



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

Advent Term

Newsletter November 2017 Issue No.7

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Parent Consultation Evenings this week. I hope that you found the meetings useful.

Thank you very much to all of you who signed up to help at one of the forthcoming events held by the Parents' Association.

The cold weather has certainly arrived and I would like to remind you to send your child to school with appropriate footwear and a warm coat. As it gets colder, a hat and gloves would also be beneficial. It is also appropriate to be wearing the winter PE kit (Navy jogging bottoms and navy sweatshirt) as the cold does not stop playtimes or outdoor PE. Your child will still need a fresh bottle of water each day. November is the month when we particularly remember our lost loved ones. We have a Remembrance Book in our school chapel which was presented at our Mass on All Saints Day. Please do let the school office know (stbernadettes@milton-keynes.gov.uk) of any names you would like to be added to the book to be remembered in our prayers.

Living our Mission in Mind, Body and Spirit How Can You Support Our School?

Film Night is a new fundraising initiative for this school year which we hope your children will enjoy. For £3 they will be able to watch a film, have a drink and a bag of popcorn. Further information will be shared via the school Gateway. Film Night will run from 3:30 – 5:00 on the following Thursdays:

30th November, 25th Jan, 22nd Feb, 22nd March, 26th April, 24th May, 28th June

Mrs Stedman has already contacted you regarding The Giving Machine. Please do follow the link to support our school. It costs you absolutely nothing and if you access your usual online retailers via this site, you can raise money for the school at no additional effort or cost to yourself. (note the change to the link)

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/st-bernadettes-catholic-primary/>

St Bernadette's Parents' Association has a Facebook page where you can see all of the events for the school community and find out how you can get involved. The name of the group is St Bernadette Parents Association and it can be found from the following link: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1676844775894194>



How Can We Help You to Support Your Child?

Thank you to those who have already made suggestions of ways in which we, as a school, can support you as parents. Please watch out for a questionnaire coming via the School Gateway. We are very keen to ensure that we are providing you with all you need to support your child's learning and development at home and also to enrich the community spirit at St Bernadette's.

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

Good Oral Health



It has been brought to my attention that a number of our pupils are only brushing their teeth once a day, and in some cases not at all. The NHS recommends brushing teeth **at least** twice a day for at least two minutes with fluoride toothpaste. Establishing a good oral care routine from early childhood is so important as poor oral health is linked not only to cavities but to a range of additional health problems. You may find the following website and teeth-brushing song helpful.

<http://www.child-smile.org.uk/parents-and-carers/5-to-12-year-olds.aspx>
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/earlylearning/nurserysongs/A-E/brush your teeth](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/earlylearning/nurserysongs/A-E/brush%20your%20teeth)



On Monday we were joined by Road Safety Officer, Nigel Spencer who spoke to the children about some of the problems we are encountering on our carpark. He presented Y5/6 pupils with the opportunity to become Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) for our school to promote safety on the roads for our school community. I look forward to receiving application forms from pupils.



Our beautiful prayer garden was inaugurated with a special blessing by Fr Pius on 30th October. Sr Yvonne planned the lovely service which concluded with a candle-lit procession. Thank you so much for those of you who joined us for this wonderful occasion.

The children are able to access the garden during their breaks and with their classes. I do hope that as part of our school community, you will take the opportunity to spend time in this peaceful space to pray, meditate or just to find a moment of peace and quiet in your busy days. Please feel free to access the garden before school (until 8:55am) or after school (until 3:45pm)

Advent

Advent starts on Sunday 3rd December. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin word meaning 'coming'. Jesus is *coming* at his nativity, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation. At St Bernadette's we mark this time with prayer and charitable work. We hope that you can join Y3-Y6 for an Advent Wreath Mass at 2pm on 30th November. The Chapel will also be open on Tuesday mornings at 8:15 for our families to take time for prayer and reflection. The prayer garden is also available to use. As we have done over the last few years, this Advent we will be supporting the Soup Run and the Winternight Shelter, helping local people who are in crisis. We will be collecting adult sized socks, gloves, hats, toiletries and some basic food items. A "Giving Tree" will be available in the reception area - please take a tag and return it with the named gift so that we can support those in our locality most in need.

Cafod have created a lovely interactive advent calendar ppt that you can download via this link to share with your family. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-calendar-for-children>



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The Pupil Premium

This is additional funding to spend on resources such as additional support, learning resources, inclusion in the champion programme, support with the cost of school trips and access to after school activities for eligible children etc.

The system is quick and simple to use and can be accessed via a smartphone or hand held device. If you qualify, you will receive a reference number that you simply bring in and show us at school to start receiving free meals (Y3-6) and to allow us to allocate the pupil premium appropriately.

A new Citizen Portal has been launched to help you find out if your child qualifies for free school meals.

Please visit to sign up, even if your child is in year R, 1 or 2 and receiving universal free school meals, or if you have applied before and do not think you are eligible.

In doing so you will help us to find out whether we can claim pupil premium for your child.

You can find the link on our school [website homepage](#) - just click on this icon on the left-hand menu.



An Early Years Pupil Premium also exists for nursery pupils. Please ask Mrs Morris, FS Leader for details.

Birthday Celebrations



Our staff are always happy to hand out sweets for you at the end of the day if it is your child's birthday, However, I ask that if you wish teachers to give out cake for you, that you cut it and wrap the pieces individually beforehand. The teachers are very busy people and do not have time to do this themselves.



We are finding that there is a terrible waste of food from hot meals each day. When choosing from the menu, please do consult with your child and make sure that you choose food he/she enjoys. We very much encourage children to try new food and have a wide and varied diet but most children find it easier to try new food for the first time in the comfort of their own homes rather than at school.

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Events for Advent Term 2017

<i>w/c 13th November</i>	Focus Week - Anti Bullying
<i>15th November to 21st Nov</i>	Book Fair in Small Hall after school
<i>Wednesday 15th November</i>	2:30 Dolphin Class Collective Worship in Small Hall
<i>Tuesday 28th November</i>	School Nurse Clinic - please book a slot via the office staff to talk about any health concerns you have regarding your child
<i>Thursday 30th November</i>	2pm Join Y3-6 for an Advent Wreath Building Mass
<i>Thursday 30th November</i>	3:30pm - 5:00pm Film Night. £3. Further information to follow via the School Gateway
<i>Friday 1st December</i>	Christmas Fair run by Parents' Association
<i>Sunday 3rd December</i>	First Sunday of Advent
<i>Tuesday 5th December and each Tuesday in Advent</i>	8:15am join us for quiet prayer and reflection each Tuesday of Advent in the chapel
<i>Tuesday 5th December</i>	9:30 Foundation Stage Nativity
<i>Thursday 7th December</i>	6:00 pm Maths information evening. How to promote an understanding of fractions at home.
<i>Wednesday 13th December</i>	2:15 Seahorse and Dolphin Class Nativity
<i>Friday 15th December</i>	2:15 Starfish and Turtle Class Nativity
<i>Friday 15^h December</i>	Christmas Shop run by Parents' Association
<i>Monday 18th December</i>	9:15 am and 6:00 pm Y5 and Y6 Carols and Readings



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