



# Bernie's Bulletin

Thursday 1st February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have been so busy in school over the last month that we are amazed January has passed us by, bringing us into the month of February!

We are excited to share highlights, updates and important information with you. In this newsletter, you'll find a glimpse into recent classroom activities, upcoming events and valuable resources to support your child's learning journey.

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

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## Seeds of Hope

This Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024, a selection of children from our school will be taking part in the 9:30am Sunday Mass at St Bernadette's Church, sharing the work we have been doing in school.

Our parishioners have formed a group called 'Seeds of Hope', which focuses on caring for God's creation and links wonderfully with our 'Live Simply' work in school. Live Simply is an opportunity for us to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting our world which God has entrusted to us.

You are all invited to join us at this, and all Masses and details are below:

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

**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 \(chessck.co.uk\)](#)

## Break the Rules Day—Friday 2nd February

Tomorrow we will be supporting one of our children who is bravely facing a challenge and as a school community we want to come together to offer our support. On our 'Break the Rules Day', children will have the opportunity to bend or break some of our usual school rules in exchange for a small donation to Alder Hey Children's Charity.

The children can:-

- Wear own clothes
- Have a different hair style e.g. hair glitter, hair accessories
- Have a treat for their snack – small bar of chocolate / small bag of sweets
- Paint their nails
- Wear their own trainers or their favourite sports team shirt
- Wear a temporary tattoo
- Eat pudding before the main course at lunchtime



Whichever rule you choose to break, please remember to be sensible so the children are safe and comfortable during the day.

We appreciate your understanding and participation in making this day memorable and impactful. Every contribution, big or small, will make a difference in showing the family that they are surrounded by a caring and compassionate community. Please place donations in a labelled envelope or drop them off at the office.

## Hub of Hope App



There are so many challenges that people are facing at the moment, not least with mental health. The Hub of Hope is the country's first nationwide mental health database, which brings help and support together in one place. The app can help people to find much needed support using their phone's location to find key services and organisations. It is freely available via Apple or Google Play.

## Safer Internet Day 2024

Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6th of February 2024, with our work in this week based around using technology responsibly and how to stay safe online.



Keeping up to date with national guidance, we use an IT monitoring system in school. It makes sure we have a secure digital learning environment for all the children and staff as it allows us to constantly supervise online activities.

We have also signed up to [National Online Safety](#) where, each week, we will share the latest updates on #WakeUpWednesday, keeping parents updated with what they need to know in an ever-changing online world.

## Spotlight on Homework

We know you are always very keen to support your child at home. Firstly, one of the best ways to do this is simply talking with your child about their day and their learning experiences.

To ensure clarity and understanding around homework, we have created a new 'Spotlight on Homework' poster below, outlining the expectations for work to be completed at home.

To find more information about what your child is learning throughout the curriculum, please follow the link to our curriculum overviews / reading books on our school website: [Home Learning | St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School \(saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk\)](http://Home Learning | St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School (saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk))



## Spotlight on Homework



### Reading

The most significant thing that you can do to support your child's learning is to share books with them on a regular basis. By this we mean reading to your child; listening to your child read and talking about what you are both reading.



Your child should spend **short periods of time (10-15 minutes) each night**, engaged in reading activities at home. Each child has a reading record and we ask that you record any reading activities in the home. Your child has a home reader and also a 'reading for pleasure book' from our school library.

### Maths

Maths homework is given weekly using platforms called Numbots (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and Times Table Rockstars (Year 2—Year 6).



### Facts to Learn

Children will also be asked to learn number facts to help them with their fluency.

Reception—Year 2—Number of the Week and Number Bonds

Year 2—Year 4—Multiplication Facts to learn

Year 5 and Year 6—Arithmetic Questions

### Spellings / Phonic Work



Each week, children will be sent home with a list of spellings to learn. They will have been taught the spelling rule or sound in school.

### RE

Children can read and carry out activities based on the Gospel reading for the week. KS2 children can find this in their homework diaries.



### Being an Expert!

Please look at the curriculum overview for the units of work and books your child will study in the next half term. By pre-learning about the topic, or reading the book beforehand, your child will go into the lessons **BEING AN EXPERT!**

## **Parent's Evening**

**Our Parent's Evening for Reception—Year 6 will be on Wednesday 14th February.**

**We will be holding face to face meetings in the school hall 1:10pm - 4:30pm, where you will see your child's books. Phone appointments are from 5:00pm onwards.**

**Nursery Parent's Evening will be held on Monday 12th February (1:30pm—5:00pm)**

**Appointment slots have been sent through the school APP. Please contact the school if you have any questions or we can help in any way.**

**All parents will receive a 'Progress Report Card' to keep parents up-to-date and well informed on their child's attendance, attainment and attitudes towards learning.**

## **Enhancements and Enrichments**

**First Aid 'Mini Medics'—Tomorrow, Year 3 will be the final class to complete their 'Mini Medics' half day first aid course. All the KS2 classes have enjoyed the practical sessions this half term, giving them confidence to help someone who is sick or injured.**

**Rock Star / Number Day—The staff were so impressed with the effort put into the costumes on our Rock Star / Number Day. We all had an amazing time. The children have been given the log in details to Times Tables Rock Stars ([Times Tables Rock Stars \(Times Tables Rock Stars \(trockstars.com\)\)](https://www.timestables.com)) and Numbots ([NumBots | Motivational maths practice for schools and families.](https://www.numbots.com)) so do please continue to log on and beat your score!**

**Year 1 and 2 Library Visit—This week has been National Storytelling Week. Our Year 1 and 2 children visited Shevington library and enjoyed a fabulous interactive session with author, Mark Sanders.**

**KS1 Football Event—Well done to our KS1 footballers who attended a Wigan Athletic event last week!**

**Water Safety Assembly—We have a canal, river and a quarry near our school so water safety is very important. The Canal and Rivers Trust spoke to the school in their assembly about the dangers around water and the different ways we can get help if we need it.**

**Carer Networking Event—Year 6 have taken part in a Career Networking Event in school. Past pupils from St Peter's Catholic High School visited us and spoke to the children about their GCSE options, giving them an awareness of different careers available.**

## **Year 6 Transition**

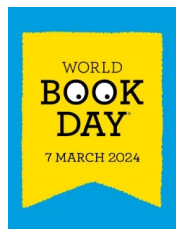
**Thank you to Mr Santus, Assistant Headteacher at St. Peter's Catholic High School, who visited school last week to begin the programme of transition with our Year 6 class. It was lovely to see past pupils who came back to visit us!**

## World Book Day 2024

Advance notice that children are very keen to dress up again for World Book Day this year on Thursday 7th March 2024.

It is important to celebrate World Book Day without incurring significant costs for parents so please do not feel that you need to buy a specific costume as this is unnecessary.

We are very lucky as the children from Year 3 and Year 4 have been invited to visit Shevington Library on this day to meet the author Dan Worsley (more information to follow).



To celebrate World Book Week we are also holding a World Book Day Lunch on Thursday 7th March. Please order lunches via the "My Evolve Hub" website or through the school office.

## Book Fair

The Usborne Book Fair will be in school this week. Parents and Carers are welcome to come into school with their children to purchase brand new books after school.

Children will be bringing home a book token. Each token is worth £1 and can be used at the book fair or used to purchase specific books that are priced at £1, sold at participating retailers.

## Our School Library

During the week of World Book Day we will be officially opening our beautiful new school library.

So parents and carers can also visit our library and find out how it will be used, we will be hosting class tea parties where you can read together and share in our lovely new space in school. The sessions will be a real joy and I recommend you try and attend if you can. More information will be sent out.

Here is a sneaky peak of our school library: [Our School Library on Vimeo](#) as well as other areas in our school: [Learning Environment | St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School \(saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk\)](#)

## Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 5th to 11th February 2024, with the theme of "My Voice Matters".

On Friday 9th February, Year 5 will be visiting Shevington Library for a mental health workshop. Also on this day, Mrs Crowder will be joining our Mental Health Ambassador training session with our MHST to help them roll out their great ideas throughout school.



## Important Dates (more information to follow)

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 – Year 3 Mini Medics first aid course**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024—Break the Rules Day**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Year 3 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February—Safer Internet Day**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Runshaw College Theatre Event in school.**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 9:10am – Year 4 Lady of Lourdes Worship (*parents and families invited*)**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – FOSB Year 2 Cake Sale (end of the day on the playground)**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February—Chinese New Year lunch**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February—Mental Health Ambassador training session in school**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February—Year 5 at Shevington Library "My Voice Matters" mental health workshop**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024—Nursery Spring Term Parent's Evening**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Year 2 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church (Shrove Tuesday)**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Ash Wednesday Mass in school at 10:30am**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Reception—Year 6 Parents' Evening from 1:10pm onwards**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 9:10am – Year 1 Lenten Reflection (*parents and families invited*)**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – School closes for half term**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Children return to school**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Year 5 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Reception children collective worship at St. Bernadette's Church**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024—World Book Day**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024—Year 3 and 4 author visit at Shevington Library**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March—Reception class Mother's Day Celebration (parents and families invited) 2:30pm**