



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter February 2017 Issue No.98

Diary for the Lent Term

Wednesday 8 th February 2:40	Dolphin Class Collective Worship (This was originally scheduled for March but moved to 8 th February as advertised in Jan newsletter.)
Monday 13 th February-Friday 17 th February	Half Term
Tuesday 28 th February and Thursday 2 nd March 3:15/30-6:15/30	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 1 st March 2 pm	Ash Wednesday Service, Parents welcome.
Friday 10 th March	'Sports for Schools'- event, more information to follow
Wednesday 15 th March 2:40	Starfish Class Collective Worship in the Small Hall
Wednesday 22 nd March 2:40	Seahorse Class collective Worship in the Small Hall
Thursday 23 rd March 3:30 and 6 pm	Maths Workshop for Parents- come along and find out how your children learn division. See children in action using the maths strategies.
Wednesday 29 th March 2 pm	Lent Passion Mass for Years 3-6, Parents welcome.
Friday 31 st March	Last Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was good to see so many parents attending the Maths Workshop last week. The feedback was very positive and I was amazed by the confidence of the children who were assisting. It is so important to understand how maths is taught and the particular strategies children are expected to learn. I hope that more of you will be interested now to attend the next workshop about division in March. The phonics workshop was also very well attended and I hope parents found this session useful. We only have your children for a short time in the day and you can support your child's learning by reinforcing the sounds in a fun way. Learning phonics has been proven to help early reading particularly if English is not a child's first language.

Parent Consultations

We are leaving the booking for parent consultations until the after the half term. Please make sure you book or ring in your request when we return after the half term holiday.

Football Matches

The Year 5 and 6 football team continue to enjoy their games. A very close match against Knowles Primary earlier in the term resulted in a nail biting 3-3 draw. Two goals from Ollie and one from Kyle. And last night another superb game. A win this time. 3-1 against Broughton Fields with two goals from Harry and one from Johnny.





St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter February 2017 Issue No.98

Benefits of Reading for Pleasure

I was involved with some work with another school this term and we looked at some research relating to reading for pleasure. I thought I would share some of this with you.



"Young people who enjoy reading very much are nearly five times as likely to read above the expected level for their age compared with young people who do not enjoy reading at all"

Children's and Young People's Reading Today, National Literacy Trust 2012

"Developing a love of reading can be more important for a child's educational success than their family's socio-economic background"

OECD 2002

"Researchers found that only three young people in ten were reading daily in their own time and that the number of children and young people who enjoyed reading 'very much' or 'quite a lot' had barely changed since 2005, (50% in 2001 and 51% in 2005)." Reading for Pleasure: A research overview, National literacy Trust, 2012

We have increased our library with new books from the monies raised at the Book Fair. I strongly urge families to make time for reading for pleasure. Be a role model to your children. How often do they see you reading a book or do they see you more on a phone or ipad surfing the internet. Is this your family? Can you try to have one day where books/reading for pleasure is encouraged? Fine on an ipad if it is really reading but how much time does your child spend simply playing games?



Half Term Challenge

- ✓ Read at least one book! (More if they are short)
- ✓ Go to a Library
- ✓ Read a newspaper or magazine



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter February 2017 Issue No.98



Healthy Eating

Eating well and healthily is becoming a real priority nationally. We have been sent some fun resources to share with children and parents. Ironically an 'App' for children. Those in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be given a free 'SmartApp' pack which has lots of information and links to download a food app to a parents/child's phone. We have only been sent packs for these year groups but if you want more information about it for a younger child then follow this link.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/be-food-smart#AYhErxso5cetDgsS.97>

Healthy Lunchbox Photo Challenge



- ✓ At least one portion of fruit
- ✓ At least one portion of vegetables or salad
- ✓ One portion of meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein
- ✓ A starchy food such as rice, couscous, bread, pitta, wraps or other cereals.
- ✓ A dairy food such as semi-skimmed milk, cheese or yogurt.
- ✓ Water or fruit juice.

If you would like to enter a competition. Take a photo of your healthy lunch box and email, with a brief description of what it contains to:

Public.health@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Car Parking



Please **do not** park in the car parking spaces behind the Coop Food store. These are private spaces and belong to the residents. Even the verge parking in the entrance to the Coop car park is not really acceptable. Cars are routinely blocking the entrance to the private parking. It is causing a lot of upset with our neighbours. As mentioned in the last newsletter. Why not stay fit and healthy by parking further away and walking the little distance to school.





St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter February 2017 Issue No.98

Dear Parents and Carers,

Foundation Governor Opportunities

There are currently opportunities for **YOU** to join this "OFSTED Outstanding" school's Governing Body. As a Foundation Governor you are representing the Diocese and the Bishop and must therefore be a Catholic. The Governing Body in St. Bernadette's has been tremendously successful in its strategic leadership to support its staff. For a school so young to be 'Ofsted Outstanding' and recognised by the Diocese in its Diocesan Inspection as outstanding is testament to governors' passion, commitment and drive. Being part of this team is a rewarding voluntary role in which you can give of your time and expertise for the benefit of our children.

Although not essential, if you have an HR, finance, or educational background we would love to hear from you.

The role of the Governing Body is:

- Strategic Planning and Change Management
- Educational Standards
- Financial Planning and control
- HT Performance and Staff Appointments

As a Voluntary Aided school the Governing Body employs the school staff and as a Catholic Primary School it forms a part of the education provision of the Catholic Diocese of Northampton (NORES). Appointments are made by NORES.

New Governors would have an opportunity to shadow our existing Governors and to attend the June Board Meeting as observers prior to commencing in September. Induction and ongoing training is made available for all Governors.

If you would like to join us please contact Mary McGowan, Chair of Governors for an informal chat.

Mob: 07906507635 or mcgowanmt@yahoo.co.uk

Richard Gordon

Foundation Governor (Responsible for Governor Training)

