

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

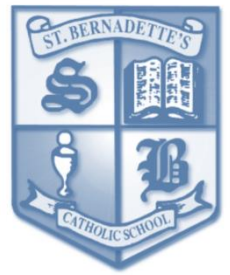
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Newsletter 5  
11 November 2024

*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.*

## This Sunday's Gospel Reading

**Gospel:** Mark 12:38-44

As he taught them, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the Law, who like to walk around in their long robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplace, who choose the reserved seats in the synagogues and the best places at feasts. They take advantage of widows and rob them of their homes, and then make a show of saying long prayers. Their punishment will be all the worse!"

As Jesus sat near the temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on."



## Gospel Reflection

Jesus was watching people putting money in the collection box at the synagogue. He saw some rich people putting in lots of money. Then he saw a widow, who was poor, putting in two small coins, the same as a penny.

What did Jesus say to the disciples about the woman?

Jesus said that she had put in more money than all the other people put together. The woman had given only two small coins and the others had given lots of money so what do you think Jesus meant?

The woman gave everything that she had. While the people who had lots of money just gave a little bit of what they had left over.

Which do you think Jesus would like us to be more like, the poor widow or the rich people? Why?

Jesus wants us to be generous and to share what we have with others. This is hard but we need to think – are we holding on to more than we need, like the rich people in Jesus' story? Could we give a bit more or have we shared all that we can?

Jesus also shows us in this reading that everyone has something that they can give, even if at first it does not look like much.

We can give money, but we can also give other things too. Can you think what else we can give and share with others? We can give our time – by listening to others, by being there for them when they are sad or worried. And we can give our talents – for example you could sing a song, or paint a picture, or make someone laugh.

Can you think of something that you can give and share with others?

## Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for:

The mother of Mason and Killean (Y1 and Reception)

The mother of George (Year 4)

Miss O'Toole and family

Erin (Y4) & Orlaith (Nursery) & family



## First Holy Communion Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

The children in Year 3 will be making sacramental preparations throughout this academic year and will make their First Confession at Holy Family Church on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 4.30pm. They will then make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am. Parents and children are invited into school for the first meeting on **13<sup>th</sup> November at 5.00pm**. Families must show a commitment, if the children are to receive the sacraments later this year.



## Enrolment Mass

On **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**, children from Year 6 who will be confirmed later this term and children from Year 3 receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist, are asked to attend an enrolment mass at Holy Family Church at 10.30am. Further details will follow at the parent meetings.

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

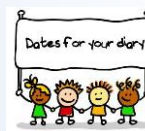
Open sessions for parents of children who would like to consider St Bernadette's for a Nursery/Reception place in September 2025.

Tuesday 10 December 2024 – 10am

Friday 10 January 2025 – 10am

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

## Diary Dates



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

Remembrance Sunday

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Remembrance Day

10.45 Remembrance Assembly

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

9.00 am – KS2 Mass

First Holy Communion meeting 5pm

for parents of Year 3

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

Reception and Nursery Parents viewing of Nursery

Rhyme Crafts

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 3 and Year 6 enrolment mass Holy Family

Church 10.30am

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Stay & Play – Nursery

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 4 Mass

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

9.00 am – Rec Fine Motor & Handwriting

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Feast of St Cecilia (5FM)

Year 5 – Stay & Pray

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

9.00 am – Family photographs

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Parents' Evening – English

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Parents' Evening – English

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

1.00 pm – Advent Service

St Andrew's Day (for 30<sup>th</sup> – 50p – all to wear blue or white)

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

St Andrew's Day

## Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of any child in school, you should call children's services on 303 1888.

Concerns can be raised anonymously.

## Stay and Pray



### Stay and Pray – Nursery

Parents of children in Nursery are invited to join the year band in prayer on the morning of **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. The session will begin promptly in Nursery at 8.45am and conclude at 9.05am. It would be great to have as many parents as possible to join us in prayer that morning.

### Rosary Art Competition

*Thank you to all the children who took part in our Rosary art competition! All children were awarded with a special certificate. Well done to S who came 1st, M who came 2nd and M who was award 3rd place. The range of art work was amazing! Look out for the next art competition in December.*



## Key Stage 2 Mass

On Wednesday of last week, we had our Key Stage Two mass in school. It was a beautiful celebration and the children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 were exceptionally prayerful and reverent. We would like to thank the parents who joined us for this very special mass as well as Fr Fretch. Well done to all of our readers, cantors and altar servers as well as all of the children for their incredible singing. Thank you to Mr Baker for preparing the Hymns and our singers. During the mass we prayed for peace around the world and especially remembered those who have died in our families and in our St Bernadette's community as well as those who sacrificed so much for us in times of war. We also prayed for the soul of Mr O'Toole, father of Miss O'Toole who died recently. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed, rest in peace. Amen. We pray for Miss O'Toole and her family that they may be comforted by God's love.

## Super Science

Our super science briefcases are here! We are inviting children in in Y1, 2 and 3 to complete spectacular science experiments at home which they can document in the book within the science briefcase for their peers to see. This exciting opportunity will foster a love and interest for science whilst increasing their knowledge of scientific phenomenon around them. Please speak to your child's class teacher about more information regarding the science suitcases if you have been selected.



## Year 5 Camp Residential

Every year, we take Year 5 children on a camping residential to Wales. It is a fantastic experience and for many children, their first experience of camping and being by the sea. This year, the school will once again be running this trip but we need to replace some of the tents that we have as they are quite old now. As you can appreciate, this is expensive and we always strive to keep the cost of the trip to the bare minimum to ensure that as many children as possible can take part. Therefore, **we are making a plea to any companies who may like to help us!** So if you have a company/work for a company who may like to donate some money towards this amazing experience for our children, we would be extremely grateful.



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.

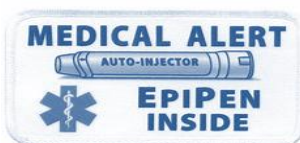
### Data Checking and Consent Form

Please ensure that you have returned the data checking and consent form to school, if you have not done so already. Staff in school are very busy and do not have time to keep chasing those whose forms have not been returned. If consent forms are not returned it will be assumed that consent has not been given and your child may miss out on curriculum activities such as local visits etc. Therefore, it is in your child's best interests to ensure these forms are returned as soon as possible.

### Medicines in School



Please remember that if your child is asthmatic, they should have an inhaler in school. Parents must ensure that inhalers are in date and replaced when needed. We also have a number of children in school who have allergies, some of whom require an epipen. These do have a limited shelf life and do need replacing from time to time. If a member of staff has called to ask you to send in some new medication, please act swiftly, your child's life could be in danger if we do not have the correct medication in school.



### Inclement 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.



### Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

The following child will be receiving her Gold Star after completing all of her times tables:

Sara	Y5
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She has demonstrated that she is able to recall all of her multiplication facts quickly, something which children rely on heavily in their maths lessons. Well done

## Nursery Rhyme Week

The children in Nursery and Reception will be celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – 15<sup>th</sup> November**. Nursery rhymes are extremely valuable to support language and communication skills, build confidence and prepare children for reading and writing as they get older. Opportunities to hear, learn, and sing rhymes and songs have been missed for many children due to the pandemic. Nursery Rhyme Week is an excellent opportunity to introduce these activities as regular practice.

We are inviting the children across Nursery and Reception to create their own Nursery Rhyme craft, representing any rhyme of your choice. Parents will be invited into school on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, at 3pm**, to view these wonderful crafts. Here are some example crafts which we hope can offer you some inspiration. **Entries must be handed in by Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November.**



*Did you know...*

*Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight. -*

*Mem Fox, Reading Magic.*

*For more information, visit: <https://www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com/>*



## Remembrance Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

On Remembrance Day everyone in Britain is asked to remember the sacrifices made by others during times of war. The special day is also known as Remembrance Sunday because it falls on the second Sunday of November.

### Origins of Remembrance Day

[World War I](#) ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918. The first day of remembrance took place one year later, on November 11, 1919. It was called Armistice Day (an armistice is a peace agreement). After [World War II](#) it was renamed Remembrance Day to include everyone who had died in both world wars. Today, people remember those who died in all wars.

### The Cenotaph

The Cenotaph in London is a stone monument that is the focus of the nation's Remembrance Day events. Its name means "empty tomb." It was built to commemorate the ending of World War I. It was unveiled in 1920. A simple inscription on the stone reads "The Glorious Dead." Many other cities, towns, and even villages now have cenotaphs to commemorate the local people who died in wars.

### Two-Minute Silence

On November 7, 1919, King George V announced that a two-minute silence should be observed, "so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead." The two-minute silence is observed by the nation every year at 11 AM on Remembrance Day.

### The Poppy

Poppies are delicate red flowers with tissue-like petals that grow wild in fields and hedgerows. In 1915 a Canadian doctor named John McCrae wrote a poem called "In Flanders Fields," about the poppies that grew in battlefields where men had died. Today poppies have become a symbol for the loss of life and suffering during war. Paper poppies are made by disabled ex-servicemen and servicewomen. They are sold in the lead-up to Remembrance Day to raise money to help British people who served their nation.

### Remembrance Day in Other Countries

People in Australia, Canada, France, and the United States also honour veterans on a day in November. Canada and Australia also call the day Remembrance Day. It is Armistice Day in France and [Veterans Day](#) in the United States.

We will be holding our Remembrance Day assembly as a school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11am where we join with people around the UK and stop and remember during 2 minutes of silence.



## School of Sanctuary



In support of our School of Sanctuary Award over the next few weeks, we would like to share with you some of the stories from the staff about migration. Mrs Docker has written the story about how her mum and dad came to live in England. While these are not stories of asylum seekers or refugees, the stories give us an idea of what it is like to have to start a new life in a new country. As a Catholic School we would fully

embrace any new arrivals no matter what their story or past. Although the Award is about enforced migration we can relate to each other better if we respect our differences. These could be from our customs including the type of food we eat, our first language or where we worship. The aim of achieving our award is to help people live in safety with a sense of belonging where they can thrive and live with dignity as well as contributing so much to our society. Our display in the entrance hall of school shows a map of the world and identifies the many countries around the world that our pupils and their families originate from. We are very blessed to have such a varied and diverse school community with a wealth and range of different experiences, customs and religions.

We hope you enjoy Mrs Docker's story:



"It is with total pride and an honour that I can share my own family's migration story with you today. My mum had spent a privileged and very happy childhood growing up on the family farm in Galway Ireland where she was educated at a convent school and recalls such beautiful and simple tales of her life delivering eggs to neighbours on her push bike and travelling to mass on a horse and cart. My dad's mother died when he was a baby and life was difficult as his father was left with 13 children to rear single-handedly. My dad often tells us how he had to walk to school (which he went to until age 14-) without shoes. Mum and Dad chose to independently leave their beloved Ireland just like so many of their family and friends. The boat journey over to Liverpool was so daunting as they recalled how they had never stepped foot out of their own home place. Like so many young Irish, they left with a suitcase, their strong faith and beautiful values and a strong work ethic believing that England could offer them a bright future and most importantly employment. After a long and lonesome journey, the boat arrived in Liverpool port and it was there they called home. Although greeted with signs that said 'No Irish need apply', they both recalled how they were quickly helped by other Irish people and managed to get rooms. My dad ended up in a shared house where there were many men sharing a room and my mum lived with her elder sister (who had left Ireland a few years earlier) and helped her settle in. They soon found a circle of other people who were in the same situation as themselves - missing home, feeling unwanted at times and struggling to make a life for themselves. The resilience that they showed was incredible. Armed with their faith and a determined work ethic they made their way and secured work in a factory and enjoyed meeting up with fellow Irish at dances. Eventually Birmingham, with jobs in the car factories seemed the next step to an even more positive future. They often told us how Oxford Road in Acocks Green (which became their home for 60 years) was known as Little Ireland as every house had Irish families living in it. We are incredibly proud of our mum and dad who left their home country in order to build a better life. We were so fortunate to have had so many opportunities, a fantastic education and although we had very little money at times, we knew we were loved, we knew we were safe and we were taught beautiful values- to treat all people with respect and never forget your roots as well as knowing that where there is a will there is a way. This is a faith and a belief which I am proud to share at St Bernadette's today. It is fitting that on their headstone it says, "they asked for so little but gave so much."

# 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 IML/NL, 4KL for the best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done RSJ 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 95% 	ICOT 95%	2SH 91%	3DA 88%	4RW 91%	5MF 95%	6CB 92%
	RCB 90%	IML/NL 96% 	2EH 88%	3EG 93%	4AMJ 93%	5CG 94%	6LC 93%
	RLC 92%	IOB 88%	2EO 93%	3CK 95%	4KL 97% 	5FM 90%	6ZB 96%

Whole School Attendance	<b>92%</b>	Currently, the whole school attendance is <b>92%</b> which is below the <b>96%</b> 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	Ava RSJ	Idrees RSJ	Thuwaraka RCB	Zayn RCB	Ahad RLC	Joann RLC
Year 1	Miriam IOB	Karthi IOB	Elsie-Rae ICOT	Archie ICOT	Norah IML	Christel IML
Year 2	Scarlett Rose 2SH	Reylin 2SH	Jax 2EOB	Finley 2EOB	Aodhan 2EH	Adobea 2EH
Year 3	MJ 3DA	Emily-Rose 3DA	Chester 3CK	Malachi 3CK	Ihsan 3EG	Zaydeen 3EG
Year 4	Amelia B 4KL	Beyon 4KL	Gracie 4AMJ	Halima 4AMJ	Tehya 4RW	Micah 4RW
Year 5	Sara 5FM	Marcus 5FM	Iga 5CG	Olivia 5CG	Charlotte 5MF	Jawad 5MF
Year 6	Zoey 6LC	Sonny 6LC	Eleanor 6CB	Anne 6CB	Lily 6ZB	Artemisia 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)	Arian	Wonderful bonfire picture.	Nursery (Red)	Joseph	For learning to put on his coat independently.
Nursery (Green)	Morolaoluwa	Super scissor skills.	Nursery (Yellow)	Laila-Grace	For perfectly participating in our science experiment and remembering the meaning of 'diffusion'. Well done, Laila!
RCB	Ibrahim	For being kind and compassionate to his friends at play times.	3EG	Reah	For always answering questions enthusiastically.
	Anayah	For working hard to write sentences in Literacy!		Jesuloba	For always answering questions enthusiastically.
RLC	Joann	For drawing beautiful pictures of her family in RE.	4AMJ	Aaira	For trying her best in Science with Mrs Docker.
	Ahad	For trying his best at writing his sounds in Literacy!		Shaydon	For reading so reverently in our class prayer service.
RSJ	Ava-Rose	For her independent writing about Bonfire Night.	4KL	Jaxon	For trying so hard in Y4.
	Idrees	For being so kind and displaying wonderful manners.		Arissa	For always trying her hardest in all lessons.
ICOT	Odutayo	For trying his very best and showing good behavior.	4RW	Alan	For his fantastic mood board in topic.
	Urwa	For her outstanding art work.		Ella	For her fantastic mood board in topic.
IML/NL	Lucas	For always using his beautiful manners.	5CG	Amelie	Excellent solo singing parts in our Year Band Mass.
	Nathaniel	For trying hard in lessons!		Kieron	Excellent solo singing parts in our Year Band Mass.
IOB	Pawlos	For his effort with his English work.	5FM	Jaydan	For helping those around him.
	Dottie-May	For her effort in her RE work.		Chloe	For being kind to those around her.
2EH	Lucas	For great listening and participation.	5MF	Ella-Mae	For making an excellent start at St Bernadette's.
	Lexie-Rae	For her trying hard in all her lessons!		Harley	For such brilliant work in maths.
2EOB	Keegan	For being a kind and polite member of the class.	6CB	Jesuloluwa	For working hard to improve her presentation!
	Philip	For always trying your hardest in Maths!		Gabriella	For great listening and participation in RE lessons.
2SH	Basco	For always being a super role model.	6LC	Rebeca Maria	For showcasing fantastic drama skills during our Black History work.
	Maheen	For fantastic effort in maths lessons this week.		Khalil	For reflecting and sharing openly during our My Happy Mind sessions.
3CK	Aryan	For making an excellent start to St Bernadette's.	6ZB	Josie	For being so considerate and thoughtful.
	Tyler	For putting in excellent effort in all his work.		Atif	For being so kind and thoughtful.
3DA	Odutayo	For trying his very best and showing good behaviour.			
	Urwa	For her outstanding art work.			

# Parent & Carer Drop-In Sessions



**A safe confidential space for  
Parents/Carers to gain support &  
guidance from Compass Birmingham.**



The drop-in will give you an opportunity to find out more about the support we can offer and have your questions answered.



## When?

Every Tuesday 11-12:30pm  
(8th October- 17th December 2024)

## Where?

Sessions will be online and you can access it by scanning the QR code.

Please note: Time will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. You will be asked to wait but please know that the practitioner will be aware and will let you in as soon as its your turn.



**Compass  
Birmingham**  
Mental Health Support Teams

 [birminghamhst@compass-uk.org](mailto:birminghamhst@compass-uk.org)  
 0121 227 8254  
 [www.compass-uk.org](http://www.compass-uk.org)  
 Instagram: @compassbmhst  
 Facebook: @compassbirminghamMHST

## 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.

## ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

For more information please contact the school office on  
[admissions@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@stberns.bham.sch.uk) or telephone 0121 783 7232

Admission policy applies.