



St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter November 2013 Issue No.52

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

For the Diary see the website:

http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/calendar_full.htm



**Statement to
live by:
I can tell you
how I look
after myself**



**Crazy Hair
Day
November
29th.**

**Do mad
things to
your hair!
Colour
Twist
Crimp
Add bits**

Bring a £1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all those of you who came along to the International Evening. It was a super evening and much fun was had by all. Thank you to all those who contributed food- it was a real treat. It was so lovely to see our community enjoying themselves socially with an opportunity to share cultures and to learn more about each others' lives.

Charity Giving WOW

We had an unusual approach to Charity giving last month when Genna Buckmaster chose to have her waist length hair cut off in support of The Little Princess Trust. This act took place in front of the whole school. It caused a high degree of excitement and admiration for Genna's sacrifice and courage. She has raised £843.75 so far. A superb individual's commitment to charitable work. Well done Genna.

We contacted you at the end of the Summer term to ask for suggestions of charities that you would like us to support during this academic year. We had one response addressed to our Children's Chaplaincy Team describing the wonderful work of the Bletchley based charity, "Toy Box".

This is a charity that works with street children in Latin America, primarily in the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru and Bolivia. Toy Box's work consists of helping children who are on the edge of being forced to live on the streets and rescuing children who live on the streets and providing them with a safe home. Once the children are in a safe home the charity supports them in whatever way is needed.

The street children of Guatemala were generally not born within a hospital and their births have not been registered. This results in them never being able to own an identity card and therefore never being able to own a home, marry or access some very basic services. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to register their own births in the great Census of that time. It seems fitting that the focus of our Charity work for the coming months should be on helping Toy Box to register the births of as many street children in Guatemala in order to help them to have a future with opportunities that we take for granted. It costs approximately £30 to register the birth of a street child. Let's see how many we can register with your generous support.

Crazy Hair Day

We will launch our charity on November 29th with a Crazy Hair Day. Please bring **at least** a pound to school on that day (This would allow us to register at least 15 children from one simple activity!). We will then be in touch with you with details of the different money raising activities each year group will be preparing to support the charity further.

REMINDER: The chapel will be open to families for quiet prayer and reflection on Wednesday mornings during advent from 8am to 8:40 am

Parent Workshops

Once again the Foundation Phonics Workshop was well attended and I would urge anyone who didn't get along to visit our website for more information about how we teach Phonics. We have seen a tremendous improvement in both Reading and Writing since its introduction with the Phonics screening check now achieving well above national benchmarks. If your child is learning English or speaks another language at home it is really for your child to learn the correct pronunciation of the sounds in letters and how to blends these sounds. For more information follow the link:

http://www.stbernadettesschool.com/read_write_inc.htm

Maths Support

I am sure you are all well aware that the development of maths teaching and learning has been a focus for the last three years and is a key priority on our new School Development Plan. Three years ago we recognized the large difference at Key stage 1 between the attainment in Maths and Reading. This difference has had a huge impact over the years with teachers working hard to close that gap. The effect of this has been that Maths attainment at the end of Year 6 was still below last year however the changes made from Year 1 have now worked through the whole school. We can see 3 years of improved results at Key Stage 1 and **all** Year groups now set to achieve standards that are at least in line with national. Well done to children for really challenging themselves.

What can you do? First of all don't say 'I can't do maths!' or 'Ask your Father'! Or 'don't' ask your mother'! Be a role model, don't stereotype and be excited about maths- just enjoy learning with your child.

Don't under estimate just how much general knowledge and practice is required just so children can feel confident about answering questions. You can really help by learning and practicing these skills. I thought I would set a challenge each month to ensure all the required skills are embed by the time children reach Year 6. See box below- you might be surprised how simple but I have chosen this because I saw Year 6 pupils really struggling with answering questions that required this knowledge.

And finally, as we approach Christmas, school life gets increasingly busy so please look out for newsletters and updates from other staff. You may well get asked to assist with the learning of words and songs for the Christmas plays. Enjoy and I know you will be surprised when you see your child perform later this month. Year 3 and 4 pupils will get their chance at the Easter play.

My good wishes and blessings.
Mrs Clewlow

Maths Survival Kit 1 – The calendar?

Child: Can you name the months of the year in order? Do you know how many days there are in each month?

Parents: Do you have a traditional grid calendar on view in the house? Have you taught your child a rhyme to help learn the numbers of days in a month?

"30 days has September, April June and November- all the rest have 31 except February with 28"