

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 20
18 July 2025

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.

Final Goodbyes

Today, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. Many of them have been with us since Nursery and it has been a privilege to watch them grow, learn and flourish over the years. We know they will continue to make their families and all of us proud as they move on to the next exciting chapter in their education at secondary school.

Their final weeks at primary school have been filled with memorable moments: an incredible performance of *The Jungle Book* at the MAC, ice cream treats, their last ever primary sports day, the Year 6 Charity Fun Day, and, today, a beautiful and emotional outdoor Leavers' Mass.

We wish each and every one of our Year 6 children all the happiness and success in the world. You will be missed, but never forgotten.



While she asked that this newsletter not be about her, it would be impossible to end the year without acknowledging the retirement of our Headteacher, Miss Cowings. Miss Cowings' unwavering dedication, commitment and passion for the children and families of St. Bernadette's over the last 20 years as Headteacher and the 16 years I've had the privilege to work alongside her has been truly inspiring. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion, excellence and integrity that will forever be part of the fabric of our school.

As a special tribute, the children created a beautiful mosaic of the Angel of the North as a lasting reminder of the care, strength and guidance she has brought to our community. It has taken pride of place in our school hall, where it will stand as a daily reminder of her belief in every child and her love for St. Bernadette's.



We also say fond farewells to four much loved members of staff: Mrs. Shavley, Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Robbins and Mrs. O'Brien. Each of them has contributed so much to our school community. Their care, kindness and commitment have made a lasting impact on the children and staff alike. They will be greatly missed and always remembered as part of the St. Bernadette's family.

We also send our very best wishes to Mrs. Kidner and Mrs. Jones, who will not be returning in September as they begin their maternity leave over the summer. We are so excited for both of them as they start this wonderful new chapter, and we look forward to hearing their happy news in the months ahead. Wishing you both lots of love, rest, and joy in the days to come!

As I step into the role of Headteacher, I do so with deep respect and gratitude for all that Miss Cowings has built. I am committed to continuing her work and building upon the strong foundations she has laid. Together with the dedicated staff team at St. Bernadette's, I look forward to helping our school continue to flourish as we live out our mission to *'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'*.

We will always welcome Miss Cowings back with open arms and hope she, like many of our much-loved retirees, will continue to visit offering her kindness and wisdom that have shaped our school."

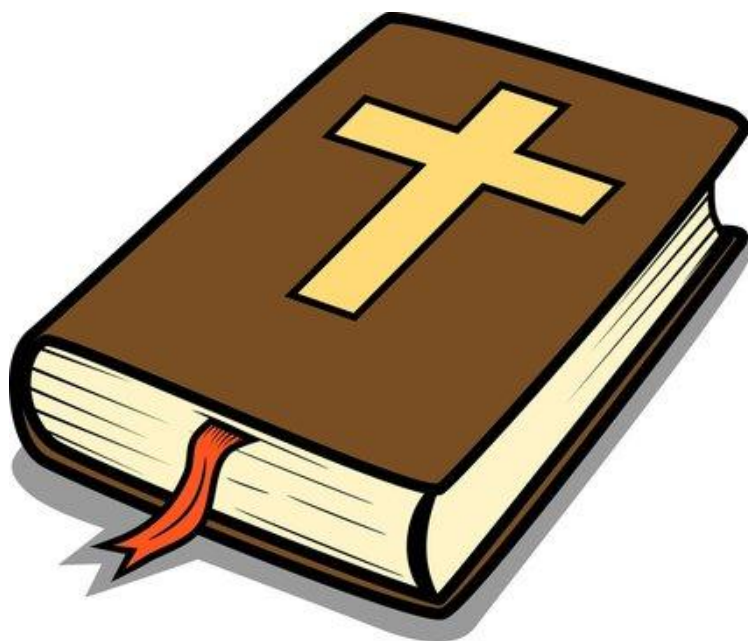
Wishing everyone a joyful and restful summer and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 2nd September.

The Gospel of St. Luke will be shared with us at mass
on Sunday this week Luke 10:38-42

Mary and Martha

While Jesus and His followers were traveling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house. Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him teach. Martha became angry because she had so much work to do. She went in and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me!"

But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are getting worried and upset about too many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will never be taken away from her."



Diary Dates



Monday 1st September

Inset day – school closed to all pupils

Tuesday 2nd September

School open to children

Wednesday 3rd September

Year 1 Welcome Meeting 9am

Thursday 4th September

Year 2 Welcome Meeting 9am

Friday 5th September

Reception Welcome Meeting 9am

Feast day of St. Teresa of Calcutta 6CB to wear own clothes

Monday 8th September

Year 3 Welcome Meeting 9am

Tuesday 9th September

Year 4 Welcome Meeting 9am

Wednesday 10th September

Whole School Mass (Year 1 – Year 6)

Thursday 11th September

Year 5 Welcome Meeting 9am

Year 4 at the EcoPark

Forest School - The Hub

Friday 12th September

Year 6 Welcome Meeting 9am

Head Boy and Girl elections

The New Academic Year

All children will return to school on Tuesday 2nd September to begin their new school year.

There will be a Welcome meeting for every year band in early September which parents should make every effort to attend. At this meeting the staff in your child's year band will share with you the curriculum coverage for the year and the dates of any important events that will take place in school.

Birthday Celebrations

We are introducing a new way for children to celebrate their birthdays at school! On their birthday (or as close as possible if it falls on a weekend or during half term), children will be allowed to wear their own clothes to school. As part of the celebration, children are also welcome to donate a birthday book to their class if they wish. This is a lovely way to mark the occasion and help build our class libraries.

Please note that we kindly ask families not to bring in sweets or treats, as we need to be mindful of dietary requirements and allergies.



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 0121 303 1888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker.

End of Year reports

By now all parents should have received their child's end of year report as well as SATs results if your child is in Year 2 or Year 6. If you have not received a report please contact enquiry@stbernards.bham.sch.uk



TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR

September 2025 - July 2026

The summer holidays provide an excellent opportunity for our children to rest, recharge, and engage in activities they enjoy. While it's important to take a break from formal learning, I encourage our pupils to keep their minds active through reading, exploring new hobbies, or participating in local community events. The dates for the new academic year can be seen below. The diary dates for the year will be sent out with the first newsletter in September.

		End of Half Term Holiday School closed		End of Term Holiday School Closed	Inset Days and Bank Holidays School closed for children
Autumn Term 2025	Monday 1 st September to Friday 24 th October	Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October	Monday 3 rd November to Friday 19 th December	Monday 22 nd December to Friday 2 nd January	Inset: Monday 1 st September Inset: Wednesday 3 rd December
Spring Term 2026	Monday 5 th January to Friday 13 th February	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February	Monday 23 rd February to Friday 27 th March 2026	Monday 30 th March 2026 to Friday 10 th April 2026	Inset: Monday 5 th January
Summer Term 2026	Monday 13 th April to Friday 22 nd May	Monday 25 th May 2026 to Friday 29 th May 2026	Monday 1 st June 2026 to Friday 17 th July 2026	Monday 20 th July 2026 to Monday 31 st August 2026	Bank holiday: Monday 4 th May Inset: Friday 22 nd May Inset: Monday 20 th July*

After School Clubs

The following clubs start in September 2025 - Please see www.parentpay.com for more information.
The Clubs will commence the week beginning 8th September and run until the last week of the Autumn term (the last clubs will be Thursday 18th December.)

Monday

KSI Football
KS2 Dodgeball

Tuesday

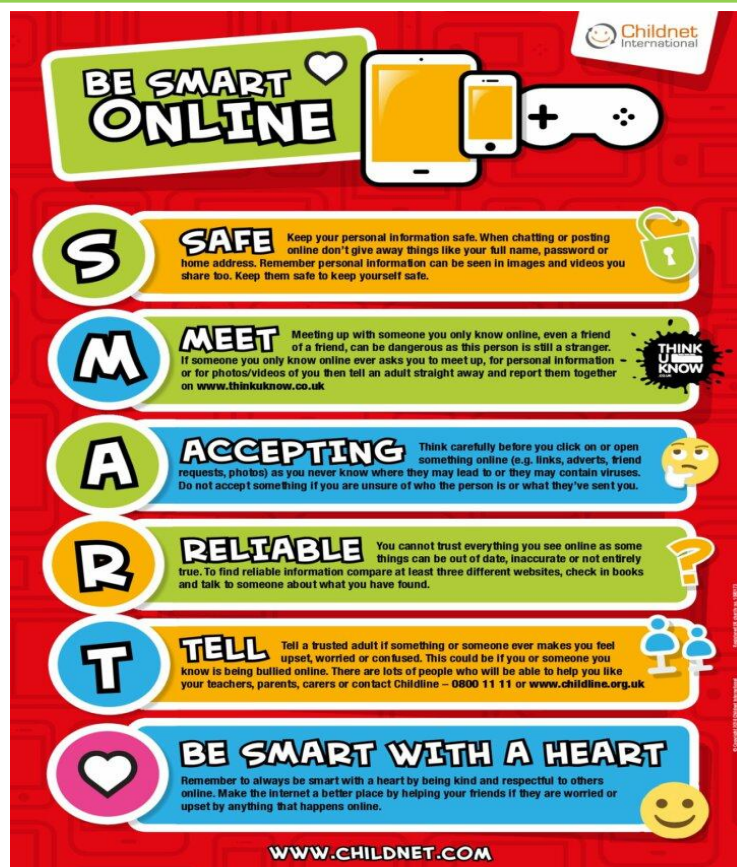
KSI Dance
Y3/4 Football

Wednesday

KSI Gym after school
KS2 Gym before school

Thursday

KS2 Dance
Y5/6 Football



Summer Computing Competition

Children across school are invited to design a SMART Rules poster for the school website.
This can be done using Microsoft Word or on a sheet of A4 paper. All entries must be handed into their class teacher by Friday 5th September. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Mrs. Taylor



We are delighted to introduce Mrs Taylor, who will be joining us in September as our new SENCo, taking over from Mrs Canning, who has been supporting us in the role on an interim basis.

Mrs Taylor has already spent some time in school this half term, getting to know our pupils, staff and families, and familiarising herself with the needs of many of our children. She has also had the opportunity to meet some parents already and is looking forward to working closely with all of you from September.

To help you get to know her, Mrs Taylor will be attending the welcome meetings at the start of term, as well as joining the Compass coffee morning on **Wednesday 18th September**. She will be happy to answer any questions and looks forward to building positive relationships with families as she settles into her new role.

From September, you can contact Mrs Taylor directly by emailing sendco@stberns.bham.sch.uk.

We are sure you will join us in giving her a warm welcome!

School uniform

Please remember that when we return in September the children should be in their full winter uniform. The children are able to wear a grey skirt or pinafore, or straight legged grey trousers. All children should return to school in a long sleeved formal shirt, wearing a school tie and a grey V-necked sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo. Sensible black school shoes should be worn. (The children in Nursery should wear a white polo shirt and a red round necked sweatshirt with the school logo).

Children will not be permitted to wear earrings or jewellery of any kind, with the exception of a watch. Every child should also bring their school PE kit into school on the first day back. This should include a pair of black shorts, a white round necked t-shirt and a pair of black pumps. Their PE bag will remain in school for the half term. If we are lucky enough in September to have some hot days, parents will be notified by text that children can revert to their summer uniform.

Uniform On ParentPay

As stated on the letter we sent to parents and carers at the end of May, uniform will be available to purchase on ParentPay at a discounted price from next week and can be collected from school on Monday 1st September. Please see ParentPay for more information.

School tie	£5.00
Elasticated school tie	£5.00
Grey v neck jumpers with school logo	£12.00
Grey cardigans with the school logo	£12.00
Book bags for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	£6.99

School of Sanctuary Status

We are incredibly proud to share that on Tuesday 15th July, St. Bernadette's was officially awarded the School of Sanctuary award! This national recognition celebrates schools that are committed to being safe, welcoming places for all—especially those seeking sanctuary. It reflects our ongoing work to create an inclusive environment where every child feels valued, respected, and supported, regardless of their background or circumstances. A huge thank you goes to all our children, staff, and parents who have contributed to this achievement through their compassion, understanding, and commitment to inclusion.

Special thanks must go to Miss Corkery, who has worked incredibly hard to help us achieve this award—liaising with organisations, staff, and children, and regularly sharing our progress through the school newsletter.

A very special thank you goes to Miss Cowings, who has been the driving force behind this project. What a wonderful way to mark her final week at St. Bernadette's. She leaves behind a lasting legacy that will continue to make a difference for years to come.



School of Sanctuary Update

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

Matt 25:35

We Imagine...

We imagine because we want to be happy
Because we want to create the sweetest story
From imagination comes a smile
But sometimes from imagination comes a tear.

We imagine to dream when we are not sleeping
We imagine to search inside the sea
To run away from our daily routine
To escape from our reality

We imagine because we cannot change the past
But we can change ourselves
We imagine so the future becomes part of our past
And our past becomes part of a new future
Imagination is not yesterday talk.

We imagine because we can catch what we cannot live
We already know the smell of the world.

We imagine because we want it to happen
And it motivates us to reach our dreams
We imagine to draw designs in our mind
And whatever picture we can see, we can approach it
We imagine because it can build ideas, and build new realities
We can imagine because we can make it come true

We imagine because we are looking for something better
For ourselves and for the world
We imagine that we need to fix what happened in the real world
When we need to build a new world

We imagine because we need to listen to our footsteps

We imagine because it helps us to survive.



Haymillscs Summer Fair

Saturday 19th July 2-4pm

Raj's Samosas, DreamBakes
Bumble Bees Jewellery, Jays Fidgets
Brain Blaster Slushies, Princess Ash Gifts
Beauty and the Sweet ,Tombola,
Face painting by Yumi Arts , Toy stall,
Summer stall, Mystery Bags
Raffle Hampers and More

£1 entry per adult kids free

All welcome

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Haymillscs.co.uk

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