



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter October 2016 Issue No.93

Diary for the Advent Term

Monday 24 th October-Friday 28 th October	<u>Half Term</u>
	<p><u>Parents Association International Evening</u> <u>Thursday 3rd October</u> Bring a dish of food from your home country. Share good company and lovely food. 6pm in the main hall.</p>
Tuesday 8 th November and Thursday 10 th November	<p><u>Parent Consultations- 3:30-6.15 Booking on the boards in the classrooms from Monday 17th October</u> (Note change of day to Wed 10th for Mrs Perret, Falcon class/ Miss Antony, Dolphin class and Mrs Patel, Kangaroo class)</p>
Sunday 20 th November	<u>Year of Mercy ends</u>
Thursday 24 th November 2 pm	Advent Wreath Building Mass Years 3-6 - parents and carers welcome
Friday 2 nd December 3:00-5:00  Christmas Fayre	Christmas Fair - A different time than previous years. Saturdays are very difficult the Parents Association are trying a different time. We will set up outside school using the Small Hall and the Canopy areas. Stay after school and join in the Christmas Fun. The PA will send more information nearer the time.
Wednesday 7 th December 9:15	Christmas Celebration of Songs: Saplings B and Acorns B
Thursday 8 th December 2:15	Christmas Celebration of Songs: Saplings L and Acorns L
Wednesday 14 th December 2:15	Seahorse and Dolphin Christmas Nativity
Thursday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner- book with Essence Catering and join in the fun.
Friday 16 th December 2:15	Starfish and Turtle Christmas Nativity
Monday 19 th December 9:30 and 6 pm	Carols and Readings Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 20 th December	Last day of term

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the first half term. Well done to all the children for working hard and staying focussed.

Year 6 have just returned from a very challenging three days on their residential visit. I was pleased to hear how so many of the children really persevered with the challenging activities. Staff



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter October 2016 Issue No.93

reported just how well the children did and how they grew in confidence, despite getting very wet and having their stamina really challenged.

Healthy Eating

Thank you for supporting our drive to eradicate unhealthy snacks at break time. We always did have a 'just fruit policy' but over the last few years more and more unhealthy snacks have crept in. I know there is such a lot of pressure from your own children to have these lovely snacks but they are very high in sugar and extremely unhealthy if eaten daily. The data for our school shows that our children by Year 6 are significantly much heavier than other similar aged children. Please continue to support the school by only sending in snacks that are healthy.



St. Paul's Achievement Results: Press Release

St Paul's Achieves Second Highest Progress 8 Score in Milton Keynes

St Paul's celebrated fantastic news from the provisional DfE school league tables that were published last week. The school achieved a score of +0.17 (+0.29 adjusted to include all pupils), giving it the second highest Progress 8 score out of all schools across Milton Keynes. The score of +0.17 places St Paul's within the top 20% of all schools nationally. St Paul's also has the best attendance figures in Milton Keynes with pupil absences at just 3.9%.

Progress 8 is a measure of progress from Key Stage 2 SATs results and GCSE outcomes and is based on the grades for English and Mathematics, three subjects from Science, Computer Science, History, Geography and Modern Languages and three other subjects. The measures will encourage all students to study a broad and balanced curriculum and aim to ensure that the achievement of all pupils, regardless of their ability, is properly recognised. The Progress 8 score achieved by St Paul's is categorised by the DfE as being 'above average'.

You can view school performance comparisons and find out more information on Progress 8 here <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/compare-schools?phase=secondary&selectPhase=true>

Headteacher, Mrs Jo-Anne Hoarty, said: "We are delighted with this news and it provides an excellent foundation for the future."



Well done from us all at St. Bernadette's!



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter October 2016 Issue No.93

Harvest Giving

Thank you to everyone who sent in food for our Harvest. The Food Bank have really appreciated your generosity. The Guide Dog appeal day raised a marvellous £493.37 and Parents are invited to meet Tiger on 28th November from 3 pm.

After School Playground Equipment

Now that the fences have been removed it has become quite apparent that children of all ages are playing on the Trim Trails and playground fitness equipment. The Trim Trails are not used during the day without adult supervision and the fitness equipment is only suitable for Key Stage 2 children. Please do not let your children use the equipment after school unless you are standing by supervising. We had an unpleasant incident on the trim trail where a younger child was hurt by another child who wasn't being supervised by their parent.

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. If you would like a tour of the school then contact the school office and book a place. The next two tours are on:

3rd November 2016 at 9:30 and 7th November 2016 at 1:30

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 15th 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).

Free School Meals

Although all children in Years R, 1 and 2 receive a free meal this is not the same as registering for 'Free School Meals'. You may be eligible.

You can get Free School Meals for your child if you or your partner gets either:

- Universal Credit.
- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.

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: M M Clewlow BEd Hons NPQH NLE Deputy Head: Jane Zamora BA PGCE NPQH



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter October 2016 Issue No.93

Once registered the school will then receive additional funding for your child to support with their learning in school even if your child is in the Year R, 1 or 2. The school will only know if you register. Even if you registered before please go to this new portal to register again.

Go to:

https://emsonline.milton-keynes.gov.uk/citizenportal_live

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for responding to the on-line questionnaire. We didn't get as many returns as previously and next year I will send a reminder. Governors have now had an opportunity to see all comments and the actions proposed. Here is a summary of results and comments.

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School July 2016 Parent Questionnaire Results					
Percentages	1 Strongly agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Strongly Disagree	No Answer
The values curriculum has helped my child understand Christian Gospel values.	38	54	0	0	8
St. Bernadette's provides my child with a good spiritual and religious foundation.	59	38	1.6	0	1.6
My child is encouraged to develop a strong prayer life.	38	46	3	0	13
My child feels safe at St. Bernadette's.	60	34	5	1	0
St. Bernadette's Staff respond to my child's particular needs.	40	51	5	3	2
I like the introduction of School Gateway communication service.	41	43	10	1	5
My child is taught well at St. Bernadette's.	46	46	5	2	2
St. Bernadette's helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.	69	28	0	2	2
There is a good standard of behaviour at our school.	30	62	5	1.6	1.6
Staff respond well to my concerns.	64	31	3	0	1
The school keeps me well informed.	43	48	5	2	3



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter October 2016 Issue No.93

There were positive thank yous and comments on the report replies and on the online survey. Here is a summary of the comments and what we aim to do in response.

- Preferential treatment for members of the Chaplaincy Team.

The Chaplaincy Team have volunteered for this role and have had to apply and be interviewed. They give up a lot of their free time during lunch times and after school. Every child has the opportunity to apply to be on the Chaplaincy Team.

- Too much asked of the Holy Communion children. Repetition of what is happening in the Parish

We try to support the churches by having a Holy Communion group. Home, school and parish working together.

- Too much Homework.

Homework doesn't suit everyone. Some families ask for more. We feel we have the balance but please do talk to your child's class teacher.

- School Gateway very positive introduction but there are 'teething' problems.

We have only been running School Gateway this term and we are all learning. I am sure it will settle down.

- A lot more after school clubs.

We try. Clubs are additional to a teacher's duties. We could source other providers but these would cost. There is an after school club every night for those who require child care. I will investigate other options.

- Could we have new parent information sessions?

We did run parent information sessions and curriculum information is also on the website. Look out for the Parent workshops as well. Look on our learning page under each class and you will find out more about the curriculum for each term.

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

- Favouritism of students regarding behaviour.

The point is noted and we endeavour to be fair. Some children do work exceedingly hard and are justly rewarded.

- The survey does not ask 'all round' questions.

The survey was an introduction to using an online system. The questions relate to the Ofsted survey so that we have a comparison. Now that we can use this tool for surveys we can run surveys with in depth questions about specific topics.

- Could Gateway be used for positive feedback.

We have been trialling an App in Year 5 and this has had positive feedback from parents. It is very time consuming for the teachers however but we may investigate rolling it out across the school. Communication with the class teacher can be at any time before and after school. If a parent is working then a teacher is always happy to give a call, particularly if there has been a concern. I take your point about the good news and we will look at ways of feeding this back to parents.



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Newsletter October 2016 Issue No.93

- Concerns about children playing outside at playtime and the actions teachers take.

The point is noted however the evidence would indicate that our children play very well together and any incidents are dealt with appropriately. We are always vigilant with behaviour and have strong systems in place. Any parent can come and talk to me about concerns and I will invite them to observe our lunchtimes. We have the 'positive playtime' scheme in place where children have very many activities to engage them. Buddies support younger children and there is a wide variety of equipment.

- Delay in communication however the incident was dealt with.

We try to deal with matters of concern as promptly as possible. I am pleased to read that the matter was dealt with.

- Catering company feedback- a repeat of feedback given in the After School Club survey.

Passed into the Catering Company.

- More daily prayer.

We have a great deal of emphasis upon daily prayer. I don't necessarily know from this comment what 'emphasis' means? We have daily prayer in the morning, lunch and at the end of the day. We have collective worship everyday and more informal prayer times in RE lessons. We have 'prayerzone' which is a voluntary club for any child to join.

- Improve sports and introduce 'proper' sports.

We have very good sports provision with a qualified coach supporting teachers to teach PE and Games. I am not sure what is meant by 'proper sports'? We have football, tag rugby, tennis, kwik cricket, rounders, netball, athletics, cross country, badminton and basketball.

- Timetables for the class.

Timetables for every class are on the learning page for your child's class on the website.

- Not all staff speak respectfully.

Staff will revisit this again during training. We try to model Christian values and speak kindly to children. If any parent has a concern about a member of staff then please do not hesitate to speak in confidence with me.

- From reports: Why would a grade be high for attainment in music but an effort grade low?

This may be because the child does attain highly because they have a natural ability but in the lessons they don't show that they are interested. We might need to find a way of motivating a gifted child. Point noted.

Thank you for your feedback. I always appreciate your honesty and we will continue to strive for the highest standards.

Have a restful and peaceful half term break. Remember that we start back on **Monday 31st October**. I believe some schools have this as a training day but we don't.

God bless, Mrs Clewlow