



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Values:
Spring 1 - Perseverance
Spring 2 - Justice

Community Matters

Lent Term 2018

Issue 16



Come join us in our Stations of the Cross in the chapel every Tuesday morning during Lent at 8:15am. The 14 devotions commemorate Jesus Christ's last day on earth as a man. We are delighted that our Prayer Mini Vinnies will be helping us to carry this devotion to Christ. The first session will start on Tuesday 20th February and the sessions will continue until the last Tuesday before the Easter break. We are looking forward to seeing you there.



This year Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, will take place on Wednesday 14th February during the half term holidays. We will be having Lenten Reconciliation services in school in the first week after the holidays. Year 6 will also have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation after the service with one of the local Catholic Cluster priests.



In my last newsletter, I informed you about Pope Francis' Live Simply Award. Just before Christmas, our action plan for the Live Simply Award was agreed by Bishop Declan Lang, and as a school we are delighted that our plans and initiatives have been agreed. After half-term, the theme will be launched across the whole school. We will keep you posted on what we are doing in school in order to achieve this very special award.

First Holy Communion 2018



I recently sent out a letter to all parents asking for you to notify the school if your child is making their First Holy Communion this year- I haven't had many responses. Please let the school know if your child is due to celebrate this very special sacrament so that we can celebrate with them and contribute to their parish preparation in school. Our First Holy Communion sessions are due to start in March.



The Eco Mini Vinnie team launched our **Switch off Fortnight** initiative last week. They presented a wonderful assembly and have been very busy encouraging and prompting the school community to switch off lights and electrical appliances throughout the school when they are not being used. Perhaps you could be thinking about this at home too and hopefully together we can make a difference to our world.

St. Bernadette's Prayer Garden

I am sure many of you are aware of our wonderful prayer garden that we now have in the KS2 end of the school playground. You are all most welcome to come and use the prayer garden as a place of quiet prayer and contemplation in the morning, after you drop off your children, and also at the end of the day. It really is a beautiful space and we feel so privileged to have this very special area available to all in our school community.

**Times for families: 8:35am – 9:00am
3:00pm – 3:30pm**



Choir and Community Mini Vinnies

Visit Peartree Bridge

“On Monday 5th February, the choir and Community Mini Vinnies went to Peartree Bridge Care home. We sang a selection of school hymns: When the Saints Go Marching In; Colours of Day; Sing it in the Valleys and Sing Hosanna to the elderly people and those with early stages of dementia. Some of the adults told us that they used to play instruments when they were younger. We had a lovely time and I am looking forward to going again.” (Kinga-Year 6)



Fr Pius' Visits

We have been so blessed to have Fr. Pius visit our school on such a regular basis. He has been coming in every Wednesday, working with every class in the school! On one of his recent visits, he talked about Lent and what we could be doing during these 40 days and 40 nights. He suggested we think about what we could give up and also make an effort to spend more time with others-helping at home or playing with our brothers and sisters. Fr. Pius is always very happy and enthusiastic. He likes to teach a song playing his guitar, which is so much fun. We all learnt an action song which made us all dance around and laugh.

What Year 6 Children Have Said:

Nicole – *“He is very funny and energetic and has a good heart for children.”*

Rafa – *“He entertains us.”*

Damian – *“He is a very friendly guy and he understands what we think.”*

Mali – *“He makes the lessons fun and upbeat, not serious.”*

Haris – *“He always has a positive attitude.”*



Many thanks to all the families that have attended the Class Collective Worship that have taken place over the last term. It is so lovely to see you come and support your children in their religious and spiritual journey. The children are so pleased when they have a family member there to celebrate with them.

Class Collective Worship for Next Term:

YEAR	CLASS	DATE
3	PANDA	Wednesday 28 th February (2:45 pm)
2	TURTLE	Wednesday 7 th March (2:30 pm)
FS2	LOURDES & BERNADETTE	Wednesday 25 th April (2:30 pm)
1	SEAHORSE	Tuesday 24th April (2:30 pm) Please note that this is a different date from what has been previously published due to new staffing arrangements.



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Make a House a Home

Our Community Mini Vinnie team have chosen our school charity for this year. We will be raising money for the Saint Vincent de Paul charity – 'Make a House a Home'. The children were very enthusiastic about their charity choice and felt very strongly about helping those who have been recently rehoused following periods of crisis and homelessness and need furniture and white goods in their homes. The Community Mini Vinnie team presented a fantastic assembly to the whole school, explaining the work of the charity and what they do. We are having a Mufti-Day on Friday 9th February to launch the fund raising for the new charity. The children can wear an outfit of their choice and bring in £1. Each year group will then plan and organise a fundraising activity over the coming months. Your child's teacher will notify you of these activities and when they are taking place.

Spirits of St. Bernadette's

We are continuing to celebrate our special Spirit of St. Bernadette's Award. The last 2 half term's 'Spirits':

Year 1	James, Dominik G, Chloe G, Elian, Ruth-Destiny, Robert, Vincent, Eden, Sophia and Alana
Year 2	Jayden, Philip, Lois, Milo, Meme, Ashwin, Kendra, Joan, Ariela, Evie and Khloe
Year 3	Marcel, Marco, Oscar, Daniel, Asia, Kady, Tyler, Safia, Zach, Sherina, Laura and Billy
Year 4	Olivia, Emmanuel, Natalia, Sean, Wiktorina, Evie, Lili, Dylan, Kezziah, Alfie and Avisha
Year 5	Esme, Nikola, Tai, Tom, Amelia, Jianna, Siobhan, Michael, Sandra and Haleema
Year 6	Meaghan, Josh, Emily C, Teddy, Chloe, Kyle, Spencer, Gabby, Emmanuel, Haris, Myreen and Sia

Well done to all of you, we are so proud and privileged to have such wonderful children at St. Bernadette's.

Thank You...

As a school we are always overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity of our families when we fundraise for local charities. At Christmas you all donated so generously to the Winter Night Shelter. Miss McGowan (our Chair of Governors) presented an assembly on the work that she and the charity carries out to help the homeless in Milton Keynes. We recently received a beautiful letter from John Fulton, which I have attached for you to read. We also received a lovely thank you card from John Smith from the Milton Keynes Friday Night Soup Run. He was so grateful for all of our donations, which did go a long way in providing hot food for the homeless in Milton Keynes. Once again, sincere thanks to you all for your kind and generous donations.

Chaplaincy at St. Bernadette's

Our next Adult Chaplaincy team meeting is due to take place on 22nd March where we discuss the liturgical and chaplaincy events that are happening in the school over the coming term. You are more than welcome to join us and contribute to the spiritual development of our school community. Please do let us know in advance if you wish to join us, by emailing the school office on office@stbernadettesschool.com

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Diocese of Northampton

Milton Keynes Council