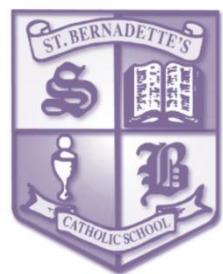


# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Hob Moor Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8QL  
Telephone: 0121-783-7232  
Website [stberns.co.uk](http://stberns.co.uk)  
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e-mail: [enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk)



Newsletter 8

19 December 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.

School closes today for the Christmas holiday and will re-open to children on Tuesday 6th January. A reminder that Monday, 5th January 2026, is an INSET Day.



## Christmas Wishes

The Governors, staff and pupils of St Bernadette's would like to extend a happy and holy Christmas and prosperous new year to all our families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for all your support to the children and staff during the term. Your kind words, gifts and understanding have been very welcomed.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, restful, and holy Christmas and New Year filled with joy and happiness.

## Gospel Reflection

The young disciple of Year 3 reflected on this week's gospel.

Mary was chosen by God and the baby she was going to have was a gift from the Holy Spirit. This shows us that God can do amazing things even when people don't understand them at first. Joseph was kind, loving and brave. Even though he was worried and confused, he listened to God and trusted Him. This teaches us that doing the right thing sometimes means being brave and trusting God.



## The Birth of Jesus Christ

<sup>18</sup> The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

<sup>20</sup> While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus.<sup>[a]</sup> Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel."<sup>[b]</sup> This name means "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary.

## Light a candle to offer a prayer

We light a candle and offer our prayers for members of our school community and their loved ones:

Mrs Heffernan  
The Haywood family  
The Hussain-Biddle family  
Octavia (past pupil)  
Joe Junior



## Assistant Headteacher Message

What a busy two weeks it has been! I can't quite believe that we are already at the end of our first term. There have been so many lovely things happening in school as we have built up to Christmas from Santa Dashes and book shops to discos. The children have had so much fun and it has been a joy to see.

It has also been really heart-warming to see the generosity shown through the fundraising and collections that our children and families have been involved in. Thank you for your kindness and support.

A real highlight of the last two weeks for me was attending the beautiful Carol Service. What a wonderful evening it was! The children truly blew me away with their fantastic singing and confidence. It was such a special way to come together as a school community.

As we come to the end of the term, I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas. We hope you enjoy a restful, joyful break with your families and loved ones.

## Whole school mass

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January there will be a whole school mass to celebrate the epiphany. The mass will take place at Holy Family church at 9:30am and families are invited. It also marks the end of the Year of the Jubilee.



## Diary Dates

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

School open for all pupils

Epiphany – The closing of the Jubilee Doors

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Reception Maths Open Morning – 9am

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

Y6 Maths Open Morning – 9am

Year 6 SATs meeting – 9.30am

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

Reception Maths Open Morning – 9am

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 2 Maths Open Morning – 9am

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 3 Maths Open Morning – 9am

Young Voices Choir performing at the NEC

**Thursday 15 January**

Joy in January Day

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 5 Maths Open Morning – 9am

**Monday 19 January**

Nursery Red and Green Group Maths Open Morning – 9am

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Nursery Blue and Yellow Group Maths Open Morning – 9am

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Year 2 Mass – 9am in school parents' welcome

**Thursday 22 January**

Year 4 Maths Open Morning – 9am

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

School Council-Parliament

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 3 Stay and Pray – 9am

## 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.

## 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 in January.

## Prayer Gardeners Club

We had a lovely time in the Prayer Gardeners Club on Thursday 12th December. We started with a prayerful moment to say thank you for the lovely children we are lucky to have in the club. We asked God to look after our children and help us get prepared for Christmas. Then we made these beautiful stars. Miss Corkery had cut the branches of her Hazel tree and we made 2 triangles out of a branch. The girls wrapped wool around the triangles. Miss Corkery used the hot glue gun to secure some little cones on the ends. And Ta Da! we have a delightful decoration for our homes. The girls showed perseverance and resilience while doing this and they all loved the relaxing nature of the activity. Well done girls!



## Carol Service – Year 5 & 6

The Year 5 and 6 Carol Service took place on Wednesday evening at Holy Family Church. It was lovely to see the church so full, with friends, family, past pupils and former members of staff in attendance.

The service was outstanding. The choir, soloists and readers performed beautifully, and lots of children from Years 5 and 6 took part, making a truly impressive contribution to the life of the school. It was a very special evening for everyone involved.

We would like to thank all parents for their continued support and for bringing their children along to take part and give something back to the school community. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout.

A big thank you also goes to Year 6 productions, as well as to all the staff who helped

prepare the children so well.



## 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.

## Spare Classroom Furniture Available

We currently have a number of spare classroom tables and a small number of drawer units available to donate. If any parents or carers are interested either for personal use or on behalf of a community group please get in touch with the school office for further details.

Please note that items will not be disassembled and must be collected directly from school; unfortunately, we are unable to offer delivery.

Holy Family Parish  
is wishing you and your family a  
*Merry Christmas*  
*& a bountiful New Year!*



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**Holy Family RC Parish**  
763 Coventry Road, Small Heath  
Birmingham, B10 0HT



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Dec 24 Wednesday**

10.30 am - PARISH MASS  
5.00 pm - CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

**Dec 25 Thursday**

10.30 am - CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

**Dec 26 Friday**

10.30 am - FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN (Altar Server's Mass)

**Dec 27 Saturday**

10.30 am - FEAST OF ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST  
4.00 pm - FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY (Vigil Mass)

**Dec 28 Sunday**

10.30 am - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (Parish Feast Day)

**Dec 29 Monday**

9.30 am - FEAST OF ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

**Dec 30 Tuesday**

10.30 am - 6TH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

**Dec 31 Wednesday**

10.30 am - 7TH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS  
3.00 pm - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, CONFESSION & HOLY ROSARY  
(End of the Year Thanksgiving)  
4.00 pm - VIGIL MASS

**January 1 Thursday**

10.30 am - NEW YEAR'S DAY. SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

### Macmillan Coffee Morning 2025

This certificate is presented to  
St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School  
and friends.

This year you fundraised £241.00

Congratulations on your fundraising.  
Your kind support is helping to change  
the lives of people affected by cancer.

Thank you.

Hannah

Hannah & the Coffee Morning Team

### The Children's Book Project

This week, every child in school had the opportunity to visit our very own bookshop, where they could browse, choose, and take home books to enjoy and keep. Thanks to the generous donation of books, this experience allowed children to discover stories that excited them and to build their own home libraries.

We would like to say a huge thank you to The Children's Book Project for their incredible support and generosity in making this possible. Their donated books helped ensure that every child went home with something to read, enjoy, and treasure.



## Meet our Parent Support Worker, Miss Finn.

My job role is busy and varied, no two days are ever the same, however my key focus is to ensure that pupils feel safe and supported. This may include checking in with pupils, liaising with families and external agencies. Offering Early Help Support to families who need additional support. I monitor school attendance and ensure that early interventions are offered and any barriers to school attendance are addressed at an early stage.

I was previously employed as an Adult Social Worker; however, I wanted a career change. I am a caring person and get pleasure from supporting pupils and their families.

- Early Help
- Compass
- School Nurse
- Rainbows – Bereavement support
- Attendance support



You can contact me through the main school office number.

Please feel free to contact me in relation to any concerns you may have regarding your child's wellbeing, attendance or engagement with school. This may be during times of difficulty or when a family is feeling that they need additional support. I can also signpost you to our SEND coordinator.

Examples are:

- Changes in behaviour or mood
- School attendance difficulties
- Friendship worries and anxiety
- Family changes such as bereavement, illness or separation
- Support with routines and boundaries
- Signposting you to external agencies

I will aim to respond to your query within 24 hours of receiving a message from you, I am based in Rohan house, so meetings with me tend to take place there.

Please know that you do not need to wait until things feel like a crisis. Schools offer support at many levels. The earlier a problem is identified and shared then the easier it is to put support in place. Never feel afraid to ask for help and advice.

**Narthex**  
Journey To Change  
CIO 1100358

Call Narthex Sparkhill Foodbank and speak to a member of our team  
0121 227 0103

**Self Referral for a Foodbank Voucher**

Answer a few questions for eligibility assessment and approval

Receive a voucher if you are eligible

  
**Sparkhill foodbank**

**Narthex**  
Journey To Change  
CIO 1100358

**Sparkhill Foodbank - Balall Heath**  
Balall Heath Church Centre 100 Mery Street, Balall Heath  
Birmingham B12 9LA  
OPENING TIMES: Monday 13:00 - 15:00

**Sparkhill Foodbank - Tyseley**  
Unit 20, Rosey Business Park, Hay Hall Road  
Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2AG  
OPENING TIMES: Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00

**Sparkhill Foodbank - St John's Church, Sparkhill**  
Birmingham B11 4RG  
OPENING TIMES: Wednesday 10:30 - 12:30

**Sparkhill Foodbank - Stockpord**  
All Saints Church, Albert Road Stockpord  
Birmingham B33 8JA  
OPENING TIMES: Friday 13:00 - 15:00

**Sparkhill Foodbank - Hall Green**  
Church of the Ascension Church Hall  
School Road, Hall Green Birmingham B28 8DX  
OPENING TIMES: Friday 14:30 - 17:00

Phone line will be open every Tuesday and Wednesday between 9.30-12.30  
Contact us on 0121 227 0103

## Math Open Mornings

We are delighted to invite parents and carers into school for a Maths Open Morning from 9am to 10:00am on the following dates:



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January - Year 1  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January - Year 6  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Reception  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Year 2  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January Year 3  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January - Year 4  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January - Year 5  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January - Red and green Group  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January- Blue and Yellow Group

Nursery parents and carers to go to Nursery via the Nursery entrance at 9am.

This is an exciting opportunity to watch a live math session in your child's class. Learn about the methods and strategies we use in school and work 1:1 with your child during the session.

We hope you can join us for this interactive and engaging session to see your child's learning in action. Please reply by on ParentPay January.

## Beauty and the Beast Pantomime at Sutton Town Hall during December.



Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 12.30pm

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 12.30pm

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 12.30pm

We are incredibly proud of Isla (Year 6), Tayah (Year 5) and Amily, who will be taking to the stage in a pantomime production of *Beauty and the Beast* at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall throughout December — a fantastic achievement and an exciting opportunity for them all!

If parents would like to see this wonderful production and support our talented pupils, performances run across December at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall. Further details and tickets can be found via the venue's website.

If families are in receipt of free school meals, you are able to buy discounted tickets for them and their families. The dates above are the times when the girls will be performing. It would be lovely if any families could go and support and watch what I am sure will be a fantastic show.

We wish Isla, Tayah and Amily the very best of luck — we know they will be amazing!



Dear Parents and Families,

Our annual bauble competition has once again filled St Bernadette's with joy! Thank you so much for your wonderful contributions. Each and every one of the children's decorations were beautifully created and together they made our Christmas tree special.

We are so grateful for the time, effort and festive spirit you brought to this tradition. Your decorations didn't just brighten our tree; they brightened our whole school community. We hope you enjoyed the tree during the nativity performances and Christmas Craft afternoon!

The head boy, head girl and their deputies had the very special job of choosing the winners and runners-up. With so many fantastic entries, they found it almost impossible to decide. However, a huge congratulations to our winners and runners up and to everyone for taking part.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas filled with peace, love and happiness. 

With thanks, Mr Wayne



Thank you to all who donated to School Council's collection for The Trussell Trust. Councillors did a fantastic job of encouraging peers and organizing collections. The food bank were incredibly appreciative of our donation and extend their thanks.

## Fundraising at Heartlands Hospital



On the 8th December, 40 members of our school choir had the wonderful opportunity to take part in a fundraising event at Heartlands Hospital. We delighted patients and staff with a festive repertoire of Christmas songs and it was heartwarming to see so many people joining in. This joyful occasion not only lifted spirits across the hospital but also helped raise vital funds for the UHB Charity, which Year 4 has chosen to support this term.

A poster for the Heartlands Hospital Charity Children's Star Appeal. The poster features a large yellow star with the text 'Children's Star Appeal'. To the right, it says 'Sponsor a star for a year and help support our youngest patients'. Below this, a circular image shows a child in a hospital room. The text 'Our hospitals treat over 120,000 children each year. Being in hospital can be an extremely scary and overwhelming experience for our youngest patients. By sponsoring a star and supporting the hospital charity, you can help make their time in hospital less stressful and as comfortable as possible.' is written. A large orange star on the left contains the text 'Toys and sensory activities' and shows a photo of a child playing with toys. A purple arrow points to another photo of a child playing with a ball. A red star on the right contains the text 'Outdoor play areas' and shows a photo of a playground. At the bottom, it says 'How sponsoring a star works...' with a list of four steps. A QR code is provided for more information.

Year 4 would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations. With the hamper raffle and the Santa Dash together, we raised £652.50. Our very first Santa Dash at St Bernadette's was a big hit! The children had a fantastic time walking, skipping, dancing, and running around the playground, all while enjoying the festive Christmas songs - thank you to Mr Abbott for providing the music.

# Shining Light Award

CLASS	NAME	REASON	CLASS	NAME	REASON
Nursery (Blue)	Musa	For lovely singing in our Christmas play.	Nursery (Yellow)	Eva	For beautiful singing and dancing in our play
Nursery (Green)	Mara	For beautiful singing and dancing in our Christmas play	Nursery (Red)	Cohen	For showing kindness to others when they need it
RCB	Amaan	For sensible behaviour always	4AMJ	Maheen	For trying her best in every English lesson.
	Rufayda	For her beautiful singing voice		Basco	For his fantastic maths assessment.
REL	Lexie	For making the right choices on the playground at the beginning of the week. You can do it every day Lexie – we believe in you!	4FM	Oscar	For his wonderful contributions in English lessons.
	Ahmed	For trying so hard to blend his sounds – well done Ahmed.		Imaan	For being a kind and caring friend.
RLC	Eliana	For always being helpful and putting a big smile on Miss Coley's face!	4KL	Harris	For consistently showing kindness to others.
	Avaya	For being so helpful and always caring towards her friends.		Tyler	For singing so enthusiastically at Heartlands hospital with the choir.
ICOT	Lucas	For working incredibly hard in all lessons	5CG	Declan	For contributing with amazing ideas in English.
	Tia-Ave Maria	For being a super role model		Amelia-Rose	Reading so well during the Carol Concert rehearsals.
IOB	Anayah F	For always using her manners and trying her best!	5ET	Daniel	For utilizing his incitive in all aspects of school life.
	Izayah	For his excellent effort in the Christmas play!		Millie	For brightening everyone's day.
2EOB	Tsion	For always being so kind and positive in everything you do!	5MF	Haniya	For always being a pleasure to teach
	Alexandru	For being an excellent role model to others.		Alfie	For brilliant improvements in independent writing
2RW	Amelia	For always being super helpful	6CB	Harley	For being a wonderful canter during his Confirmation ceremony last week.
	Hassan	For always being polite and respectful		Noah C	For reading beautifully in his Confirmation ceremony last week.
2SH	Aleena	For being such a wonderful friend and always trying her hardest in all lessons	6CC	Leia	For speaking so confidently to Bishop David last week and displaying fantastic RE subject knowledge.
	Karthikeyan	For being an incredibly respectful, kind and helpful member of our class.		Francie-Joe	For taking part so beautifully and reverently in his Confirmation ceremony with Year 6 last week.
3DA	Keegan	For always being polite and kind!	6ZB	Muizz	For being such a phenomenal role model.
	Jonathan	For making a real effort in all of his lessons!		Zakarriya	For being such a thoughtful and kind young man.
3DH	Xyrah	For being such a good role model and settling in well at out school.		<h2>Shining Light Award</h2> <p><i>'You are the light of the world.'</i></p>	
	Amaar	For working hard and getting on with all tasks sensibly		Matthew 5:14	
3EG	Norah	For her participation in Mass.			
	Arjun	For his participation in Mass.			



# EAST BIRMINGHAM FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE



## AT: ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

VICTORIA ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM, B27 7XY (Use Shirley Road entrance B27 7XU)

**STARTING: TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**Tuesdays:**

Group 1: School Years Reception & Year 1.....	5.00pm-6.00pm
Group 2: School Years 2 & 3.....	6.00pm-7.00pm
Group 3: School Years 4, 5 & 6.....	7.00pm-8.00pm

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last **25 years**, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting in January 2026. The course will run for approximately 12 weeks and the programme is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 12.

### About our Course

- The unique practice techniques are specifically designed to work with children of all abilities, ranging from the absolute beginner to the more advanced player.
- The course is run by **F.A qualified coaches**, who are **DBS checked**, and hold an advanced premier skills qualification, they are currently working with children, enabling them to learn essential football techniques, building **CONFIDENCE**, improving **FITNESS** and providing the most important ingredient **FUN!**
- Children will be fully supervised at all times, although parents are welcome to stay and watch.
- Each child will be provided with a football for individual practice and their progress will be recorded each week.
- It is an **indoor** course held in the sports hall, therefore children may wear trainers and sportswear.
- **Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Fulham player Geoff Horsfield** quotes, "I've coached on these courses with the team and they are fantastic in the way they deliver their coaching sessions!"
- **Ex England World Cup star and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson** quotes, "I have presented trophies to the children on these courses and it's great to see the smiles on their faces and sense of achievement!"

### Presentation of trophies and award

- On the final week of the course, we hold a presentation, whereby **EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED TROPHY.**
- Children also have a chance to win many other special individual awards and trophies for various skills, including '**premier league**' and '**penalty shoot out**' competitions.
- Parents and friends are most welcome to attend the presentation and watch the children being presented with their awards, as this encourages a fantastic atmosphere.

The cost of the course is £9 per week; payment is made every 4 weeks, with the first payment of £36 due on week 1. **Please Note: With a high response expected and limited places available, bookings will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.** **Mark Frith (course co-ordinator)** [www.soccercoachinguk.co.uk](http://www.soccercoachinguk.co.uk)

**TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT:**

**ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY + CHILD'S NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3)**  
and receive confirmation by text to:

**07827 322780**

# Communication and Autism Team

## Parent Carer Advice Sessions

We would like to invite you to a 25 minute one-to-one advice session with a member of the Communication and Autism Team

For parent carers of children / young people on our CAT caseload, with a diagnosis of autism or who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

Sessions are limited but further sessions will be available at a later date if you are not able to book this time.

**Date:** Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2026

Book via the following link:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-online-advice-sessions-6th-january-2026/>

Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link will be sent to you prior to the session.



# Communication and Autism Team

## Parent Carer Advice Sessions

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For parent carers of children / young people on our CAT caseload, with a diagnosis of autism or who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

Sessions are limited but further sessions will be available at a later date if you are not able to book this time.

**Date:** Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2026

Book via the following link:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-online-one-to-one-advice-sessions-8th-january-2026/>

Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link be sent to you prior to the session.

