



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Advent Term

Newsletter September 2017 Issue No.5

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I commence my first academic year as Headteacher of St Bernadette's, I feel truly blessed to be leading such a wonderful team of staff and working with such marvellous children and families. I thank you all for the generous support you have given me in my new role. I hope that you can forgive me for the length of this newsletter and that you do manage to persevere to the very end! I appreciate that it is an extremely lengthy read but I believe that all of the information is important to share with you.

Mrs Jane Zamora

Living our Mission in Mind, Body and Spirit

All staff gathered at school on Tuesday 5th September for an extremely productive training day. I presented my vision for how we, as a school community, can truly live our mission of Loving, Serving and Growing Together with Jesus, which I will also be sharing with you in a forthcoming newsletter. We revisited our statutory roles in relation to Child Protection and launched our new Behaviour Policy which has been developed in consultation with staff, parents, governors and children. Our policy can be viewed via our website: <http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/documents/BehaviourandDisciplinePolicyJuly2017.pdf> The new procedures were shared with children on the first day of term and their response has been extremely encouraging. The school has a wonderful atmosphere and the children have started the year in a calm, positive manner, demonstrating our values and impressive engagement in lessons.

How Can You Support Our School?

- Our **Parents' Association** is a wonderful yet very small group of adults who work together to provide special experiences for all pupils whilst fundraising for the school. It is thanks to the Parents' Association that we are able to celebrate such fun filled events as the Christmas and May fairs and the International Evening. In the current financial climate, fundraising is becoming a vital way of supporting the school but the Parents' Association is such a small group that they are struggling to continue this invaluable service to the school. Our whole school community would benefit from a large, enthusiastic, committed group and I urge you to consider joining the Parents' Association. The more people that join, the lighter the load for each individual. Grandparents, neighbours and friends - all adults are welcome. Please contact the School Office initially to express interest: stbernadettes@milton-keynes.gov.uk
- We would love to extend our **Adult Chaplaincy Team** to include more members of our school community. We tend to meet once per half term from 3:30 - 4:30 to develop the spiritual and prayer life opportunities for our children and families. Having parents, carers or other family members join the team should mean that our provision is more effective in providing for the needs of our school community. If you are interested in joining our team, please email Mrs Zamora via the school office email above.

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

Tel: 01908 692438 Fax: 01908 691739 Email: stbernadettes@milton-keynes.gov.uk

www.stbernadetteschool.com

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

Diocese of Northampton

Milton Keynes Council



We would be delighted if you could join Y3-Y6 for a celebratory Mass for the start of the new school year on Wednesday 13th September at 2pm. It is always lovely for our children to see members of our school community at such special events. Please see the dates section of this newsletter for class collective worship and other events planned for this half term.



Please note that our Harvest Collection fortnight starts on Monday 25th September please send in dried and long-life food packages to donate to the MK Foodbank. The service that the foodbank provides for families in crisis is invaluable and more and more families are relying on their support. Please give generously, as you always do. Do join us for our KS1 and KS2 Harvest Collective Worships (see below)



A recent fire assessment has identified that we have been misusing our Emergency Exits located in our corridors. Overuse has resulted in failures and damage to the doors which should only ever be used to evacuate the building in an emergency. It is crucial that these emergency exits remain in perfect working order in the event of an emergency. To enter and exit the building throughout the day, children will use only classroom doors. If you wish to enter the building, for example to change your child's reading book, please do this via your child's classroom door with the knowledge of the class teacher. In other circumstances, please enter via the main reception entrance after securely signing in at the entry machine.

I thank you for your support in this matter

A call for help

A member of our school community had planned to send resources to the Dominican Republic where schools were struggling to recover from storms that struck two years ago. Now that hurricane Irma has added further, fresh devastation, the need is far greater. We are collecting supplies to send to the schools - books, stationary, craft materials, sports equipment etc. If you can spare any items, please give them via the main reception office and we will ensure that they reach those who will benefit from your generosity.

Please keep all of those suffering from the effects of this devastating storm, the emergency services and world leaders providing support and assistance in your prayers.

Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est

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

Maths at St Bernadette's

Our performance in statutory tests and assessments has shown that a gap is growing between pupils' attainment in maths and that in English. (A data report for statutory assessments can be found on our website <http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/ofsted.htm>) We want to ensure that our children are receiving the best possible provision for their mathematical development.

We have used a set-approach for a number of years but will now be returning to mixed class maths, (with the exception of those pupils with the highest levels of need in mathematics). We will be following the government approved mastery approach for the new national curriculum. Independent and group activities will be differentiated to ensure that pupils receive appropriate challenge and support. Additional teacher and TA-led interventions will also take place. We do not set by ability in English and pupils are achieving to a higher standard in these lessons.

We will be offering a range of Parent Workshops throughout the year in addition to high quality staff training. I urge you to attend the workshops to enable you to support your children with their learning at home. I also ask that you ensure that your children complete all home learning activities set by their teachers. Please do encourage your children to use TT Rock Stars and My Maths at home for further support in developing times tables fluency and practising skills taught in class.

We will regularly monitor lessons, children's work and their attainment through ongoing stringent assessment processes and will review our approach to ensure that it is having a positive impact upon your children's progress and attainment.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or our Maths Leader, Miss Bond.

Please find below links to a range of articles supporting this approach to teaching maths:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/resources/teaching-learning-toolkit/setting-or-streaming/#closeSignup>

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/schools-are-harming-low-ability-pupils-chances-teaching-sets>

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/resources/45776>

Our Expanding School Family



I am delighted to share with you that Mr Collins, Eagle Class teacher, became a father on Tuesday. Congratulations to him and his wife Trudi on their new baby boy. Mr Collins will be taking two weeks of paternity leave starting on Monday 11th September. Mr Watts, who worked at St Bernadette's regularly last academic year and is well known by our pupils, will cover the majority of the paternity leave.



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Events for Advent Term 2017 - First Half Term

<i>Monday 11th September</i>	Meet the Teacher Meetings for Y2 and Y4. Choose to come at either 3:30 pm or at 5:30 pm
<i>Tuesday 12th September</i>	Meet the Teacher Meetings for Y1, Y3 and Y5. Choose to come at either 3:30 pm or at 5:30 pm
<i>Wednesday 13th September</i>	New School Year Mass with Y3-Y6 pupils 2:00 pm in the school hall. Parents and community welcome
<i>Thursday 14th September</i>	Meet the Teacher Meetings for Y6. Choose to come at either 3:30pm or at 5:30 pm
<i>Monday 25th September</i>	Harvest Collection Fortnight - please send in dried and long-life food packages to donate to the MK Foodbank
<i>27th - 29th September</i>	Y6 Residential Visit to Rock UK
<i>Wednesday 4th October</i>	2:50 Y6 Meteor Class Collective Worship in the Small Hall/Chapel
<i>Thursday 5th October</i>	3:30 - 4:15 Phonics Workshop for Parents Small Hall
<i>Friday 6th October</i>	9:15 KS1 and 2:45 KS2 Harvest Collective Worship - parents and community are welcome
<i>Monday 9th October</i>	1:45 pm. Join us for a collective worship then join your child's RE lesson to see what they are learning about
<i>Week commencing 9th October</i>	Our Catholic Schools Week, culminating in a special Mass 11:30am Sunday 15 th October at Christ the King Church. Come in school uniform. Further information to follow.
<i>Wednesday 11th October</i>	Individual and Family photographs
<i>Wednesday 11th October</i>	2:50 Y5 Falcon Class Collective Worship in the Small Hall/Chapel
<i>Wednesday 18th October</i>	2:50 Y4 Lion Class Collective Worship in the Small Hall/Chapel
<i>Friday 20th October</i>	Last day of this half term
<i>Monday 23rd - Sunday 29th October - Half Term Break</i>	
<i>Wednesday 1st November</i>	Join Y3-Y6 for a Mass for All Souls and All Saints 2:00 pm
<i>Thursday 2nd November</i>	6pm Join us for a fabulous International Evening - come in your national dress and bring traditional food to share.
<i>Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th November</i>	Parent Consultations from 3:30 pm
<i>Wednesday 8th November</i>	Y3 Kangaroo Class collective worship in the school chapel - families welcome

School Meals Reminder

Please remember to order school meals by the Monday of the previous week. Although there is not a charge for school meals up to and including Year 2, it is still necessary to choose what your child will eat. Please do this in discussion with your child so that you choose meals they enjoy to avoid wastage.

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