

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

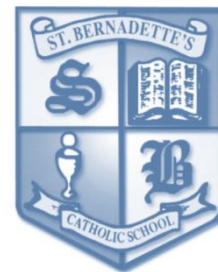
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Newsletter 8

20th December 2019

At St Bernadette's we are fully committed to safeguarding our children. We expect all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment.



Christmas Wishes

The Governors, Staff and pupils of St Bernadette's would like to extend a happy and Holy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all our families. A big thank you to all who made a donation to support the homeless and also those who were very generous purchasing gifts for staff – these were much appreciated, Thank you. I would like to thank you all for all your support and to emphasise the importance of school/home relationships. Schools thrive when relationships are strong, relationships which are based on trust, respect and an appreciation that we want the best for the children.



Diary Dates

Term begins Monday 6th January 2020

8th January

9.30 – Whole school Mass – Holy Family Church (Rec – Year 6)

9th January

REF – Out at the Eco Park

10th January

9am – Year 6 SATs Meeting

13th January

9am – Year 2 SATs Meeting

15th January

RPF – Pizza Express

16th January

RSD – Out at the Eco Park

22nd January

9am – Year 2 Mass (School)

23rd January

RPF – Out at the Eco Park

27th January

Maths Open Week

28th January

Feast of St Thomas Aquines (4CM own clothes)

6th February

RSD – Out at the Eco Park

11th February

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (RPF own clothes)

13th February

RPF – Out at the Eco Park

14th February

St Valentine's Day – (1SF own clothes)

Reflection

Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary, yet is so wondrously present.

- Edward Hayes



At St Bernadette's Catholic School, you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.

Holy Family Catholic Church

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve
24th December
4pm

Christmas Day
25th December
10.30am

I am sure Fr Phillip would love to see as many families as possible at Church during this festive period.

Christmas Productions

This year Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed a variety of Christmas plays which captured the true meaning of Christmas. The standard this year was fantastic, the children were well prepared, the costumes were wonderful and the singing was excellent. Thank you to all staff and children for their efforts and you the parents for your continuing support.

Carol Service

Well done to the children in Year 5 & 6 for their fantastic singing at the Carol Service on Tuesday evening at Holy Family Church. It was a truly special evening which captured the magic of Christmas. Thank you to Mr Carroll and all the staff involved in preparing the children.

Whole School Mass

There will be a whole school Mass (Rec - Year 6) on Wednesday 8th January at 9.30am at Holy Family Church to celebrate the New Year. You are very welcome to join us for the Mass. Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed with a coat, gloves, hat etc for the walk to Church.

Swimming

Swimming will resume in the new year on Monday 6th January for class 4CM and 5AB. Please ensure your child has their swimming kit and towel in school each Monday.

Attendance

Well done to the following 4CM who won the best attendance for the term, they were rewarded with a cinema trip. Also congratulations to Hashim, Victoria and Isla Melvina who won an Argos voucher for winning the raffle for having an attendance of 98% or above.



Year 6 FGM and CSE Lesson

You should have received a letter this week explaining that the year 6 children will undertake their FGM and CSE lesson on Thursday 9th January. If you do not wish your child to partake in these lessons please ensure your respond to the letter.

Math Open Week

Week beginning 27th January is Maths open week. This is an opportunity for you to work with your child in a Maths lesson and introduce some of the strategies used by staff to teach mathematics. You will receive your appointment stating which day and time early in the New Year.

Year 2 Disco

The antibullying ambassadors are planning a disco for Year 2 pupils after school on Tuesday 14th January. Please see the letter that was sent for more details.

SATs

11th – 15th May is when SATs are due to take place for Year 6 children in school. Testing takes place 11th – 22nd May in Year 2. No holidays are to be booked during this time and all children in Year 2 + 6 should be in school for the statutory tests.

There will be a meeting for Year 6 parents at 9am on Friday 10th January and for Year 2 parents on Monday 13th January where further information will be given.

Values and Virtues

This half term the children have been working particularly hard at being attentive and discerning. The following children have demonstrated these values over the half term and were presented with a certificate – well done.

Nursery		
Ava Mae		
REF	RSD	RPF
Khalessi	Tyler	Carmel
1SJ	1SF	1SM
Martin	Maria-Eleni	Maverick
2COT	2RW	2EL
Loza	Jeremiel	Maisy-Mae
3TK	3EH	3EG
Alexa	Sienna	Aisha
4AH	4CB	4CM
Filip	Surina	Ayona
5EB	5AB	5JR/KS
Elisha	Joshua	Emmanuel
6AMJ	6KL	6ZB
Tanya	Tianna	Aleksander

In the new year the children will focus on the values and virtues of compassionate and loving.

Compassionate – We are compassionate when we feel sympathy and concern for other people who are in difficulty, whether they are near to us or far away.

Loving – We are being loving when we show or sympathy and concern for other people by our actions and words.

A prayer for Compassion

Lord God,
You are full of compassion and love for us, your children.
Help us to be compassionate to our friends at school and our family at home, so that we can reflect God's love in our lives

Amen

Star Writers for December

Reception Liyana	Year One Janelle
Year Two Adrija	Year Three Montini
Year Four Ashin	Year Five Jack
Year Six Millie	



Parent Governor Vacancy

As we have only received interest from one parent regarding the parent governor vacancy, Mrs Panayiotou – parent of Maria-Eleni (1SF) will be duly elected as the new parent governor by default. Congratulations to her and we wish her all the best during her term of office.

Medical Appointments

If your child has any medical appointments that require them to miss school, please ensure you bring a copy of the letter/appointment card to the office so that this absence can be approximately authorised.

Mobile phone Policy

Thank you to all the parents who recently attended the Christmas plays in school and abided by the schools Mobile Phone Policy. This policy is in place to ensure the safeguarding of all our pupils.

KS2 Pantomime Trip

As you are aware tickets have been booked for children in KS2 to see the Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Birmingham Hippodrome. The payment plan for the trip is on Parentpay so please ensure you keep up with the installments.

Years 3 & 4 will attend on 15th January and Years 5 & 6 on 16th January. As this is a matinee performance, the children will arrive back at school for approximately 5pm, traffic permitting. Please leave access along Hob Moor Road for the coaches to pull in on both evenings.

Applications for Reception Class September 2020

The closing date for primary school applications for a place in a Reception Class for September 2020 is: midnight 15th January 2020.

All applications must be made online through the Birmingham City Council website

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Therefore if you have a child who was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016, it is vital that your application is received on time.

School Meals

Reminder School meal

School meal prices are as follows:

Year 3 to Year 6 = **£2.35** per day **£11.75** per week

Nursery class = **£2.05** per day **£10.25** per week

Reception to Year 2 still remain on Universal Free School Meals. Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 please pay on www.parentpay.com.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are unsure whether you are eligible please apply online at www.link2ict.org/FSM if you have any problems please pop in to the School office for some help.

If children wish to change from dinners to sandwiches or vice versa, a form must be collected from the school office, signed by the parent/carer of the child and returned to the office. This rule also applies to children who are entitled to free school meals. Please ensure that you fill in the form if you wish your child to change.

Children in Nursery, Year 3,4,5 & 6

The themed lunch

Food of the World

will take place on

Thursday 16th January 2020

The menu options are listed below.

Please return the slip to school by Wednesday 8th January 2020.

Payments MUST be made on Parent Pay - Nursery £2.05, Year 3,4,5 & 6 - £2.35

(Please note if your child is entitled to free school meals you do not have to pay, but you MUST return your menu choice)



Food of the World

Sweet and Sour Chicken

Tandoori Chicken

Vegetarian Lasagne or a Cheese Baguette

Followed by

A Selection of deserts from around the World



EVERY CHILD WHO HAS A DINNER ON THIS DAY WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE

Children in Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 & 6

I would like my child to have the Food of the World Lunch

Child's Name **Class**



My child would like the following (Please tick ONE of the following boxes)

Sweet and Sour Chicken

Tandoori Chicken

Vegetable Lasagne

Cheese Baguette

I will provide a packed lunch for my child on this day

(Please list, any food allergies you child may have)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Please note if your child is entitled to free school meals you do not have to pay

Please return the slip to school by Wednesday 8th January 2020

The study of the sacred Scriptures
Must be a door open to every believer.
It is essential that the revealed word
Radically enrich our catechesis and
All our efforts pass on the faith ...
EVANGELII GAUDIUM, 2013

During the Year of the Word we have been asked to focus on the use of sacred Scriptures – principally St Matthew's Gospel:
But why and what is a Gospel?

The word Gospel originates from the Greek evangelion or Latin evangelium – meaning to evangelise or spread the Good News.

The prime sources for the knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth are the four canonical Gospels in the New Testament of the Bible. The first three Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke – are closely related in form, structure and content; because they can be studied in parallel columns called synopsis they are known as the Synoptic Gospels. Today it is thought that Mark's Gospel was probably used by Matthew and Luke, who may also have used the Q Gospel (so called from the German Quelle, "source": Q is the hypothetical Gospel that is the origin of common materials in later Gospels.) John differing in both pattern and content, appears richer in theological interpretation but also preserves good historical information; is a selective, symbolic, eyewitness account of the person and ministry of Jesus, written so that all may believe in Him as the Christ, the Son of God, and thus have life in His name – Eternal Life.

The Gospels were written to serve the religious needs of the early Christian communities. Legendary and apologetic (defensive) motifs, and various preoccupations of the communities for which they were first produced, can readily be discerned as influences upon their narratives. Although many details of the Gospels remain the subject of disagreement and uncertainty, the scholarly consensus accepts the substance of the Gospel tradition as a truthful account.

Therefore, we have four Gospels, each with a distinctive view of the ministry of Jesus, his teaching and preaching, his death, resurrection, and beyond:

Matthew's Gospel is the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mark's Gospel is the Gospel of the Ministry of Jesus;
a transcript from life.

Luke's Gospel is the Gospel of the Church.

John's Gospel is the Gospel of Faith and Divinity;

We tend to create a fifth Gospel, picking up this and that out of each Gospel and assembling our own take on who Jesus is, why God sent Him to our world, and what He means in terms of our final destiny. Spending time referring to the original source again gives us the opportunity to re-evaluate our understanding and re-engage in our relationship with God.



"She will bear a Son;
and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins."
(Mt 1:21)

St Matthew's Gospel

In the second century AD, the Gospel of Matthew was placed at the very beginning of the New Testament as it was believed to be the first Gospel written, though we now know that the Gospel of Mark dates earlier. Matthew's Gospel became the most important of all Gospel texts for first- and second-century Christians because it contained all the elements important to the early church: the story about Jesus's miraculous conception; an explanation of the importance of liturgy, law, discipleship, and teaching; and an account of Jesus's life and death. So, the Gospel of Matthew has long been considered the most important of the four Gospels because it is the Gospel most intensely concerned with issues related to Judaism, and hence it provides an appropriate transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament in the Christian Bible.

Though second-century church tradition holds that the author of the Gospel is Matthew, a former tax collector and one of Jesus's Twelve Apostles, also known as Levi, scholars today maintain that we have no direct evidence of Matthew's authorship. Because the Gospel of Matthew relies heavily on the earlier Gospel of Mark, as well as late first-century oral tradition for its description of events in Christ's life, it is unlikely that the author of the Gospel of Matthew was an eyewitness to the life of Christ. Instead, the author was probably a Jewish member of a learned community in which study and teaching were passionate forms of piety, and the Gospel was probably written between 80 and 90AD.

Matthew's Gospel has a single overriding idea: the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom is mentioned fifty-four times and it is the defining concept in our most cherished prayer: The Our Father with "Thy kingdom come".

What the Kingdom means is explained in the prayer by "thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." God's purpose in sending His Son is to initiate a programme whereby the will of God, and not the will of humanity, will be done on Earth. The message for us from Matthew is: God rules: O.K? Or, as Jesus declares in his very first words, 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.'

Matthew's Gospel is arranged in seven parts.

- An introductory segment gives the story of Jesus's miraculous birth and the origin of his ministry – the Gospel traces Jesus's ancestors back to the biblical patriarch Abraham, the founding father of the Israelite people. Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah (Mt 1:1), the promised descendant of King David who would bring God's Kingdom to Earth and establish a time of peace and justice. Matthew quotes the Old Testament extensively, and places special emphasis on Jesus' fulfilment of prophecies. The Gospel is a phenomenal work of literature, arranged in a way that presents Jesus as the ultimate Jewish hero: the Messianic son of David, the prophet who surpasses Moses, and the seed of Abraham that blesses all the nations.
- In the middle are five structurally parallel sections. In each section, a narrative segment—interrupted occasionally by dialogue and brief homilies—tells of Jesus's miracles and actions. Closing each section, Jesus preaches a long sermon (discourse) that responds to the lessons learned in the narrative section. The Sermon on the Mount, which introduces the basic elements of the Christian message, follows Jesus's first venture into ministry gaining followers along the way (5:1-7:29). The Mission Sermon, which empowers Jesus's apostles, follows Jesus's miracles and recognition that more teachers and preachers are necessary (10:1-42). The mysterious Sermon in Parables responds to Jesus's frustration with the fact that many people do not understand or accept his message (13:1-52). The Sermon on the Church responds to the need to establish a lasting fraternity of Christians (18:1-35) once Jesus has been revealed as the Son of God. Finally, the Eschatological Sermon, which addresses the end of the world and teachings of judgement in the Kingdom to come, responds to the developing certainty that Jesus will be crucified (23:1-25:46).
- The conclusion or climax gives the story of the Last Supper, Jesus's trial and crucifixion, and the resurrection: Jesus' sacrifice, victory, and commission to his disciples (Mt 26-27)

Readings for Christmas Reflection

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
Mt 1:1 - 17

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah
Mt 1: 18 - 25



The Prologue and Jesus' Birth and Significance

CHAPTER 1:18-25
The Nativity

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

CHAPTER 2:1-12
Three Wise Men

Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

CHAPTER 3:13-17
John Baptises Jesus

CHAPTER 4:18-22
Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John

CHAPTER 5:1-12
Sermon on the Mount

CHAPTER 6:9-15
The Lord's Prayer

CHAPTER 7:1-12
The Golden Rule

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

CHAPTER 8:28-34
Mistake of the Gadarene Pigs

CHAPTER 9:27-31
Jesus Heals the Blind Men

CHAPTER 10:5-15
Jesus Sends His Disciples

The Church, the first fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven

CHAPTER 18:10-14
The Lost Sheep

CHAPTER 17:1-8
Jesus is Transfigured

CHAPTER 16:15-20
Jesus Asks the Disciples "Who do you say I am?"

CHAPTER 15:22-28
The Disciples are Healed

CHAPTER 14:13-21
Feeding the Five Thousand

Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.

CHAPTER 13:31-33
Parable of the Mustard Seed

CHAPTER 12:40-42
Death & Resurrection

CHAPTER 11:28-30
Come To Me All Who Are Weary

The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven

I speak to you in parables.

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

CHAPTER 19:13-15
Jesus Blesses the Little Children

CHAPTER 20:20-28
Mother of the Sons of Zebedee

CHAPTER 21:1-11
The Entry into Jerusalem

CHAPTER 22:1-14
Parable of the Wedding Feast

CHAPTER 23:13-36
Jesus Denounces the Hypocrites "Woe to you!"

CHAPTER 24:29-31
The Coming of the Son of Man

CHAPTER 25:1-13
Parable of the Bridesmaids

CHAPTER 26:26-29
Jesus and the Eucharist

CHAPTER 27:32-44
Jesus is Crucified and Buried

CHAPTER 28:1-10
Women Find the Empty Tomb

The Passion and Resurrection

And know that I am with you always to the end of time.

JOURNEY WITH MATTHEW



The Coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS