



# Bernie's Bulletin

Thursday 7th December 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been lovely to see and hear all the Christmas preparations around school increase over the last two weeks—the Christmas tree is up and beautiful singing fills the corridors ready for all the upcoming performances.

The children thoroughly enjoyed working in their house teams on our Colour Day as they focussed on our Catholic Social Teaching principles. They demonstrated their understanding through singing and a range of activities. Our GIFT team led the school in worship in the afternoon and then spent time with parents and parishioners to explain their work so far towards the Live Simply award.

With Christmas fast approaching, children have been enjoying lots of different activities alongside lessons and continue to do so in a calm and hard working way. Well done children, all the staff are very proud of you.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact school if you feel you need support in any way.

Take care,

Mrs Helen Crowder

Headteacher

✉ [enquiries@admin.saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk)

☎ 01257 401125



SCAN ME

## Children's Christmas Reflection 17th December at 6:00pm

All children of school age and their families are invited for a short Christmas celebration through story, carols and seasonal refreshments at St Bernadette's Church on the 17th December at 6:00pm.

If you are interested, please ask Mrs Crowder or the school office for more information. We hope you can come and join us. Children are welcome to come dressed as one of the characters from the Christmas story if they wish. You don't need to bring anything apart from your singing voice. We look forward to seeing you there!



## School Admissions

Applications for primary school places for September 2024 can now be submitted via school admissions ([Primary school admissions \(wigan.gov.uk\)](https://www.wigan.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions) )

The deadline to apply for a primary school place for September 2024 is **15th January 2024.**

If you would like to have a tour of our school, please contact our school office ~ 01257 401125.

We have entered the Season of Advent where, at St. Bernadette's, we take time to carefully prepare the school community for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ at Christmas time.

Our KS2 classes put together weekly Advent Liturgies to correspond with each week of Advent. Thank you to Year 3 for leading us in worship in the first week of Advent. We are looking forward to the Year 5 children sharing their Advent celebration tomorrow morning.



### ★★It's Christmas Raffle Time! ★★

We do not charge for Christmas performances however, our Christmas raffle tickets will be on sale during each of the Advent celebrations and Christmas performances over the next few weeks. (Tickets will also be sold at the school office.)



It's only £1 a strip and there are fantastic prizes up for grabs! All proceeds will go towards CAFOD World Gifts. World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts for families experiencing poverty. [CAFOD World Gifts](#)

The draw will be made in the last week of term and winners will be contacted. Good luck everyone!



### Year 4 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Year 4 have taken another step along their faith journey, as they received the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. The children have been taught it is a time to say sorry to God for the things they have done that have hurt God, others and themselves. Well done children for showing such reverence during the Mass.

Thank you to all the catechists and families involved. Your commitment in supporting the children is truly appreciated.

**THE WEDNESDAY WORD:** You can enjoy the Wednesday Word as a family by [following the link to this week's edition.](#)

**OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER:** Our parish weekly newsletter can be found on: [Our Lady of the Annunciation and St Bernadette's P - Newsletters \(chessck.co.uk\)](#)

If you would like to attend Mass yourselves, please see below for the current Mass times:

#### Saturday Vigil Mass

St. Bernadette's - Saturday 4:45 pm / St. Marie's – Saturday 6:15 pm

#### Sunday Morning

St. Bernadette's - Sunday 9:30 am / St. Marie's - Sunday 11:00 am



# The Online Safety Act

With the Online Safety Act now coming into effect, the guide below highlights some key areas that the fresh legislation covers.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonline.com](https://nationalonline.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

### WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

#### HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

#### ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

#### MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

#### HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

#### NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

#### REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

#### AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

### What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

#### KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

#### REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

#### WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

#### UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

#### ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

#### Meet Our Expert

Sam Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the 111 schools in the family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and events in the UK (covering those to reach) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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## The Big Ambition

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England. The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important. In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

Children or parents can complete the survey via the following link:

[About this survey : The Big Ambition - Have your say! \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

## Parent Governor Election

The ballot papers for the parent governor election have been sent home. Please return these no later than 12:00pm on Monday 11th December 2023 to the school office in a sealed envelope. Thank you for your support in this important role.

## Whole School Trip

Earlier this week, the whole school visited The Edge in Wigan for a pantomime/nativity or "pant-ivity" performance of Herald of Herod. Our children from Nursery to Year 6 were treated to a wonderful performance of dance, song and plenty of panto laughs thanks to the very talented 4Front Theatre group. We were very lucky to all come together, not only to have fun, but learn about the Nativity in such a unique way.



Thank you to all the volunteer helpers for giving up their free time, and to Mrs Heapy and Mrs Newbold in the school office for organising the trip. These events could not happen without you!

## 5 Ways to Well-Being



At St. Bernadette's we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of our pupils.

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 have been working with Sarah Abbott, one of our Education Mental Health Practitioners in '5 ways to Well-Being' workshops. The children were taught simple things we can do to enjoy life and be kind to ourselves:

[What are the 5 Ways to Wellbeing? - YouTube](#)

## **Santa Dash Fun!**

**I am sure the children have told you of the fun we had during our Santa Dash today! Not only did it provide the children with festive exercise, it was a way of raising funds for the Friends of St. Bernadette's (FOSB).**

**We are fortunate that FOSB are an integral part of our school community and help to enhance our childrens' education experience and the school's facilities. The latest project has been to create our school library which we will be able to share with families in the new year.**

**We are so grateful to parents and families for their kindness and selfless donations, particularly at this time of year. Sponsorship monies can be brought in until Friday 15th December.**



## **A Sad Farewell**

**It is with both gratitude and sadness that we share the news that Mrs Heapy, our wonderful School Business Manager, will be retiring at Easter 2024.**

**Throughout her 22 years of dedicated service, Mrs Heapy has provided guidance and expertise that has undeniably shaped the foundation of our school's success. She has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all who have had the privilege to get to know her as a parent, colleague or friend.**

**I am sure you will agree that her wealth of experience and knowledge, coupled with her compassionate nature will be truly missed however, her legacy will forever remain an integral part of the fabric of our school's history.**

**As a school community we will be will be able to come together to express our thanks and best wishes during the spring term.**



# Christmas Raffle



## Prizes



**A bottle of champagne**

**Children's jigsaws**

**Teeth whitening kit**

**Dehumidifier**

**Fruit mask machine**

**Men's shaver**

**Yardley set (women)**

**Baylis and Harding hand creams**

**Set of men's toiletries**

**Set of women's toiletries**

**Mini Hoover**

**Resistance exercise band set**

**Hula hoop exercise machine**

**Baby balance bike**

**Child's rucksack**

**LED sensory windmill**

**Beach goodie bag for holidays**

**Bags of children's toys**

**Samsung tablet case**

**Nintendo Switch game sword**

**Mini Speakers**

## Important Dates (more information to follow)

- Friday 8th December 2023—Year 5 Advent Assembly 9:15am (parents/families welcome)**
- Saturday 9th December 2023—WigLe Dance Club Pantomime at The Edge (5:00pm rehearsal for 7:00pm start)**
- Tuesday 12th December 2023—Year 2 Mass at St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am**
- Tuesday 12th December 2023—Joint Parish Singing Concert at St. Marie’s Church**
- Wednesday 13th December—School Christmas Lunch**
- Thursday 14th December—Clarinet Club Recital 9:00am (parents/families welcome)**
- Thursday 14th December—Year 1 9:10am and Year 2 9:45am Drumming Concert for parents/carers**
- Friday 15th December 2023—Year 6 Advent Assembly 9:15am (parents/families welcome)**
- Friday 15th December 2023—Year 4 Cake Sale**
- Tuesday 19th December 2023—Reception and Year 1 Nativity at 2:00pm and 6:00pm (parents/carers invited)**
- Wednesday 20th December 2023—Year 2 Christingle Celebration 9:10am (parents/carers invited)**
- Wednesday 20th December 2023—Nursery Nativity 2:00pm**
- Thursday 21st December 2023 —Party Day!**
- Thursday 21st December 2023 —KS2 Carols Around the Christmas Tree at 2:45pm (all parents/carers invited)**
- Friday 22nd December 2023 —School closes for Christmas 2:00pm**

