



# St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter February 2015 Issue No.70

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus  
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[http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/calendar\\_full.htm](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/calendar_full.htm)

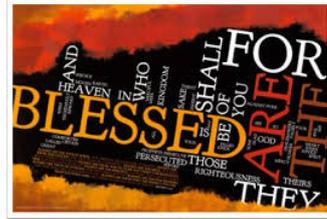
Value this month is

**Happiness**

Read Matthew 5

The Sermon on the Mount

**How can you live your life and be happy?**



### Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term we can hopefully say farewell to the cold and icy weather, Thank you to those who battled with the snow and ice this week and got their children into school on time. Please remember to send your children in appropriate footwear. For those that had boots they did have the enjoyment of playing in the snow at lunchtime. It is a great way to learn about our beautiful world and we had very interesting conversations about why the snow was melting. It is amazing how many children found it difficult to explain. Have a go at home and discuss the scientific concept of 'freezing and melting'.

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y3 Visit to Bletchley Park
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> And Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parent Consultations (No clubs on these evenings)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Meteor Class Collective Worship with Parents in the Chapel.
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb-Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Half Term (There is an INSET Day for training teachers on Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring 2 Term starts
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Mass for Lent Years 3-6 Parents welcome
Mondays in March	Stations of the Cross in the Chapel 8.15
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Eagle class Collective worship with Parents in the Chapel

### Before and After School Club

We are now underway with the process of transferring the service to the school and I urge you to return interest forms to the office. In the first instance we will be safeguarding the places for families who have used Kidsplay on a regular basis. As the club establishes itself then there may be more flexibility to expand in the future.

### New National Curriculum and Assessment

The new curriculum is now in place for Years 1,3,4 and 5 and your children have been enjoying some of the new content. (Years 2 and 6 in 2016) Some is more challenging but your children are already showing that they are enjoying this new learning. We have our own curriculum information on our new Curriculum pages. Follow the link:

<http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/curriculumoverviews.htm>

Assessment is meant to be more straightforward. There are no numbers/levels. Your child is judged against the expectations set out in the new curriculum for each year group. I strongly urge you to read the Parent booklet on our learning page. Follow the link.

<http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/learning.htm>

The teachers may use new assessment words during the Parent consultations. Here is an explanation:

**Emerging** skills and knowledge: Your child is beginning to understand the areas taught but may be finding some aspects tricky and may need some help to support understanding. This is to be expected in the Autumn Term when much of the curriculum is new.

**Developing** skills and knowledge: Your child is making good progress and the skills and knowledge taught are developing. This would be expected around this time of the year.

**Secure** skills and knowledge: By the end of the year your child should have a secure understanding of the curriculum taught for that year group. Some children who have a specific learning need may need to work at the curriculum from the year below.

**Mastery** of skills and knowledge: Here your child can apply the subject knowledge and skills and in particular understand this knowledge in a different context. This reflects achievement which is beyond the expectations for that year group.

At Parents consultations you will be able to discuss how well your child is progressing.

## FAQs

My child is making 'expected progress' what does that mean?

There are measures that schools are judged by and one is that a child should make at least a minimum amount of progress over a period of time. We can report to you whether your child is matching these measures. A high attaining child should make expected progress through their time at school. Don't be disappointed if they are not making 'beyond expected progress' especially if they are achieving very high attainment. The new curriculum will be developing their 'Mastery' of the subject to extend the most able children.

It says my child is making 'beyond expected' progress- is that good?

Yes, because your child may be catching up and getting closer to average attainment or even going beyond. It may be that your child took a while to start learning and is now rapidly learning new skills. Please remember that your child's attainment compared to others may still be lower, despite them making very good progress. Progress and attainment are two different things.

My child is making less than expected progress, why?

Your teacher will explain why. It may be related to their understanding of particular skills and knowledge and you may be able to help with this. It may be related to their concentration so talk to your teacher about how we can work together to support and remedy this. It may be because they don't do their home learning.

It says my child doesn't do their home learning. Does that matter?

Yes. We only teach your children for 5 hours a day. It allows them to practise the new skills that they have been taught which will help them to remember it. Learning is life-long and your child's general knowledge and cultural awareness comes from the home. Home learning sets good habits for a future of life-long curiosity and learning. It gives you the opportunity to talk and discuss with your children about their learning.

I can't help my child at home because I speak a different language. What can I do to help?

Make a time and space for your child to do their home learning. Show them that, although you find it difficult, you value what they have to do and will try to help. You can role-model being a 'good' learner and besides it is wonderful seeing your children developing. It can be fun! Ask your teacher for extra help, perhaps with additional instructions if this will help.

Read stories in your home language to develop concepts and understanding of the world. This is proven to be more help than only trying to read and speak English.

**I hope you find this FAQ helpful and that the answers will support you when having the conversations with teachers next week. I am also around on both evenings so please do come and ask me about the new curriculum and how we are reporting your child's progress. At the end of the school year there will be a new report format. More information to follow.**

St. Bernadette's University



This programme continues in the Summer Term. Well done to all children who have attended courses. You are all so clever.

Watch out for the new programme for next term.

### **Sports Result**

Children from Year 5 and 6 came 3<sup>rd</sup> in an Indoor Athletics competition last week. Congratulations!

### **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**

Please could you collect these vouchers and return to school.

God bless you all, Mrs Clewlow

