

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 17
6 June 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.

Reminder

Nursery is closed to all Nursery children on Friday 4th July, so alternative childcare arrangements will need to be made.

The Gospel of St. John will be shared with us at mass on Sunday this week.

John 20:19-23



Jesus Appears to His Followers

It was the first day of the week. That evening Jesus' followers were together. The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the Jews. Then Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. His followers were very happy when they saw the Lord.

Then Jesus said again, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, I now send you." After He said this, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Our Young Disciple has written this week's reflection.

Jesus our Lord is always with us, nothing can stop His love reaching us. Jesus loves us and will always comfort us. He even died for us. We should show we are thankful by being kind, forgiving and loving in our own lives, just like Jesus sent His followers to share His love and the Good News.



Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for:

Mr Wayne

Miss Corkery

The father of Sarim

Nancy

Ayah

Taylor-Dee and family



Nancy – Year 1

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news about Nancy, who will be completing her final chemotherapy treatment this Saturday. Over the past couple of years, Nancy has shown incredible bravery and resilience throughout her journey, inspiring all who know her. To celebrate this remarkable milestone, Year 1 will be hosting a special party for Nancy on Friday of next week. We send our heartfelt congratulations and continued best wishes to Nancy and her family.



Transition Day

It is transition day on 1st and 2nd July. This is when the children meet their new teachers. More information will be added to the next newsletter.

On Tuesday 1st July, the children who are in Nursery will attend Nursery as normal. They will meet their new teachers in the Nursery setting. If your child is not attending our Reception, they can still attend Nursery as normal on Tuesday 1st July.

Nursery is closed to all Nursery children on Friday 4th July, so alternative childcare arrangements will need to be made.

Nursery Places for 2025–2026

We have a limited number of full-time spaces available in our Nursery for the 2025–2026 academic year. Please contact the school office for more information.

Spaces are filling up quickly, so don't delay!

Diary Dates



Sunday 8th June

Pentecost

Monday 9th June

Phonics screening this week

4RW and 1/2 of 4AMJ out at Wroxeter

Yr 6 first aid training

Emotional Regulation Workshop for Year 6 Parents

(sign up via ParentPay)

Tuesday 10th June

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Yr 5 first aid training

Wednesday 11th June

Yr 3 and 4 football team at Sedgemere after school

Thursday 12th June

Year 6 at the EcoPark

Year 5 camp meeting for parents at 2:45pm

Friday 13th June

Feast of St Anthony of Padua (6ZB to wear own clothes)

Condoover Hall meeting for parents of children who are in Yr 2 at 1:15pm

Father's Day Games – Nursery and Reception at 9-10am

Sunday 15th June

Father's Day

Monday 16th June

4LK and 1/2 of 4AMJ out at Wroxeter

Tuesday 17th June

2.00 pm - New Reception Parents

2.45pm Clive Mark Uniform sale in school

Matt Goodfellow (author) in school

Wednesday 18th June

EYFS Mass in school at 9am – parents invited

Guide Dogs in school (EYFS and Yr5 and 6)

Thursday 19th June

National Refugee Day

Tuesday 24th June

4RW Eco Retreat

Yr 5 and 6 football team at Sedgemere after school

Wednesday 25th June

Year 5 Mass in school at 9.00 am – parents invited

4AMJ Eco Retreat

Thursday 26th June

Year 3 - Confession

4KL Eco Retreat

Girl's football team at Sedgemere after school

Friday 27th June

Feast of St Peter & Paul (3CK to wear own clothes)

Stay & Pray - Reception & Nursery 9am

9.30 am - Whole School Mass (not Reception)

Hub trip to the farm

Saturday 28th June

9.30 am – First Holy Communion



St Anthony of Padua

On Friday 13th June, 6ZB will be celebrating their class saint. Born in Portugal in 1195 to a wealthy family, St Anthony felt called to the priesthood from a young age and chose a life of poverty. At 15, he began his studies in Lisbon and later joined the Franciscan order, changing his name to Anthony. While travelling to Morocco, he became seriously ill and was forced to return home. A storm diverted his ship to Sicily, where he was asked unexpectedly to preach. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, his powerful words left a lasting impression.

One day, his cherished book of sermons was stolen. After praying for its return, the thief not only brought it back but joined the Franciscan order—an event considered a miracle. Because of this, St Anthony is known as the patron saint of lost and stolen items. His feast day is celebrated on 13th June.

Prayer to St. Anthony

Dear St. Anthony, please come around: something is lost, and it cannot be found.

Amen

Milk 2025 – 2026

The Department of Health and Social Care provides children under 5 in our Nursery and Reception with a carton of milk every school day.

Due to a price increase from the dairy, we will no longer be offering paid milk from September 2025. However, children in Nursery and Reception will continue to receive a free, daily carton of milk as usual.



Phonics Screening Check Week Beginning Monday 9th June

Phonics screening, for children in Year 1 and those children in Year 2 who are resitting, will take place during the week beginning 9th June. **Please ensure all children are in school this week.**

If you would like to find out more about the screening, click here

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/year-1-phonics-screening-check/>

First Holy Communion



The children in Year 3 will be receiving the very special sacrament of the Eucharist when they make their First Holy Communion.

The date for Holy Communion which will take place at Holy Family Church is:

Saturday 28th June at 9:30am

Friday 4th July at 9:00am there will be a Going Forth Mass in school for all of the children in Year 3. Parents are invited to attend this Mass. The children should wear their Holy Communion dresses and sashes in school for this very special celebration. The photographer will be in to take photos.

Year 6 Transition and Wellbeing Workshops

As part of our transition support for Year 6, pupils will be taking part in a series of workshops delivered by Compass, focusing on preparing for secondary school and managing change. These sessions are designed to help children build confidence, develop coping strategies, and explore their feelings about moving on.

In addition, pupils will also attend a cyberbullying awareness workshop, helping them understand how to stay safe and respectful online as they grow more independent.

Pentecost – Sunday 8th June

The word Pentecost is Greek and it means '50th day.' Fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and the beginning of their Earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations and spread the Good News.

On Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, they were granted the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts helped them to fulfil their mission to preach the Good News to all.



So, how can we be disciples of Jesus and spread the Good News?

- Become closer to Our Heavenly Father through prayer and let His light and joy shine within us.
- Fill our hearts with love for others, strive to emulate the Love of Christ and have compassion for others.
- Talk about our faith with others.
- Trust the Lord.

Why don't you join Fr. Fretch at Mass on **Sunday 8th June at 10:30am** to celebrate Pentecost? He would love to see you there!

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 and Miss Cowings and they will be happy to support any parents in this process should they be required.

Condover Hall 2026 – Parent Information Meeting

If your child is currently in Year 2 and will be moving to Year 3 in September, there will be a meeting for parents about the Year 3 residential trip to Condover Hall on **Friday 13th June at 1:15pm**.

We look forward to sharing more details with you then.



Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

Congratulations to these children who have recently achieved their Gold Stars which means they know and can quickly recall all of their times-tables up to 12 x 12

Jumana	Y2
Philip	Y2

Well done to our amazing mathematicians in Year 2

Gleaming Gold badges
this week in Year 2.

Congratulations go to

Ali	Y2
Ynanna	Y2
Umaima	Y2
Reyah	Y2
Ammar	Y2
Ibrahim	Y2

for completing 32
maths quizzes this year
and achieving their
Gleaming Gold. We are
incredibly proud of the
children.

Camp Meeting



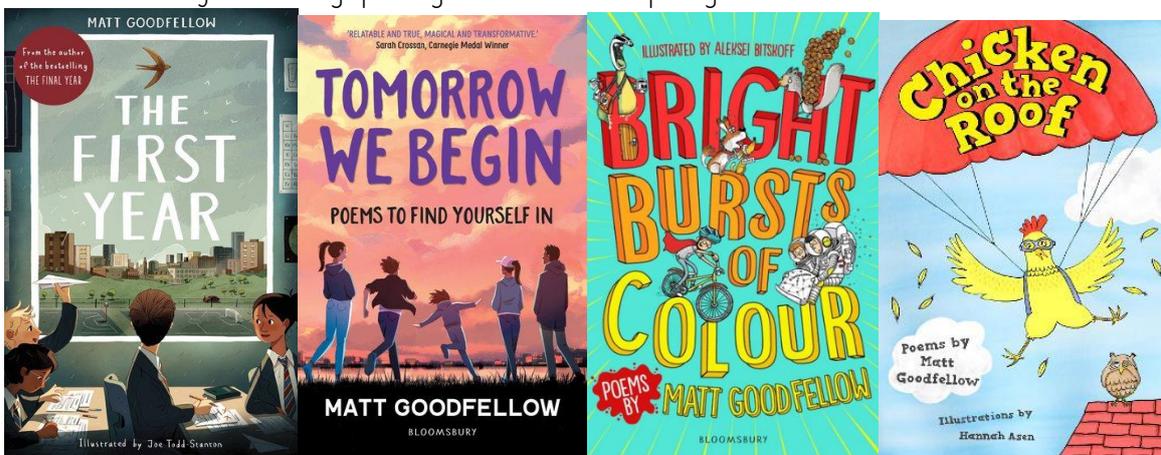
There will be a Year 5 camp meeting for parents on Thursday 12th June at 2:45pm. If your child is on this trip, it is essential that an adult attends the meeting to collect vital information for the trip. Any questions or queries will be answered at the meeting.

Author Visit



We are delighted to be welcoming Matt Goodfellow to school on **Tuesday 17th June**. Matt is the author of many successful books, including some texts that we now study in school. On the day Matt visits, he will have some time to sign copies of books that the children have; these must be books the children own from home.

Below is a list of some of the books we know the children would enjoy, there are many more and please feel free to send in any Matt Goodfellow book into school to be signed on the day. All books can be found on Amazon, or from well-known bookshops. We know the children will have a fabulous day spending time with such a prestigious author!



SPORTS DAY

Nursery	Friday 11 th July at 9:30am
Reception	Wednesday 16 th July at 9:30am
Year 1	Monday 14 th July at 9:30am
Year 2	Monday 14 th July at 1:30pm
Year 3	Tuesday 15 th July at 9:30am
Year 4	Tuesday 15 th July at 1:30pm
Year 5	Thursday 10 th July at 9:30am
Year 6	Thursday 10 th July at 1:30pm

Sports Day events are subject to weather conditions. If the event needs to be rearranged or cancelled due to the weather, parents will be notified at the earliest convenience via text.

June – The Month of the Sacred Heart



June is widely recognised as the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus primarily because the solemnity of the Sacred Heart is celebrated during this month. This year, the solemnity falls on 27th June, the 19th day after Pentecost (a Friday), and the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary follows on the next day.



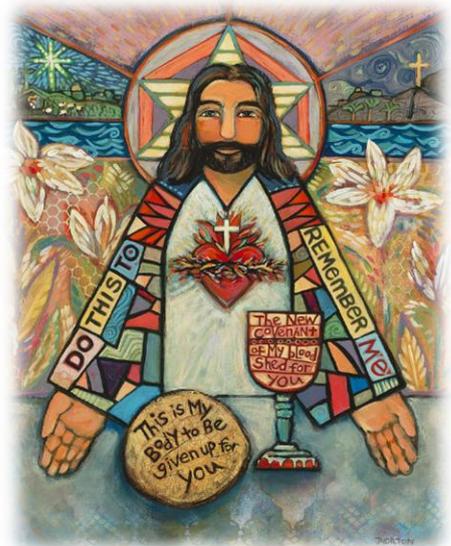
Both of these feasts use the heart as a symbol of love. The image of God's love is revealed in the pierced heart of His Son. It is the symbol of a love that conquers sin and transcends death, the symbol of the One who loved us to the end.

Love has always been associated with the heart, so it was only natural that the love of God became represented by a heart, the heart of His Son Jesus. In Him, God the Father revealed His infinite love for us.

"Open yourselves to this love and take it 'to the ends of the earth,' witnessing to the goodness and mercy that flow from the Heart of Jesus." – Pope Francis

What can we learn from reflecting on the Sacred Heart?

Jesus wants us to know that we can come to Him and our true rest is when we rest in Him. *How do we do this?* Prayer is our daily fuel and Jesus never wants us to feel burdened. Embrace the virtues of Jesus. Choosing to embrace the virtue of humility, to put aside arrogance, and to be kind and open to others. Welcome the presence of the Heart of Christ, entrusting your home to Him. Before the open heart of Jesus, we seek to draw from Him the true Love that our families need. We turn to the Heart of Jesus for healing and know that His MOST wounded heart is the source of healing and hope for all. Every person matters; there is hope for everyone to be transformed by Love. Strive for virtue, not fame or wealth. Virtue is the backbone of our holiness, and often progress in this area is very slow. The goal is that we don't backslide. So what virtues are like the Heart of Jesus? All the Christian Virtues flow from His Heart, in particular *faith, hope, and love.*





School of Sanctuary Update

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

Matt 25:35

Stories of Hope and Home is a charity that supports asylum seekers and refugees in Birmingham. They work hard to meet the needs of those they help, offering care and guidance to make life more settled and hopeful.

This week's poem is written by a refugee who has been supported by Stories of Hope and Home. It expresses the deep longing they feel for a dear friend far away, but in the final verse, they look ahead with hope for a new life—despite all they have been through.

My Dear Friend

My dear friend since I left you,
Have passed so many years.
Sitting in the kitchen, drinking tea
And analysing my life.

My dear friend...
Winter has come and my sadness sat in my heart
Spring came and flowers bloomed in my hair,
As always the summer is empty in my soul,
Flowers have not yet wilted in my memories.

My dear friend...
There was a loud laugh
And cheerful tones in my eyes.

But my dear friend...
I hung my soul on empty walls,
Like a frame waiting for an image
Longing and sadness in my soul has not gone anywhere.

My dear friend...
There is a blank page in front of me
My paint box is open again
I will make life colourful again.

Vocations Day at St. Bernadette's

Every year, St. Bernadette's holds a special 'Vocations Day' to inspire and inform our children, helping them evaluate their purpose in life and think deeply about their future.



As a Catholic school, we believe the most significant calling we hear is from God. We are called to be holy, to follow God in our lives and to use our God-given gifts in our work. As St. John Henry Newman beautifully stated, *"God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission."*



At St. Bernadette's, we understand that each of us is called by God. Through the sacrament of Baptism, we begin a journey towards God, becoming part of His family. Our vocation is further strengthened through the sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and confirmed in Confirmation.

We always encourage our children to reflect on their current personal vocation – how they are currently serving God in their classrooms, within our school, at home and in their communities. Through this reflection, we hope they recognise that their everyday actions are part of their vocation and their unique way of serving God.

This Vocations Day, our children learned about remarkable individuals of courage, linking their stories to the celebration of Pentecost. We reflected on how the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles to become people of immense courage, spreading the message of Christ despite great adversity. This spirit of bravery has continued through the ages, inspiring countless individuals to live out their vocations with faith and determination.

This Vocations Day, our children learned about remarkable individuals who are People of Hope, linking their stories to the Jubilee Year theme: Pilgrims of Hope.

Reception had an exciting visit from Freightliner! They learnt all about what can travel on trains and how furniture and food gets to our houses. Then, they found out how they can stay safe near train tracks and they even got to try on some special safety equipment! Thank you to Freightliner for such a fun session.



Thank you to all our visitors: Mr and Mrs Winters, who volunteer at St Chad's; Sue from Mary's Meals; Kerry from Blue Cross; Oliver from Freightliner; Chris from CAFOD; and Helen from Guide Dogs. We are so grateful for the time you gave and the inspiring messages you shared with our children.

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, 2SH, 3CK and 4KL for the best attendance in school.

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
91%	RSJ 92%	ICOT 96% 	2SH 96% 	3DA 94%	4RW 94%	5MF 94%	6CB 95%
	RCB 93%	IML/NL 94%	2EH 94%	3EG 94%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 95%	6LC 95%
	RLC 93%	IOB 94%	2EOB 95%	3CK 96% 	4KL 96% 	5FM 94%	6ZB 94%

Whole School Attendance	94%	Currently, the whole school attendance is 94% which is below the 96% that is expected.
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ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons

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)	Eden-Ronnie	Fantastic subertising.	Nursery (Red)	Orlaith	For trying her best to independently write CVC words using the correct letter formation.
Nursery (Green)	Eliana	For fabulous blending and writing of CVC words.	Nursery (Yellow)	Issac	For excellent phonics work and trying hard to write his CVC words.
RCB	Chester	For amazing independent writing this week. You have been working so hard!	3EG	Hugo	For contributing more often in RE lessons.
	Thuwaraka	For beautiful handwriting, you have worked so hard this year in Literacy!		Amelia	For always trying her hardest to contribute in class discussions and lessons.
vRLC	Zakariya	For being so helpful and a superstar when tidying up!	4AMJ	Marium	For trying in her best in every lesson.
	Tiana	For being so kind and caring towards all of RLC. Well done!		Shaydon	For his excellent effort in class lessons.
RSJ	Natalie	Outstanding progress in her independent writing. Well done!	4KL	Chloe	For working together so well and producing an excellent sonnet in English.
	Valentina	Amazing progress made with her name writing. Well done!		Michelle	For working together so well and producing an excellent sonnet in English.
ICOT	Adam	For excellent answers in Maths.	4RW	Cristin	For working together so well and producing an excellent sonnet in English.
	Ethan	For super answers in Maths.		Badar	For working together so well and producing an excellent sonnet in English.
IML/NL	Azmaeen	For always trying hard in lessons.	5CG	Carmel	For her quiet and consistent effort in all areas of the curriculum so far this year.
	Amelia	For making great progress with her writing.		Millie-Rae	For trying really hard in Maths especially with her timestables and adapting to her new group.
IOB	Leila-Mai	For settling into St Bernadette's so well!	5FM	Cole	For trying so hard in his English lessons.
	Riven	For his super effort in Phonics!		Inayah	For being a role model to all those around her!
2EH	Eve	For trying hard in her RE lessons.	5MF	Hennessey	For all her hard work in Maths this week.
	Bethany	For her fantastic effort in Maths.		Cathal	For pushing himself and not giving up!
2EOB	Maxwell	For being polite and helpful.	6CB	Blake Ryan	For excellent effort in dance rehearsals with Jade.
	Harper-Willow	For trying hard in English.		Faris Alahi	For great effort with learning his lines for production!
2SH	Azaan	For having a positive attitude to his learning and trying his very best.	6LC	Josh	For demonstrating superb subject knowledge and critical thinking in R.E.
	Ibrahim	For working incredibly hard in Maths.		Ma.ja	For looking after her teacher!
3CK	Nancy	For a super effort in maths lessons.	6ZB	Isla Melvina	For brightening up the classroom with her positivity!
	Jiyon	For always being a fantastic role model.		Arianna	For her unbelievable effort with production!
3DA	Hadassah	Her excellent answers in RE			
	Mark Joseph	Always sharing his great ideas in lesson.			

Dear St Bernadette's,

We are extremely grateful for your donation of £1677.69 and all the enthusiasm your school has put into fundraising for us.

We hope that you can display this card on your notice board for everyone to see how grateful we all are.

It is truly inspirational that the students and pupils of the archdiocese play such an important part in ensuring our work continues and across our five main themes of Homelessness, Disability, Refugees, Migrants, Family Support and Older People. Especially this year as we celebrate the year of Pilgrims of Hope.



While Fundraising is Vital, it is also important that the children and young people learn what catholic social teaching is all about and what is happening in their community.

Thank you again from everyone at Father Hudson's Caritas and on behalf of all the different people we support.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Hateley'.

Kevin Hateley

Head of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing

We warmly welcome you to attend our
EYFS Mass.

Please join us on Wednesday 18th June
at 9:00am

Reception and Nursery parents only

Report to the main office once you have
dropped your child off.



Phonics Guidance for EYFS Parents

Monday 9th June 9-9.30AM-Infant Hall
(Parents/Carers only)

If your child is currently in **Nursery** or **Reception**, they will be taking part in daily phonics lessons, following the Read Write Inc. Scheme.

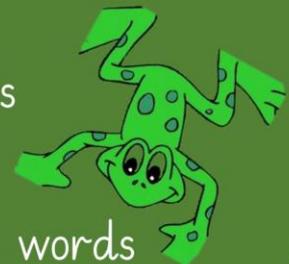
Most of us were taught to read in different ways, leading to some confusion for our children when letter sounds are recited differently at home than they are taught at school.

It is really important that letter sounds are pronounced accurately in order to provide our children with the best possible start to their reading journey.



Please join me (Mrs Rainey) in a quick phonics session where I will be demonstrating ways in which you can further support your child. I will cover:

- The correct pronunciation of letter sounds
- Age Related Expectations
- Supporting your child with reading simple words



The EYFS Father's Day Games!

Nursery and Reception-You are invited to join us for a morning of sports activity fun with your child to celebrate Father's Day on:

Friday 13th June 9-10AM



£3 per ticket
(via ParentPay)

Refreshments
available to
purchase



Dad's/Uncle's
/Grandad's/
Brother's or
other grown-
ups are
welcome to
join! (One
adult per
child)



All money
raised will be
donated to
our EYFS
charity:
**Save the
Children**





Ward End Fire Station OPEN DAY

22nd June 2025 11 am – 3 pm

Come and join in the fun!

Cakes

Friends

GROUPS

Fun

Face
Painting
&
DJ

Games
&
Demo's

Rides

VR
headsets



Refreshments

Stalls

Fun
activities

Safety advice

Community
stands



Come and meet your local firefighters and see our fire engines!



WMFS

West Midlands
Fire Service



Unity Hub



Ward End Fire Station,
Washwood Heath Road, B8 2HF

www.wmfs.net @WestMidsFire