



St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Growing Together in Faith, Love & Learning
Headteacher:- Mrs H. Crowder

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End of Term Letter - December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

With Christmas only a few days away, we have reached the end of an incredibly busy term. Children and staff have worked very hard over the last four months and everyone is looking forward to the Christmas break. December is such a special time in a primary school and there is something utterly magical about the season of Advent. From the youngest to the oldest children in school, the countdown to the big day is a joy to behold.

This year has certainly ended on a high. We have had so many lovely messages and comments from parents and families following our wonderful Christmas productions from Nursery, Reception & Year 1 and also Year 2's Christingle. We are all looking forward to our Carols Around the Christmas Tree gathering this afternoon from the Key Stage 2 children. Key Stage 1 have been showing off their amazing drumming skills and some children even performed a clarinet recital - all from their music lessons in school. Well done children!

Thank you to all the children for your hard work and enthusiasm and to ALL the staff for their ongoing commitment to school and the children this term. These things couldn't happen without you!

Please see below for the mass times at St. Bernadette's and St. Marie's church over the Christmas period:

Advent & Christmas Services 2023

THE ADVENT ROSARY will be recited after Mass each Monday (St. Marie's) and Tuesday (St. Bernadette's) until 19th December.

Confession will also be available during the Rosary on Monday 18th (St. Marie's) and Tuesday 19th December (St. Bernadette's).

St. Bernadette's Little Church: Nativity Story. Sunday 17th December at 6:00 pm (St. Bernadette's). See note below.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 23rd December: Mass at St. Bernadette's (4:45 pm)
St. Marie's (6:15 pm)

Sunday 24th December: Mass at St. Bernadette's (9:30 am)
St. Marie's (11:00 am)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve, 24th December: St. Bernadette's (4:45 pm)
St. Marie's (6:15 pm)

Christmas Day, 25th December: St. Bernadette's (9:30 am)
St. Marie's (11:00 am)

TUESDAY 26TH AND WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER: No Services.

STANDISH CHURCHES TOGETHER EVENTS: See Leaflet in St. Marie's.

GIFT Funding Raising

Our GIFT team know the importance of reaching out beyond our school and the charity work they have been promoting is a living example of this. Through the Advent raffle idea, we have been able to raise £200 which will be donated to CAFOD World Gifts - a range of virtual charity gifts for families experiencing poverty.

Santa Dash

I am sure the children have told you of the fun we had during our Santa Dash. Not only did it provide the children with festive exercise, it raised a staggering £1300. Thanks to the Friends of St. Bernadette (FOSB), this money will be put back into school to buy resources and experiences that enrich our childrens' education.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the school community. I am so grateful to parents and families for their kindness and selfless donations, particularly at this time of year. Your generosity is unwavering and truly appreciated.

Staffing

As we bid farewell to Mrs. Ellaby, our beloved teaching assistant, after an incredible 18 years, we say a huge thank you for her unwavering support and care. We will miss her guidance, commitment and hard-working attitude. She always puts the children first in everything she does. Thank you for everything you have done for St. Bernadette's over the years Terry - please enjoy your retirement and try to put your feet up!

We also want to say thank you and good luck to Mrs Green, she has been an excellent support for the school, organising our sporting events, working with Mr. Davies and most recently supporting children throughout the school. We wish her the best in her new role at Beech Hill Primary School.

Uniform

The majority of the children wear full PE Kit and the correct school uniform, which is wonderful - thank you. However, there are a number of children coming into school in clothes that are not PE or school uniform. Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform to school. [School Uniform | St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School \(saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk\)](http://schooluniform.stbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk) Sports brands are not our PE uniform. Please also ensure you have your child's name in their clothes. It is a shame when we can't reunite jumpers and hoodies with their owner and I am sure it is frustrating for you too. We understand that there may be the odd day, when your child's uniform hasn't dried after being washed, or has vanished overnight and just can't be found! If this happens, let someone on the gate know in the morning and of course, we will be understanding.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please see the new extra-curricular timetable which will start in the new year. Please sign up using Parent Pay. A message will go out to parents and it will be on a 'first come, first served' basis. Bookings will be open from tomorrow **Friday 22nd December**. It is important that your child attends all the sessions as there are limited places.

We are very lucky to expand our extra-curricular offer to include new fencing and drama classes and the details are below.



**Next STAGE Performing Arts
AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA CLASS**

6 weeks Block

**Every Thursday 3:20 - 4:20
11th January - 15th February**

**Learn New Performance Skills
Grow in Confidence
Great Fun!**

£30 per Child for the block of 6

**For further information contact Lisa Lundie
Lisa.Lundie22@outlook.com**




Swimming and PE Days

After half term, children in Year 4 will be the next class to attend Hindley Swimming Pool for swimming lessons. We would like them to come to school in their PE Kit on their swimming day to make changing easier. Their first lesson will be the first day back after Christmas – Tuesday 9th January.

PE days will change for some of the children. Please see below for the new PE days for the spring term:

Year Group	PE Days
Reception	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 1	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 2	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3	Monday and Friday
Year 4	Monday and Tuesday (<i>Tuesday bring swimming kit also</i>)
Year 5	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 6	Tuesday and Friday

Attendance Letters

In the new year we will be issuing our attendance letters again. It is important that the children attend school regularly. The DFE states that if a school can improve their attendance by 1%, they will see a 5-6% improvement in attainment. Our school target for attendance is 97%. The letters run on a traffic light system according to the attendance percentage. If you would like support with any aspect of attendance or punctuality, please speak to me.

It is a privilege to work within our school community alongside supportive parents and families. I hope that whatever your plans are over Christmas, you have a

wonderful time filled with joy, peace and happiness. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year on **Tuesday 9th January 2024.**

H Crowder

Mrs Crowder
Headteacher



Important Dates 2024 (more information to follow)

Tuesday 9th January 2024 – Children return to school
Tuesday 9th January 2024 – Year 4 swimming lessons start
Friday 12th January 2024 – Year 6 Mini Medics first aid course
Tuesday 16th January 2024 – Year 6 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church
Wednesday 17th January 2024 – Number Day / Times Table Rockstar Day!
Thursday 18th January 2024 – Year 6 Carers Network Event with St. Peter's
Friday 19th January 2024 – Year 5 Mini Medics first aid course
Tuesday 23rd January 2024 – Year 5 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church
Wednesday 24th January 2024 – Water Safety Assembly
Friday 26th January 2024 – Year 4 Mini Medics first aid course
Tuesday 30th January 2024 – Year 4 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church
Tuesday 30th January 2024 – Year 1 and Year 2 Shevington Library Author Visit
Friday 2nd February 2024 – Year 3 Mini Medics first aid course
Tuesday 6th February 2024 – Year 3 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church
Wednesday 7th February 2024 – Runshaw College Theatre Event in school.
Friday 9th February 2024 9:10am – Year 4 Lady of Lourdes Worship (*parents and families invited*)
Friday 9th February – FOSB Year 2 Cake Sale (end of the day on the playground)
Tuesday 13th February 2024 – Year 2 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church (Shrove Tuesday)
Wednesday 14th February 2024 – Ash Wednesday Mass in school
Wednesday 14th February 2024 – Parents' Evening from 1:10pm onwards
Friday 16th February 2024 9:10am – Year 1 Lenten Reflection (*parents and families invited*)
Friday 16th February – School closes for half term
Monday 26th February 2024 – Children return to school

Extra-Curricular Activities St Bernadette's Primary School



Spring Term 1 2024

Day	Club	Leader	Year Group	Dates	Collection point and time
Monday 3:20pm	Dodgeball/Benchball (max 20 children) (£10 for 5 weeks)	Mr Davies (outside)	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6	15.01.24-12.02.24	4.20pm main entrance
Monday 3:20pm	Board Games (max 20 children)	Miss Bailey	Y1 & Y2	15.01.24-12.02.24	4.20pm main entrance
Tuesday 3:20pm	Tennis Skills (max 16 children) (£10 for 5 weeks)	Mr Davies (hall)	Y1 & Y2	16.01.24-13.02.24	4.20pm main entrance
Wednesday 8:00am-8:45am	Fencing (£15 for 5 weeks)	Coach Phil (hall)	YR, Y1 & Y2	17.01.24-14.02.24	No collection needed
Wednesday 3:20pm	Gymnastics (max 12 children)	Mrs Farrell	Y3 & Y4	17.01.24-14.02.24	4.20pm main entrance
Wednesday 3:20pm	Drawing Club (max 12 children)	Miss Quellan	Y1 & Y2	17.01.24-14.02.24	4.20pm main entrance
Wednesday 3:20pm	Card Club (max 15 children)	Mrs Parr	Y3 & Y4	17.01.24-14.02.24	4.20pm main entrance
Thursday lunchtime	Choir	Mrs Edgar (Y6 classroom)	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6	Weekly	No collection needed
Thursday 3:20pm	Dance (max 25 children) (£10 for 5 weeks)	WigLe (hall)	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6	18.01.24-15.02.24	4.20pm main entrance
Thursday 3:20pm	Drama Club (max 30 children) £30 for 6 weeks)	Lisa Lundie	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6	11.01.24-15.02.24	4.20pm main entrance

Please note there will be a small charge for some clubs as they are delivered by an external provider. Places are limited so will be on a first come, first served basis, please note you will only be able to book for the duration of the sessions (you won't be able to book single sessions)

Bookings need to be made via our ParentPay please look out for the details. This only applies to before and after school clubs.