



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

## Newsletter December Update 2016 Issue No.96

Diary for the Advent Term

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 9:30 and 6 pm	Carols and Readings Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of term- KS1 close at 2:15 and KS2 close at 2:30 (This should avoid the traffic jam that we had last year. Nursery close 2:30) <b>NO CARE CLUB ON THE LAST DAY</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Start of the Spring/Lent Term</b>



Nativity figures painted by Saplings children.

God, eternal truth,  
 We believe in You.  
 God, our strength and salvation,  
 We hope in You.  
 You have sent Your Son as Saviour  
 Of the world,  
 Let us be one in Him.  
 Send us the Spirit of Your Son,  
 That we may glorify You name in all things.  
 Amen

*Saint Arnold Jannssen (1837-1909)*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of term with a few events left next week. It has been a very peaceful and joyful Advent with the children providing us all with beautiful singing and acting in the Christmas Nativities. I hope those of you who came along have enjoyed the Christmas message and will be blessed with a happy Christmas holiday.

### Staffing News

As previously announced we do have staff moving away and going on maternity leave. We said farewell to Mrs Homer earlier in December and we await news of a safe delivery! In the Spring term we do have more babies expected. Mrs White will take leave soon in January. Mrs Dalton and Mrs Cattigan are also expecting babies and will start leave later in the term. Congratulations to them both. I have put together a plan for cover which ensures classes have teachers that they know. The following arrangements will be in place.

Mrs White: Saplings B (Part time)	Mrs Morris- will go full time
Mrs Dalton: Starfish Class. Will begin leave in early March.	Mrs Lazzari- afternoon Nursery teacher and previous Year 3 teacher will



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	take over.  Mrs Lazzari is experienced and an excellent teacher.
Mrs Cattigan: Nursery a.m teacher- will begin leave in March.	Mrs Harrison - new teacher for both Nursery classes. She has covered in FS before.

We say goodbye and farewell to Mrs Clarke who will be moving to Lancashire. We thank her so very much for her fabulous leadership of RE. Your children have so many opportunities now to strengthen their faith and participate in a lively and engaging spiritual journey. Many of the initiatives over the last few years have been as a result of Mrs Clarke's ideas. She has supported the Communion children each year and developed our RE curriculum so that lessons are interesting and inspiring. We wish her well for the future and pass on our thanks.

### Christmas Fair

Thank you to all families who joined us for the Christmas Fair. It was the first time we have had a fair after school and the evening light and winter weather made it feel very Christmassy! The Parents Association took well over £600 and the Year 5 Toy sale table took £200 for our Guide Dog charity. I hope fun was had by all.

On a slightly sour note I must make comment. The whole event was put together by a band of a very small number of dedicated and committed parents. They 'manned' the stalls all evening leaving little or no time with their own children. Please, please when we have

these events can other parents offer to volunteer some time to look after a stall or help in the ways that the PA need. If you know that you can help please send in your names to the office and we can pass these on.

### Mission Week

Our first mission week was a great success and I was so please to see so many families taking part. I know you took tags from our Giving Tree and then your generosity towards those in need has been amazing. We had the coordinator of the Winter Night Shelter visit the children this week to say a thank you and to collect an enormous car load of goods. He sent this thank you which I would like to share.



*"I was asked to go to St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School to pick up some items that they had been collecting for the shelter. A little surprise was that an assembly had been arranged just for me and I was faced with about 450 very small to small faces to receive their gifts they had collected. The school had appealed and the kids and parents had collected shampoo, food, and had lovingly wrapped presents of clothes, gloves, and scarves, for our guests.*

*I was able to address the assembly and explain how much it means to our guests to know that people, and especially such young kids, care for people they don't even know, and care enough to share what they have to help others. I was truly uplifted in spirit, and full of hope and joy to see the love the kids had, and that they would share so willingly. They finished by singing the school song which again is a hope filled uplifting tune*

*I thanked everyone on our behalf and then filled the car with the gifts collected and left with a broad smile that has lasted most of the day."* **David Burns Coordinator, Winter Night Shelter, Woburn Sands.**



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### Nursery Places for 2017

We are still at the planning stage with Nursery provision to accommodate the 30 hour offer but it is likely that we will be offering some 30 hour places and limiting the numbers of 15 hour places. Please make sure you put in your application for Nursery and state your preference so that we can get an idea of the demand. Ask in the office for application forms.

### Christmas Samba

Year 4 children performed their musical Samba playing to the Year 3 children this week. They showed that they had learnt all about Samba musical instruments and then played the complicated rhythms together to make a fabulous sound. Well done Year 4!



### Car Parking

Please, please don't lose the values that we are trying to teach our children. There has been some unpleasant exchanges recently largely from frustration and impatience. Take time to park away from the school. It actually takes only 10 minutes to walk from Waitrose via the back streets and under the main road. If you don't have to rush off anywhere else it is good exercise for your children. In the Spring term I shall be rewarding those who have cycled from home or walked from Waitrose car park. Try it, even if it is once or twice a week. I think we have only one family braving the weather on their bicycles at the moment and I'm sure there could be many more.

### Safe Pick-up Passwords

If you haven't already sent in your passwords to provide a safe pick-up system for friends and family then please do so as soon as possible to the school office. We have had positive feedback and the system really works.

### Applications for Starting School September 2017

If your child's birthday is between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013 they will need to apply for a school place.

Those families who have children in the Nursery- don't forget to apply for a school place. Just because your child is in the Nursery 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-2017-18>

You must get your application in before the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. If your child is a Catholic then a Supplementary Form must be completed and returned to our school office (Available from the school office or the school website).

Christmas good wishes and blessings to you all.

Mrs Clewlow