

Welcome!

It is with much pleasure that we welcome you and your child to St Bernadette's where we hope the whole family will quickly feel part of our larger school community.

We appreciate that parents are the first and most important educators in a child's life and we are, therefore, delighted that you have chosen St Bernadette's to support you during the next stage of your child's development.

Our mission statement, "Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus" underpins all our activities as we endeavour to live the message of the Gospels by:

- developing a loving, caring community which recognises and celebrates the unique, God-given nature of each individual;
- valuing every member of the school community and developing the potential of each individual;
- creating an educational environment in which we are all encouraged to enjoy our work whilst aspiring to the highest standards of achievement and behaviour;
- giving children, families and staff the experience of being part of an active Catholic community.

In practice, with the very young children we will be encouraging them to care for:

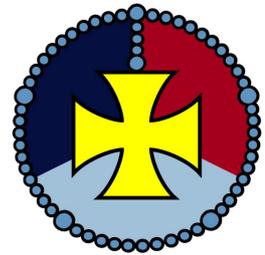


- all things, God given and man made;
- others, as we would like to be cared for ourselves;
- our school building, gardens and equipment.

## School Logo

The rosary, which encompasses our logo, reminds us of St Bernadette's love for Our Lady – a love that embraces our school. The background is divided into three segments to represent the parishes we serve primarily:

- Christ the King, Kents Hill
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Coffee Hall
- St Mary's, Woburn Sands



Our school colours of claret and navy are incorporated into the design, together with light blue, the colour that is traditionally associated with Our Lady.

## Religious Education

In school, children will follow topics from "Here I Am", the Religious Education Programme recommended by the Diocese, and they will be encouraged to:

- make the Sign of the Cross;
- join in prayer at the beginning and end of the day;
- reflect quietly for short periods;
- talk about the topic;

- begin learning the Our Father and the Hail Mary.



At home, these activities may be supplemented by finding opportunities for prayer; making an Advent wreath; going to church etc.



## The Key Stages

The Foundation Stage is the first of three key stages in the primary section of the National Curriculum. After the Foundation Stage, your child will move to Key Stage 1 for Years 1 and 2 and then to Key Stage 2 for Years 3 - 6.

The Foundation Stage has six areas of learning:

- personal, social and emotional development;
- communication, language and literacy;
- mathematical development;
- knowledge and understanding of the world;
- physical development;
- creative development.



Each of the above learning areas has Early Learning Goals (ELGs) that set out the skills, understanding, knowledge and attitudes for the children. Children progress towards the ELGs

through different Stepping Stones . . . do not worry, all will be revealed!



Our Foundation Stage area is designed as indoor and outdoor classrooms where children will enjoy a variety of well planned play activities.

Play gives children opportunities to learn, become independent and feel confident; it is also challenging and fun - happy children become willing learners.



Therefore, be ready when your child says s/he played all day!

## Learning at Home

- Play games, especially ones that develop matching, counting and memory skills
- Count to ten, start at zero, then try backwards from ten to zero
- Look for numbers in the environment: on doors, gates, buses, during shopping trips to Tesco or Sainsbury etc
- Share a book
- Discuss the pictures
- Ask questions: "What do you think will happen next?"



- Let your child see you enjoying a book



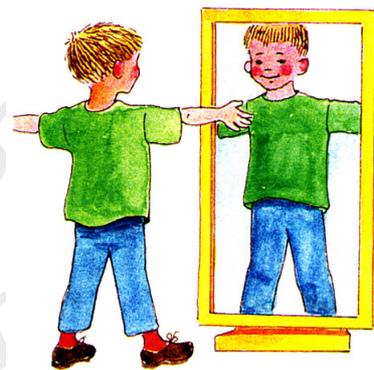
- Spend some quality time talking with your child and remember to listen, too!

This booklet is printed in the style of writing children are taught as they progress through the school. When writing your child's name for him/her, please use this style and avoid printing words in block capital letters.

Always remember to keep learning fun, lots of praise and encouragement - no nagging!

## Personal Skills

- Will your child share and take turns?
- Does s/he say "Please" and "Thank you"?
- Is s/he able to go to the toilet and wash her/his hands unaided?
- Can s/he dress her/himself?
- When changing clothes, does s/he turn them the right way?



## Medical Matters

Medicine will not normally be accepted in school. However, arrangements may be made for children with inhalers or a doctor's prescription, which requires a dose to be taken during the session, providing that an indemnity form is completed by parents. The medication should be handed in at the school office and should be in its original container, clearly labelled with the child's name and the dosage. Please inform the school immediately if your child has head lice or German Measles.



If a child has an accident or is taken ill during the day, parents will be contacted through the information held on the school system. It is, therefore, essential that details in school are updated when there is any change of address, telephone number or other emergency contact number. Please pay particular attention to informing us about new mobile telephone numbers - thank you.



## School Clothing

Our basic uniform is stocked by John Lewis. Children in the Foundation Stage wear:

- claret jumper/cardigan;
- white polo shirt;
- navy pinafore/trousers;

- flat black shoes.

An optional reversible fleece jacket is available through the school, together with a winter hat and summer caps. Please ensure any item of school clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

## Building and Maintenance Fund

During the course of a school year, our Diocese asks parents to pay £30 per child, or £45 per family, to the Building and Maintenance Fund. The money may either be paid annually or in termly instalments of £10 or £15.

The Diocese runs a special account for our school and processes Gift Aid nominations on our behalf so that the tax may be reclaimed. If you are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration as we will benefit by



receiving the tax you have already paid, currently 28p for every £1 paid. In reality this means that for one child the fund would receive an additional £8.40, for a family paying £45 the reclaimed tax would be £12.60 - all straight out of the Chancellor's coffers!

## Members of Staff for September 2010:

Mrs Fisher (class teacher)  
Mrs Gillions (nursery nurse)  
Miss Kerlake (nursery nurse)

## Dates and Times for 2010/2011

**Autumn:** 6<sup>th</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> December  
INSET: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
Half-term week: 25<sup>th</sup> October

**Please note, the first few days of term are set aside for family appointments with members of staff. Children will then be integrated in small groups over a period of two or three weeks.**

**Spring:** 5<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> April  
Half-term week: 21<sup>st</sup> February  
INSET: 4<sup>th</sup> January

**Summer:** 26<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
May Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Half-term week: 30<sup>th</sup> May  
INSET: 20<sup>th</sup> June

Morning sessions begin at 8.45am and finish at 11.45pm. Afternoon sessions begin at 12.00pm and finish at 3pm, the same time as the main school. Please come in ten minutes before the end of the session so that you can help your child collect his/her things – thank you.

\*INSET days are specified for staff training and the school is closed for children.



. . . and finally

Please remember a part-time place in FS1 at 3+ does not mean automatic entry into main school; you will have to complete a new admission form to join the main school at 4+ in FS2. Milton Keynes Council co-ordinates admissions for the annual entry into school and produces an Information for Parents pack which will be available from the school office from mid September.

The details given herein are correct at the time of printing. Any changes will be notified through the school newsletters.

June  
2010