

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

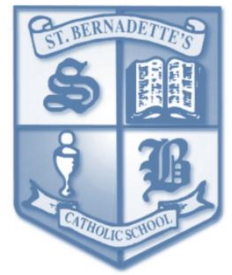
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Newsletter 7  
22 November 2024

*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.*

## Christmas Closure

School will close at 2pm on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** for Christmas and will re-open to children on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. We wish all of our families and very happy and holy Christmas, when it arrives.

### This Sunday's Gospel Reading Luke 3: 1-6

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and Philip his brother tetrarch of Iturea, and the country of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilina;

Under the high priests Annas and Caiphas; the word of the Lord was made unto John, the son of Zachary, in the desert.

And he came into all the country about the Jordan, preaching the baptism of penance for the remission of sins;

As it was written in the book of the sayings of Isaias the prophet: A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Every valley shall be filled; and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight; and the rough ways plain;

And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.



### The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception, when we remember that Mary was conceived without sin, and so was chosen from the very first moment of her life to be the mother of Jesus. The Angel Gabriel told Mary, "God has blessed you more than any other woman."

We Pray

God of salvation, you reveal your steadfast love in the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of your Son. We ask that you never grow weary of reaching out to us to overcome the ways we stray from your plan for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Light a candle to offer a prayer

We keep the following in our prayers this week:

Nancy, who continues to receive treatment in hospital.

The mother of Mason and Cillian who continues with her treatment.

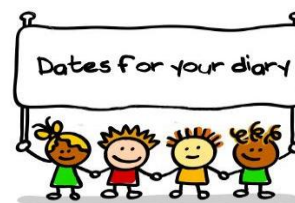
The O'Toole family

The O'Brien family

The Father of Miriam in Year 1



## Diary Dates



### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Year 4 – Year 6 Tag Rugby competition after school

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Open morning for prospective new parents 10am  
Year 2 dress rehearsal 1.30pm for Holy Family parishioners

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Year 5/6 football team out Sedgemere after school

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Year 2 Nativity play for parents 9.30am  
Year 5 confessions in school

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

9.30 am - Nursery Play for Parents of children in Red and Green group  
Gold Star own clothes day

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

9.30 am - Nursery Play for Parents of children in Blue and Yellow group

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Reception play for parents 9.30am  
Carol service Holy Family Church 6pm Year 5 and Year 6

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Whole School mass 9.30am  
Christmas jumper day and Christmas Lunch for Children.

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Year 1 Prayer service for parents 9.00am  
Feast of St John the Beloved – class saint 4RW- class in own clothes

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas party Day – Children in party clothes today

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

School reopens to children

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Year 2 SATs meeting for parents

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Whole School Mass 9.30am Holy Family Church

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Year 6 SATs meeting for parents 9.00am

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Open Afternoon for prospective parents 1.30pm

## Road Safety

In recent weeks, it has been noticed that a number of parents are parking irresponsibly and putting the lives of our children and families at risk. Last week, we had a child who was knocked off her bike on her way to school and a parent who was very close to being knocked over when dropping her child to school. Please have consideration for others when travelling to school.

## Responding to a text

The staff in the office work extremely hard every day to ensure messages are communicated to parents in an efficient manner. Unfortunately, there are a number of parents who do not respond to these messages and a follow up text has then to be sent. It takes seconds to reply, so please do so promptly. We are trying to work as efficiently as possible and time is wasted when messages have to be repeatedly sent.

## Safeguarding reminder

Please remember that if you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child, members of the public are able to make an anonymous referral to the safeguarding team within Birmingham City Council. Parents should call 3031888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker. The safeguarding leads in school are Mr Carroll, Miss Finnegan, Miss Hulse and Miss Cowings and they will be happy to support any parents in this process should they be required.

## Meeting for Prospective Nursery/Reception entry in September 2024



Open sessions for parents of children who would like to consider St Bernadette's for a Nursery/Reception place in September 2025.

Tuesday 10 December 2024 – 10am

Friday 10 January 2025 – 1.30pm

If you know anyone who may be interested, please let them know.



## Second Sunday of Advent 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Peace is a central theme of the Advent season but the main focus of the second week of Advent. One of the prophecies about Jesus calls him "the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

The second candle, which is purple, will be lit at mass on Sunday. It is called the Bethlehem candle and is a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. This candle represents love and peace - both God's love for us and ours for him and others.

### An Advent Prayer

Heavenly father, your son, Jesus,  
is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love.  
Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together,  
As a school, this Advent.  
As we prepare our hearts for Christmas,  
Bring us closer to each other and to your son.



### Holy Family Parish Fayre

The Christmas fayre will take place at Holy Family on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 11.00am to 2.00pm**. The children and staff from St Bernadette's School will run a chocolate tombola to help raise some money for Holy Family Church. It would be great to see some of our families supporting this event.



### School Christmas Lunch

On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**, the children can have a Christmas lunch in school, even if they don't normally receive a school meal. A vegetarian option is also available for children. **If your child does have a school meal each day, they will automatically be provided with a meal on this day.** Those children who would normally bring a packed lunch, should by now have completed their order for a meal and made payment on parent pay. If you have not already completed the google form, it must be returned by **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. **No orders will be taken after this date.**



### Christmas Jumper Day

Children are able to come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. We ask that they bring in a £1 on that day which will support Holy Family Parish. They should continue to wear their school trousers or skirt as normal on this day.



### Christmas Party Afternoon

Please remember that children from Nursery to Year 6 will have their Christmas party afternoon on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. The children should arrive in school in their party clothes and bring a small plate of food with them for the afternoon. Remember, they will have eaten their school lunch just before the party begins, so small snacks would be sufficient. Please do not include any nut or nut products due to the severe allergies that some children have. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



### Carol Service – Year 5 & 6

The Year 5 & 6 Carol Service is on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm** at Holy Family Church. The children in Year 5 & 6 have spent a considerable amount of time learning carols and preparing for the service, therefore all children in Year 5 & 6 are expected to attend. The children should arrive no later than **5.30 pm** wearing full winter uniform.



This is always a magical evening and it would be lovely to see as many families as possible at the service. Admission is £1 per person with all money raised going towards Stories of Hope and Home, a charity that works with Asylum Seekers and refugees to help build a community and safe space for them.





## Thank You Mrs McCartan!

A huge thank you to Mrs McCartan and our Head and Deputy Head boys and girls. Mrs McCartan and the children went shopping for our school Christmas trees last week, which have now been beautifully decorated and stand proudly in the hall and entrance porch. Special thanks to all children who decorated a bauble to hang on the tree in the hall.



SCHOOL FUND ACADEMIC  
YEAR 2024-2025



Parents are requested to make a donation of £10.00 per child or £10.00 per family to our school fund. Log onto

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

This payment will help to subsidise the cost of some of the activities that take place throughout the school year to enhance the curriculum ie workshops and theme days, and ensure our children continue to have the broadest possible experiences in school.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

Congratulations to Tiara for achieving her gold badge last week. Tiara can quickly recall all of her times-tables up to 12 x 12. What a super star!



'Bring It On Brum!' is running FREE activity clubs in Birmingham for young people aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. There are a huge range of activities available including sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music.

Programmes vary depending on the type and location of each local club and each holiday club will give your child a nutritious meal too! Please read the 'Bring It On Brum!' letter which was emailed to parents and carers of children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals this week. If you believe you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, but didn't receive a letter via email, please contact Miss O'Neill in the school office.

[www.bringitonbrum.co.uk](http://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk)



## Incident Weather

If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that school needs to close, please listen to the local radio stations. The school texting service, school website and the school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am, then you can assume that school will be open as normal. If a blanket closure is announced by Birmingham City Council then we will close. Please note, school will complete a risk assessment of the site while making this decision, it is up to you as parents to risk assess your journey to school to ensure the children arrive safely.

### Nursery Places

Following the Christmas break, we will be considering our Nursery applications. If you are a parent of a child who was born between September 2021 and August 2022 and would like your child to start in our Nursery in September 2025, please complete the form at the school office.

### Reception Admissions

If you have a child who is due to start Reception in September 2025, please remember that you must complete your application by 15<sup>th</sup> January at 11.59am. This should be completed online and a supplementary application form should be completed for St Bernadette's School if you have listed us as one of your choices. Parents are unlikely to get their first choice school if they submit a late application. Parents should list three different primary schools on their form.

### Termly reports

Staff will be completing their termly reports for pupils prior to the Christmas break. These reports will reflect the results that children have attained in their formal assessments this term. The report also includes information about your child's attendance, the effort they make in lessons and in their homework and their general attitude towards school life. Reports will be emailed to parents by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January**.

### Reception Fine Motor Workshop



Thank you to all who attended our Reception Fine Motor Workshop! We had so much fun decorating our rockets with stickers, flames and all different craft items. We discussed the importance of Fine Motor skills and ways we can practise these skills at home.

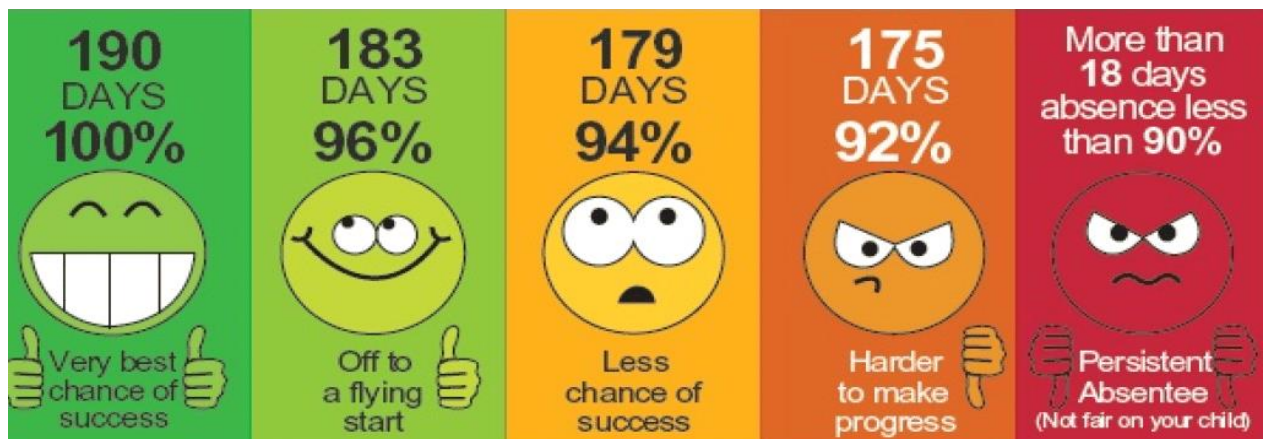
### School Attendance

The expectation is that every child is in school every day unless they are too sick to attend. Leave in term time will not be granted as holidays should be taken in the school break. To date twenty-three fines have been issued this term and there are several more pending. Fines have now increased to £80 per parent per child. To avoid an increase or court action parents are strongly advised to pay within 21 days of issue.

The local authority guidelines regarding attendance and punctuality have changed since August 2024. Details can be found on this link

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools\\_and\\_learning/1502/school\\_attendance\\_advice\\_for\\_parents](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/1502/school_attendance_advice_for_parents)

Our updated attendance policy can be found on the school website.





### Congratulations to our Year 6 Confirmandi!

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils, who received the special Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday evening at Holy Family Church. They have been fully supported by their peers, their parents, sponsors and the Year 6 staff in school throughout their preparation. The children looked extremely smart and were excited to be taking the next important step in their journey of faith. We were all incredibly impressed with their reverence and active participation as they led us through the Mass and received the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



### **Year 5 and 6 Girls' Football League Matches**

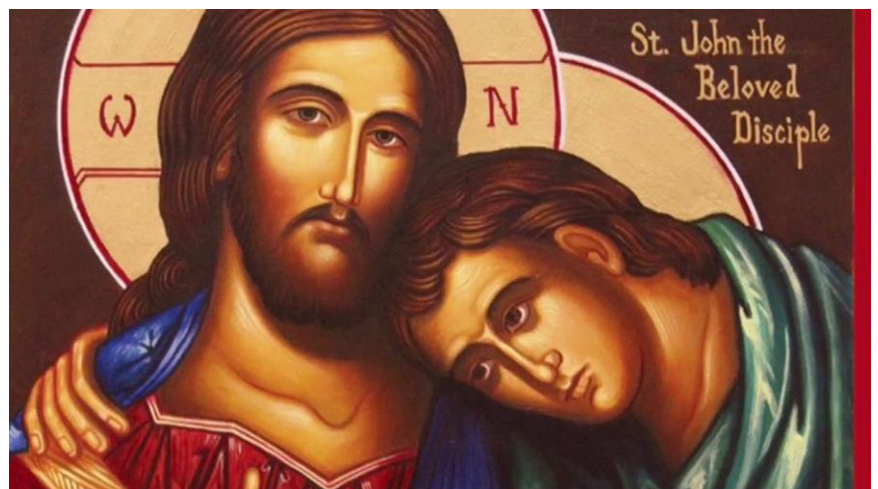
Our Year 5 and 6 girls recently competed in a series of football league matches, demonstrating outstanding teamwork and resilience. Despite facing tough competition and cold weather, the girls approached each game with enthusiasm and determination.

While the results didn't go their way, with most matches ending in narrow losses, the team can be proud of their effort and growth. Their ability to support each other and stay positive throughout the league was truly inspiring.

Congratulations to the players for their hard work and a special thank you to the coaches and supporters who braved the chilly side lines. The team looks forward to building on this experience in future matches!

### **St John the Beloved**

John was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus and his brother was James, who was another of the Twelve Apostles. Church tradition has held that John is the author of the Gospel of John and other books of the New Testament including the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Saviour in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Saviour made him the guardian of His Mother. His feast day is actually 27<sup>th</sup> December which falls in the Christmas holidays but 4RW will celebrate this feast day on 19<sup>th</sup> December and can wear their own clothes on this day.



## School of Sanctuary Update

*'I was a stranger and you made me welcome.'*

*Matt 25:35*

### **School of Sanctuary at St Bernadette's**

For some time now, our news media has been reporting stories about migrants, refugees, small boats, the expense of housing people in hotels etc. Much of this has been quite misleading and dehumanising with inaccuracies and wrong ideas taking hold in the minds of many.

As a Catholic school, St Bernadette's is looking to explore the realities of the asylum system and the experiences of people going through it right now. Our mission statement makes clear that, "... We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special." We must never forget that Jesus himself was a refugee. We will therefore, be seeking to gain the award of 'School of Sanctuary'.

### **Stories of Hope and Home**

**Stories of Hope and Home** is a project focused around building a community and creating a safe space in which Asylum Seekers and Refugees can explore and share their stories. It encourages and empowers them to discover their voice, allowing them to share their narrative in their own words, and helping to realise that their stories, individually and collectively have worth and value.

By taking these stories: expressed through storytelling, poetry, theatre and other media; to others, particularly in educational settings, the stories become powerful points of encounter with other sectors of the community, helping to educate, to change perceptions and to build positive relationships.

This year the money raised at our Carol service will be donated to this charity.

### **Mrs Robinson's Migration Story**

This week we have a migration story from Ireland to England in 1959. It is a story of true strength and resilience that Mrs Robinson's family became settled in England.

My parents came to England from Tipperary, in Ireland. They lived in a small village called Portroe. Mom and Dad went to school together and lived doors away from each other. My two older brothers were born in Tipperary. Mom and Dad came to England in late 1959 leaving my two older brothers with our two sets of grandparents. They travelled here to find work as Dad had lost his job at the silver mines. When they arrived, they slept on the floor in my auntie's living room. They found life very difficult, being turned away from lodgings and Dad turned away from jobs as soon as they spoke, as they both had very broad Irish accents. This upset my mom very much and I remember her telling us people were very cruel and harsh, she often said they would shout at her and called her dirty and other names. Mom was also missing the boys who were only 2 and 1 years old but they never gave up looking for a home or jobs in which to support their family.

Eventually, they found lodgings in a hostel for a few weeks and dad got a job working for the council as a bin man, a job he came to love. Not long after this, they found a home in Hockley. Mum told us it was small, but it was a home, so mom travelled back to Ireland to bring the boys over as she missed them so much. This was in the early months of 1960. When she arrived back here with the boys, she was happy and started to make a life for her young family, dealing daily with people being unkind to her but she was strong and stood her ground. She told us about her first council home, it had no glass in the windows, and the family sat on tea chests and drank out of jam jars but she was proud of that home in Ford street Hockley. She made a home for the boys and the council fitted the glass in the windows. Shortly after she discovered she was expecting my brother Tom. She was a little unsettled as she had only her sister for support. Not long after, whilst she was cooking dinner for dad and the boys, there was a knock at the front door, she opened the door to find her mother and father with suitcases in their hand, they came over to see the boys as they missed them so much. A few days later my dad's parents also arrived. Although my parents thought it was just a short holiday for both sets of parents, they never returned home.

As the family grew and mum had support, she looked for work herself and worked at Lucas in Hockley. They employed a lot of Irish people, but her supervisor was often unkind to them calling them names. The family moved to Rednal as it had grown by another two. So, my three older brothers and sister spent lots of happy times on the Lickey Hills having family picnics with mom and dad. Mom often talked about the back-to-back house she lived in and the friends they made and how life became easier for them. My parents struggled living here at times, but they stayed strong as a family. We soon became a family of 8!



## Feast day, 6 December

Today we celebrate the Feast of St Nicholas who is the class saint of IOB.

This is the true story of Saint Nicholas.

Nicholas was born over 1700 years ago, in a small village in Turkey. He had loving parents who raised him to follow the example of Jesus by caring for others, being kind, and saying his prayers. Sadly, Nicholas' parents died when he was still young, leaving him a very large sum of money. Nicholas remembered what his parents had taught him and decided to use his money for the good of others, rather than keep it all for himself. As well as sharing what he had with those in need, Nicholas wanted to follow Jesus in other ways too, so when he grew up he became a priest. Fr Nicholas made such a special effort to take care of people and show them God's love that after a few years he was made a Bishop. A Bishop's role is very important. They have to look after thousands of people. Bishop Nicholas became known and loved throughout the land for his generosity to those in need and his concern for children.

There are many stories of St Nicholas helping children and the poor. One legend tells of a poor man with three grown up daughters. In those days, when a girl married, the bride's father was expected to pay the new husband's family a large sum of money, called a dowry. But the poor man simply couldn't afford it. Because of this, his daughters were unable to marry and faced a life of poverty and hardship. Nicholas heard of the family's troubles and so, late at night, he passed by their house and threw a bag of gold coins in through the window.

The coins landed in the shoes of one of the daughters. Nicholas did this three times, once for each daughter, and every time the gold coins fell into the shoes of one of the girls. His help meant that all three daughters could be married and taken care of. By his humble love and service, St Nicholas had changed the lives of the girls and their father no longer worried about what was going to happen to them. To this day many countries around the world celebrate St Nicolas' Day on 6 December. Children leave out their shoes or slippers the night before, and when they wake in the morning they find that St Nicolas has visited, leaving gifts and treats in their shoes or slippers, just like he did for the three daughters all those years ago.

### Reflection

St Nicholas shared what he had to change the lives of those in need. He followed Jesus' teaching to love one another by using his money and his time to make people's lives happier. St Nicholas put Jesus at the centre of his life and always remembered to pray. Although we may not have the riches that St Nicholas did, we can still use what we have to help others. Consider the good deeds we can do this Advent. This might include helping with chores at home, being kind to siblings, forgiving friends, sharing some of their pocket money with one of our chosen charities or praying for children around the world who are in need. During the excitement of Advent it can be tricky to remember the true meaning of Christmas. This year, let's keep Jesus close in our hearts, just as St Nicholas did.



# ST. NICHOLAS

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December 6th

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## The Birth of Jesus

Advent is a time where Christians prepare in joyful anticipation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. As part of our preparations this year, we are inviting all of our children and families to make a family crib (Nativity scene) which the children can use to retell the Christmas story. You may wish to use a shoe box to help you do this. These can then be brought into school on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. Once we have collected them in school we will invite Fr Fretch to bless them as part of a Liturgy service. Below are some examples which might help you with your family crib ideas.



## Attendance

### Every minute counts






Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 days of education are missed.
- A score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year.

Attendance figures can be seen below. Congratulations to ICOT, 2EOB, 3CK and 4KL for the best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done RCB for the best attendance in the Foundation Stage!

### Attendance update

We continue to track attendance every week and work hard to ensure every child in school demonstrates good attendance and punctuality. If children are to reach their full potential they need to be in school every day, unless they are too unwell to attend. **We will make home visits from time to time, particularly if we have safeguarding concerns or if a child's attendance is causing a concern.** Even if a parent has called the school to give a reason for their child's absence, a home visit may still occur. We aim to offer both support and challenge where needed, but always have the child's best interest at heart.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
90%	RSJ 92%	ICOT 95% 	2SH 94%	3DA 94%	4RW 94%	5MF 95%	6CB 95%
	RCB 94% 	IML/NL 94%	2EH 94%	3EG 94%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 94%	6LC 96%
	RLC 93%	IOB 94%	2EOB 95% 	3CK 97% 	4KL 97% 	5FM 95%	6ZB 95%

Whole School Attendance	92%	Currently, the whole school attendance is 92% which is below the 96% that is expected.
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### Behaviour Ambassador of the Week

Well done to the following children who have been a fantastic role models in demonstrating our behaviour expectations and values for the last two weeks:

Reception	Arthur RCB	Grayson RCB	Arthur RSJ	Arman RSJ	Charlie RLC	Lamech RLC
Year 1	Safana IML	Amelia IML	Rumaisa IOB	Avayah IOB	Amari ICOT	Urwa ICOT
Year 2	Reylin 2SH	Cianna 2SH	Umaima 2EOB	Maxwell 2EOB	Olivia 2EH	Henry 2EH
Year 3	Fredie 3CK	Kiera 3CK	Zaydeen 3EG	Reah 3EG	Conan 3DA	Grear 3DA
Year 4	Beyon 4KL	Arissa 4KL	Ruth 4AMJ	Regan 4AMJ	Alfie 4RW	Poppy 4RW
Year 5	Pixie Mae 5MF	Shaan 5MF	Harris 5CG	Felicia 5CG	Darren 5FM	Ezra 5FM
Year 6	Nuala 6LC	Jewel 6LC	Louis G 6CB	Gaby 6CB	Tafari 6ZB	Arianna 6ZB

**Special Certificates** - Each week a child from each class is nominated to receive a special certificate through the post. The pupils who are awarded these certificates have shown that they really understand what it means to live as Jesus taught us, perhaps by being particularly kind or helpful. Well done, to the following children:

CLASS	NAME	REASON	CLASS	NAME	REASON
Nursery (Blue)	Hazel	For wonderful singing in our Christmas song practice.	Nursery (Red)	Piper Rose	For being the perfect role model.
Nursery (Green)	Fatima	For decorating her Christmas bauble beautifully.	Nursery (Yellow)	Amaan	For speaking lots more during group time and during choose time.
RCB	Harlow-Rose	For being an excellent star in our Christmas Play practice!	3EG	Ihsan	For increased contributions in lessons.
	Ruby-Marie	For working so hard with your name writing!		Amelia	For increased contributions in lessons.
RLC	Lamech	For listening well to The Gruffalo!	4AMJ	Arsema	For trying her best in maths lessons and scoring full marks in her arithmetic test.
	Charlie	For always being a kind friend!		Anish	For helping his teachers and trying his best.
RSJ	Arman	For wonderful progress made in his phonics.	4KL	James	A great helper in the classroom.
	Arthur	For trying so hard in his phonics.		Amelia	A more mature attitude to school recently.
ICOT	Archie	For making a beautiful home made crib, and for his kind generosity for Saint Chads.	4RW	Ana Maria	For her fantastic ideas in English.
	Benjamin	For his great reading in our prayer service.		Imaan	For her hard work in maths.
IML/NL	Heritage	For great Maths work.	5CG	Kieran Jai	For being so thoughtful and kind to the new boy.
	Skyla	For always offering answer in class.		Connor	For being a helpful & efficient monitor in class.
IOB	Ahsan	For trying his best in RE lessons.	5FM	Zoya	For showing her kindness to all.
	Santiago	For always contributing ideas in class!		Keira	For always being so helpful.
2EH	Gabriel	For his fantastic effort in RE lessons.	5MF	Mollie	For brilliant independent addition and subtraction work in maths!
	Fahren-Betty	For being such a good friend to others.		Muhammad Noah	For wonderful contributions during RE lessons.
2EOB	Phoebe-Grace	For being reverend and respectful during prayer.	6CB	Nathan	For amazing effort during carol and hymn rehearsals.
	Fatima-Dua	For being kind and caring to her peers.		Jasir	For being a helpful & efficient monitor in class.
2SH	Ayva-Rose	For always having beautiful manners and being a brilliant friend.	6LC	Anayah	For going above and beyond in all lessons.
	Muhammad-Aseed	For trying so hard to learn your role in our Nativity!		Keron	For trying so hard in her English lessons.
3CK	Louie	For trying hard in maths.	6ZB	Archie	For creating an excellent setting description in English.
	Uche	For trying hard in all lessons.		Riley	For putting more effort into his English lessons.
3DA	Myra	For always using her manners.			
	Sebastian	For having a positive, enthusiastic attitude to his learning.			

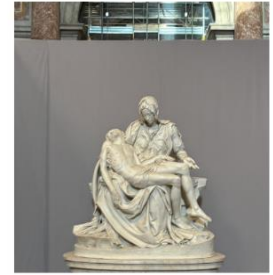
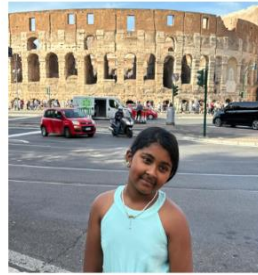


# My Pilgrimage to Italy

By C - Year 5

I would like to share with you my experience of a Pilgrimage to Italy. My parents, 2 of my siblings, and myself were accompanied by our Parish Priest Fr Terrin and 60 parishioners from Our Lady of Holy Rosary and Saint Theresa of Lisieux church from Saltley.

We flew from Manchester airport to Naples and travelled to Rome. We were in Rome for three days and visited four major Basilicas including Saint Peter's, the Basilica of Saint Paul, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran and the Basilica of Maria Maggiore.



We were blessed to meet Pope Francis on Wednesday morning when the Pope made a public appearance in St Peter's Square. We also had a chance to visit the Vatican museum, which is ranked second in the list of most visited art museums in the world. The Sistine chapel is located inside the Vatican museum. The chapel is decorated with splendid art work from Michelangelo. We also had a chance to tour outside the Colosseum.

Later that week we went to Assisi from Rome. Assisi is now a world heritage place and a pilgrim site. We visited the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi where the tomb of Saint Francis is kept. He is one of the most venerated figures in the Catholic Church. He established Franciscan order and is also known as the second Christ. St Francis is the patron Saint of Italy living his life taking the gospel literally and preaching the gospel.

We also visited the Basilica of Saint Clare, in Assisi. She is the founder of the order of Poor Ladies, a monastic religious order for women in the Franciscan tradition. In Assisi we also visited Saint Mary Major Parish where Blessed Carlo Acutis exhumed body is kept. Carlo is approved to become the first millennial Saint and has long been called the patron saint of the internet.

When he died at the age of 15 he had a website designed documenting the Eucharistic miracles and approved Marian apparitions. He loved Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and attended the holy mass every day. He will be canonized on 27 April 2025.

From Assisi we travelled to Our Lady of Loreto Shrine and then to the Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua. Anthony was a Franciscan friar and a powerful preacher. He also had expert knowledge of Scripture and an undying love and devotion to the poor and the sick. From Padua we went to Venice and took a gondola ride to see the beauty of Venice. We walked to St Mark's Square to see Basilica of St Mark, the church is dedicated and holds the relics of Saint Mark the evangelist. Venice is known as the floating city and city of canals and is famous for its art galleries. On Saturday night we flew back to Stansted airport.

## Never Forget Your Loved Ones. . .

At the weekend, Archie had an amazing experience. Read on, if you want to find out more about it!

As a class, Mrs Docker's English set created a variety of questions to find out about Archie's unique adventure to Villa Park!

Hansikka: **First and foremost, how was your experience?**

Archie: It was just really enjoyable

Noah: **Why were you chosen to go Villa Park?**

Archie: Fifty years ago, my great uncle sadly died in the Birmingham Pub Bombings, so Aston Villa Football Club wanted families belonging to all the victims to walk on the pitch (for the first time ever) so they could remember all those who died

Abby: **How did you react when you first got picked?**

Archie: I was shocked: I only found out just before the game.

Kieron: **When you went to Villa Park, what match was playing?**

Archie: Aston Villa Vs Crystal palace.

Mrs Docker: **Where did you get to sit?**

Archie: I was sitting right in front of the substitutes.

Mia and Liyana: **Who else was there?**

Archie: The other 21 victims also had families there and they actually showed the names of the victims on the score board.

Jada: **Did you meet anyone special?**

Archie: I got to see the substitutes training as well as talking to the commentator.

Marcus: **What was the most memorable thing that happened at Villa Park?**

Archie: When I was on the pitch, they held a minutes clapping- which made me remember my great uncle.

**Even though your great uncle died, did going to VP help you?**

Archie: Definitely, it gave me a chance to really remember him in a very special way.

Thank you to Chloe and Muizz for being so patient and such professional reporters.  
Special thanks to Archie for sharing his experience- we learned so much.



## 1974 BIRMINGHAM PUB BOMBINGS REMEMBERING THOSE LOST

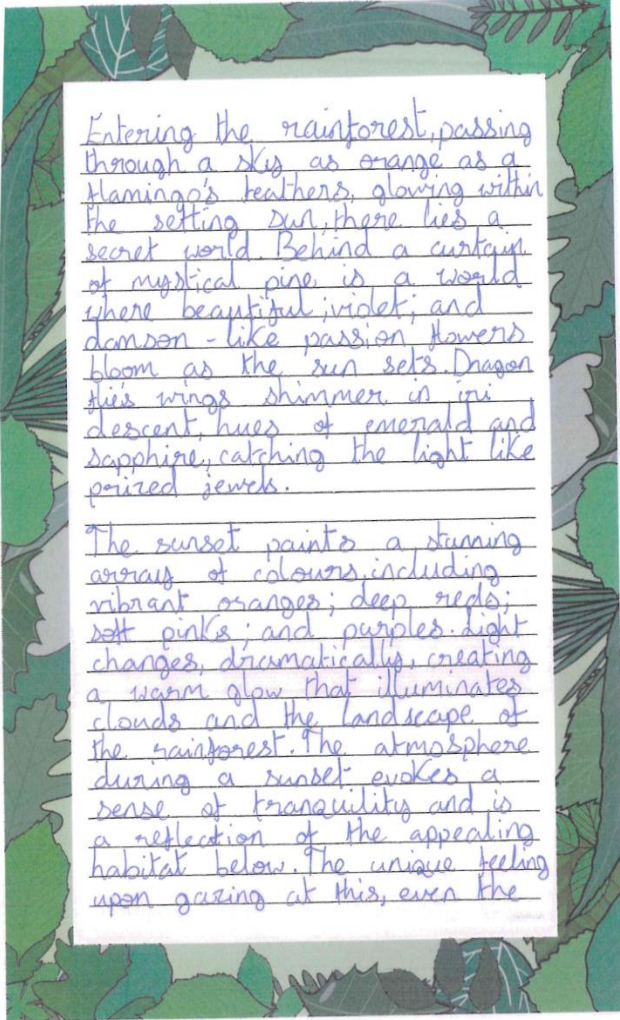


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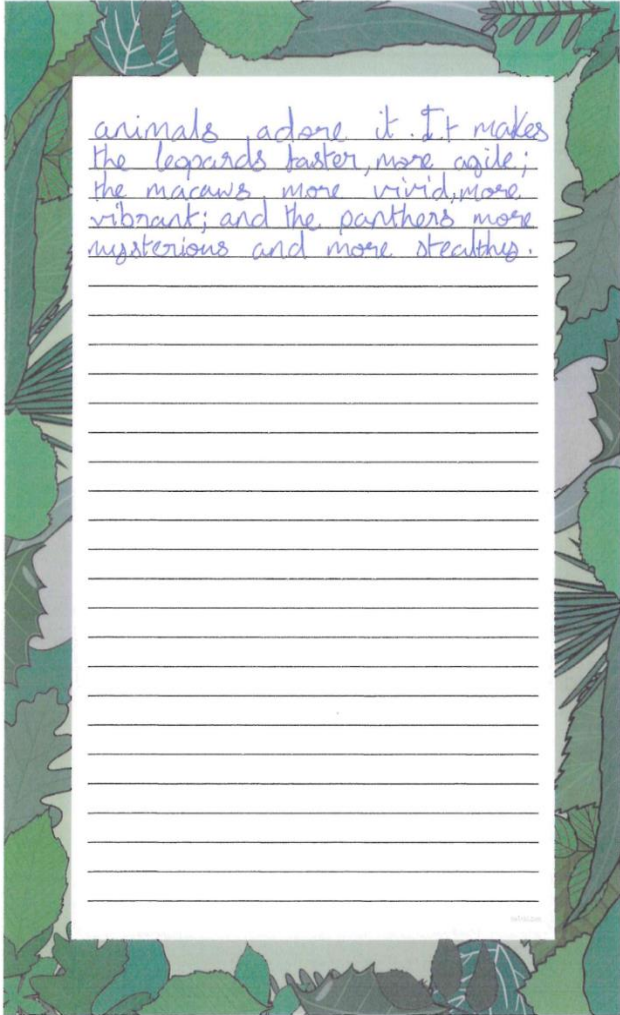
## Celebrating our God Given Talents

The children in year 6 were asked to write a setting description for a rainforest. The following was written by Archie. He spoke about the literary devices that he used in his writing to make the reader realise just how colourful the rainforest is.



Entering the rainforest, passing through a sky as orange as a flamingo's feathers, glowing within the setting sun, there lies a secret world. Behind a curtain of mystical pine is a world where beautiful, iridescent, and daisy-like passion flowers bloom as the sun sets. Dragon like wings shimmer in iridescent hues of emerald and sapphire, catching the light like prized jewels.

The sunset paints a stunning array of colours, including vibrant oranges; deep reds; soft pinks; and purples. Light changes, dramatically, creating a warm glow that illuminates clouds and the landscape of the rainforest. The atmosphere during a sunset evokes a sense of tranquility and is a reflection of the appealing habitat below. The unique feeling upon gazing at this, even the



animals adore it. It makes the leopards faster, more agile; the macaws more vivid, more vibrant; and the panthers more mysterious and more stealthy.

**A FABULOUS  
PIECE OF  
WORK!**



## NURSERY AND RECEPTION CLASS OF SEPTEMBER 2025



I Love my School

St Bernadette's is a place where the children are offered stability and enrichment to learn effectively and develop into well rounded, responsible and respectful young people.



Please visit our school website and Twitter page to learn more about St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School and Nursery and see all the fantastic learning opportunities that are available.

[www.stberns.co.uk](http://www.stberns.co.uk)

[www.twitter.com/StbernsPrimary](https://www.twitter.com/StbernsPrimary)

### OPEN MEETINGS

8TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT 10.00 AM

10 DECEMBER 2024 AT 10.00 AM

10 JANUARY 2025 AT 1.30 PM

Please scan the barcode to  
register your interest

Teachers are great and they're  
always happy to help.

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[admissions@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@stberns.bham.sch.uk) or telephone 0121 783 7232

Admission policy applies.