:

- Book any routine dental or medical appointments out of school hours
- Do not take holiday during term time
- If your child has a simple cold, is tired or has a minor ailment that, as an adult, would not prevent you from going to work, send him/her to school as usual.

Missing lessons impacts on a child's progress at school.

MISSING  
(SCHOOL)=  
MISSING  
OUT

**Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est**

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

**The  
Giving  
Tree**



Helping Those  
in Need

Please take a tag from our Giving Tree in the reception area and return it with the gift described on the tag. All donations will go to supporting the homeless in Milton Keynes via the Soup Run and the Winter Night Shelter.



*Diocese of Northampton*  
**YEAR of PRAYER  
and VOCATION**  
**2017/2018**



This new Church Year from December 2017 to December 2018 has been designated by Bishop Peter as a **Year of Prayer and Vocation** for our Diocese.

During this year we are invited as members of our Diocesan school communities to renew our commitment to personal prayer. We are asked to set aside some time for prayer and to listen to God's call in our everyday lives.

**This year began on the first Sunday of Advent - 3 December 2017.**

It is a great opportunity for us to join with our brothers and sisters in parishes and schools across the Diocese in prayer, reflection and action.

Opening the Year of Prayer and Vocation, this month of December is dedicated as a Month of Prayer for the Diocese. We celebrate our two patrons: Mary Immaculate on December 8 and St Thomas Becket on December 29.

Let us all pray for Bishop Peter, all our clergy and religious, our parishes and schools, asking the prayerful intercession of Mary Immaculate and St Thomas.



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## Events for Advent Term 2017

<i>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</i>	First Sunday of Advent
<i>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December and each Tuesday in Advent</i>	8:15am join us for quiet prayer and reflection each Tuesday of Advent in the chapel
<i>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</i>	9:30 Foundation Stage Nativity (Nursery and Reception - Acorns and Saplings)
<i>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December</i>	6:00 pm Maths information evening. How to promote an understanding of fractions at home.
<i>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</i>	2:15 Seahorse and Dolphin Class Nativity
<i>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</i>	2:15 Starfish and Turtle Class Nativity
<i>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</i>	Christmas Shop run by Parents' Association
<i>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December</i>	9:15 am and 6:00 pm Y5 and Y6 Carols and Readings
<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM - EARLY END TO THE DAY</b> KS1 and FS2 (Saplings, Y1 and Y2) close at 2:15 pm and Nursery and KS2 (Acorns, Y3, 4, 5 and 6 close 2:30 pm) <b>THERE WILL BE NO CARE CLUB ON THIS DAY</b>
<i>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</i>	Start of new term (New Value = Perseverance)
<i>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January</i>	2:30 Starfish Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January</i>	5:30 Bedtime Stories Event
<i>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</i>	2:50 Comet Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January</i>	Film Night
<i>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</i>	2:50 Eagle Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>W/C 5<sup>th</sup> February</i>	Internet Safety Focus Week
<i>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</i>	Leopard Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</i>	Year 3 internet safety talk for pupils delivered by Hazzard Alley
<i>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</i>	Last Day of Half Term. Normal home times

St Bernadette's Parents' Association has a Facebook page where you can see all of the events for the school community and find out how you can get involved. The name of the group is St Bernadette Parents Association and it can be found from the following link: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1676844775894194>



# Advent

The coming of the Messiah

Cafod have created a lovely interactive advent calendar ppt. that you can download via this link to share with your family.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-calendar-for-children>