



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Lent Term

Newsletter January 2018 Issue No.9

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas holidays now feel like a distant memory and half term is already fast approaching, but as this is my first main newsletter of 2018, I would like to wish you all a new year filled with many blessings.

I thank all of the parents who responded to the electronic questionnaires regarding ways in which we can support you and keep you well informed. The Gateway was shown to be an extremely popular means of receiving information and parent workshops are also popular. Miss Bond presented a very helpful workshop on fractions before the holidays which received extremely positive responses and on Wednesday evening, Mrs Patel, with a team of dedicated staff, provided a fun, interactive Bedtime Stories Evening. I hope that those who attended enjoyed themselves and found the session helpful. I will be meeting with staff to look at the questionnaire responses in further detail to ensure that we are providing you with all of the support and information that you would like to receive.

We will be developing a new school website over the coming terms which I hope will be easier to navigate than our current site and will become another extremely useful support tool for our school community.

Our Current Value is Perseverance

Living our Mission in Mind, Body and Spirit

It has been brought to my attention that there have been a small number of negative comments regarding the school shared via social media. I urge any family member who is unhappy with the school to speak to the class teacher, Mrs Smith (Deputy Headteacher) or myself, rather than using social media to voice their concerns. This gives us the opportunity to resolve the problem and identify new areas for improvement. We are well aware that there will always be areas for improvement and development and welcome constructive feedback.

Following feedback, I have spoken to the whole team of staff about communication and our crucial roles in living the mission of our school and demonstrating respect for all members of our school family, pupils, parents and colleagues. I appeal to you also to consider this as there have been times when staff members are faced with aggressive or offensive behaviour which can, in turn, make it difficult to remain positive and work together as a community for the benefit of our children.

Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated between the 18th-25th January 2018. As I discussed with pupils at Monday's Collective Worship, I believe that our school is a beautiful example for others of Christian Unity with 57% Catholic pupils and 42% Christian pupils of other denominations who are all united in faith and love. Unfortunately this is not the case across the world and we are encouraged to pray for greater understanding and union across the Christian denominations of the world.

On Sunday 21st January Christ the King Church at Kents Hill will have a Songs of Praise Service at 5.00pm as part of this week of Prayer for Christian Unity. You are all warmly welcomed to come along to pray with Christians from the denominations in the Walton Churches Partnership.





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Lent starts on Ash Wednesday which falls on 14th February during half term this year.

Please join us on each Tuesday at 8:15 am during Lent in the Small Hall for Stations of the Cross led by members of the Mini Vinnies



Contacting the School

Please note that the school email address has changed and is now in line with staff email addresses:

Office@stbernadetteschool.com

Keeping Everyone Healthy

As I am sure you are aware, it is certainly the season for bugs and many at St Bernadette's are suffering from either the flu or stomach bug. Please support us all by reminding your children to catch their sneezes in tissues which they should then put in the bin and to wash their hands well after using the toilet and before eating. If your child has been ill, please respect the school's current policy which states, "If your child has vomited he/she must be 24 hours clear before returning to school. If your child has diarrhoea, he/she must be 48 hours clear before returning to school."



14 people have now signed up to the Giving Machine and have raised £20.21 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. Please sign up and do your online shopping via The Giving Machine.

Your own children benefit from funds raised.

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

School Development

I meet with the School's Governing Board on a monthly basis to discuss all aspects of school development. This week I was able to report to the governors on pupil performance following Autumn term assessments and lesson observations.

A focus for school development this year is mathematics as 2017 SATs saw a dip in attainment in this area following outstanding performance in the tests in 2016.

In September we introduced mixed ability maths lessons with pre-teaching and daily catch-up sessions where needed. Staff training this academic year has focussed on maths and workshops are provided for parents each term to aid support at home. Lesson observations have focussed on pitch, differentiation and challenge and all line managers have been very pleased with the progress pupils are making in lessons. End of Autumn term assessments have shown that within just one term, pupils' attainment in maths is now generally in line with their attainment in English. Pupils and staff are positive about the approach to teaching maths and predictions for the SATs this year are extremely encouraging.

You have the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher on either 20th or 22nd February for Parent Consultations. Please do sign up and take advantage of this opportunity to discuss your child's progress, attainment, attitudes and work habits and to agree ways in which you can support your child's learning at home.



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Our New Charity

The Charity branch of our Mini Vinnies Team will be launching our new charity focus to the whole school on Monday 29th January. They have chosen for us to support the SVP aided charity, **Turn a House into a Home** - which supports families who have been moved into unfurnished accommodation with basic furniture and white goods items like a bed, a fridge or a cooker.

As an initial fundraiser there will be a MUFTI day on Friday 9th February (the last day of the half term). Children can wear what they wish, as long as it is suitable and comfortable for the school day. Please bring in at least £1 to support this very worthy charity. We know that a growing number of families in Milton Keynes are finding themselves in need of this form of support.

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic?

If you, a friend or a family member would like to find out more about becoming a Catholic, a group will meet on Monday evenings in term time, beginning on Monday 22nd January at 8pm in St Augustine's Presbytery, Heelands to follow the Journey in Faith course. Please feel free to simply come along.



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.

In January, we are asked to focus in particular on the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he gave them the 'Our Father'. This prayer of all Christians witnesses to a shared baptism in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Since Christians have the same Father in heaven and are all brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to be one as Jesus and his Father are one (cf. Jn 17:22).

Our Father,

Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil

Amen.

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, Tewkesbury Lane, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes, MK10 9PH

Tel: 01908 692438 Fax: 01908 691739 Email: Office@stbernadettesschool.com

www.stbernadettesschool.com

Headteacher: Jane Zamora BA Hons PGCE NPQH Deputy Head: Melanie Smith B.Ed. Hons

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Milton Keynes Council



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Events for Lent Term 2018

<i>Wednesday 24th January</i>	2:50 Y6 Comet Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Thursday 25th January</i>	Film Night - sign up via the School Gateway
<i>Wednesday 31st January</i>	2:50 Y5 Eagle Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Friday 2nd February</i>	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
<i>W/C 5th February</i>	Internet Safety Focus Week
<i>Wednesday 7th February</i>	3:50 Y4 Leopard Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Wednesday 7th February</i>	Y2 Primary Engineers session at St Paul's
<i>Thursday 8th February</i>	Year 3 internet safety talk for pupils delivered by Hazzard Alley
<i>Thursday 8th February</i>	Rock UK Meeting @ 6pm for Current Y5 parents (Y6 residential visit Sept 2018)
<i>Friday 9th February</i>	MUFTI DAY for our new charity
<i>Friday 9th February</i>	Last Day of Half Term. Normal home times
Half Term Holiday	
<i>Sunday 18th February</i>	First Sunday of Advent
<i>Monday 19th February</i>	Return to school - first day of second half of Lent term
<i>Monday 19th February</i>	Forgiveness and Renewal Service 1:45 Year 3 - Year 6 (KS2)
<i>Tuesday 20th February</i>	Forgiveness and Renewal Service 9:15 Year 1-2 (KS1)
<i>Tuesday 20th February</i>	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm
<i>Tuesday 20th Feb and ALL Tuesdays during Lent</i>	8:15 join pupils, staff and the school community for Stations of the Cross in the Small Hall
<i>Thursday 22nd February</i>	Parent Consultation Evening 3:30 - 6:00 pm
<i>Tuesday 27th Feb Y3/4</i> <i>Wednesday 28th Feb Y5/6</i> <i>Thursday 1st March Y1/2</i>	Maths Focus Days - collect your child from class early (2:30 KS1 or 2:45 KS2) to carry out maths activities with them in the hall. If you are unable to collect early, access the activities with your child after school until 4pm.
<i>Wednesday 28th February</i>	3:50 Y3 Panda Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Thursday 1st March</i>	Secondary School Offer Day
<i>Thursday 1st March</i>	World Book Day
<i>Wednesday 7th March</i>	2:30 Y2 Turtle Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Thursday 8th March</i>	Y4 Educational Visit to St Albans
<i>Monday 12th March</i>	Y5 Parks Trust - Ouzel Valley
<i>Wednesday 14th March</i>	2:30 Y1 Seahorse Class Collective Worship - Small Hall
<i>Saturday 17th March</i>	Our First Football Festival Y3/4 9:30-12:00, Y5/6 1:30 - 4:00. Many local teams will be involved come and help, support and have fun!
<i>Tuesday 20th March</i>	2 pm Y3/4 Easter Performance - Kangaroo and Leopard Classes
<i>Thursday 22nd March</i>	2 pm Y3/4 Easter Performance - Panda and Lion Classes
<i>Friday 23rd March</i>	LAST DAY OF LENT TERM - EARLY END TO THE DAY 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) THERE WILL BE NO CARE CLUB ON THIS DAY
Easter Holidays. Back to school on Monday 9 th April (Feast of the Annunciation)	

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>



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