

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 12
7 March 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.

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

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus Is Tempted

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. The Spirit led Jesus into the desert where the devil tempted Jesus for 40 days. Jesus ate nothing during that time. When those days were ended, He was very hungry. The devil said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell this rock to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written in the Scriptures: 'A person does not live only by eating bread.'" Then the devil took Jesus and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said to Jesus, "I will give you all these kingdoms and all their power and glory. It has all been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. If you worship me, all will be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written in the Scriptures: 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only Him!'"

Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem and put Him on a high place of the Temple. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! It is written in the Scriptures:

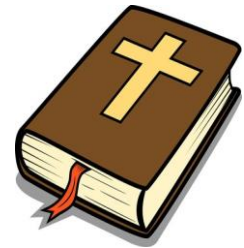
'He has put his angels in charge of you.

They will watch over you.' *Psalm 91:11*

'They will catch you with their hands.

And you will not hit your foot on a rock.'" *Psalm 91:12*

Jesus answered, "But it also says in the Scriptures: 'Do not test the Lord your God.'" After the devil had tempted Jesus in every way, He went away to wait until a better time.



Gospel Reflection

Our Young Disciple has written this week's reflection.

Do not be led into temptation, even though at times it might be tempting to make the wrong choices. Jesus understands our struggles, He was tempted but stayed strong and emerged victorious against temptation. When we are tempted, we should remember the words of the Lord's prayer, 'And lead us not into temptation.' Remember we should put our trust in God, even when things are hard and we are tempted to make the wrong choice.

Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for:
Pope Francis

The mother of Mason and Cillian

The Father of Miriam

Santiago and family



Year 1 Mass in School



On **Wednesday 12th March** Year 1 will be leading Mass in school. We would like to take this opportunity to invite parents, carers and family members of children in Year 1 to this Mass.

Your children, Fr. Fretch and the Year 1 Staff would be delighted to see you there. Please arrive at 8:55am for a prompt start at 9am. Mass will be finished at around 9:45am.

Easter Half Term

We will be breaking up for Easter on Friday 11th April. The children will return to school on Monday 28th April.



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.

Diary Dates



Monday 10th March

Book Fair in School all week

Wednesday 12th March

Year 1 Mass in school at 9:00am (Parents and Carers invited)

Year 3 First Confession in Church at 4:30pm
Parents' evening appointments go live.

Anglo Saxon Workshop for Year 4

Monday 17th March

Feast of St Patrick (5MF & all Children to wear green- 50p)

Year 3 at Condoval Hall

British Science Week

Tuesday 18th March

Year 3 at Condoval Hall

Wednesday 19th March

Year 3 at Condoval Hall

Year 1 at the Black Country Museum

Thursday 20th March

Year 5 Confession

Monday 24th March

Feast of St Oscar Romero (3EG to wear own clothes)
Reception and Year 6 NHS height and weight check
(see email)

Tuesday 25th March

Parents Evening

Wednesday 26th March

Parents Evening

Friday 28th March

Nursery Mother's Day breakfast – 9am

Reception Mother's Day Picnic – 1pm

Football Team at Birmingham City FC

Thursday 3rd April

Year 4 Confession

Year 5 Writing Competition

Friday 4th April

Gold Star own clothes

Monday 7th April

Holy Week Focus

Nursery Behaviour Assembly 9am

Year 1 Behaviour Assembly – 2:30pm

Tuesday 8th April

Reception Behaviour Assembly 9am

Year 2 Behaviour Assembly – 2:30pm

Wednesday 9th April

Whole School Mass at 9:30am

Thursday 10th April

Year 6 Confession

Easter Bonnet Parade

Easter Egg Competition

Friday 11th April

Term Finishes

Feast of St Bernadette (Nursery to wear own clothes.

Feast day is 16th April)

Feast of St. Bernadette Celebrations pm

Prayers for Pope Francis

We ask our school community to continue to keep Pope Francis in your prayers.

Pope Francis has been in Hospital since 14th February, suffering from acute respiratory failure and other complications. Despite these health challenges, he has remained dedicated to his mission, continuing to work from his hospital bed.

Let us pray for his strength, healing and well-being, asking God to bless him with good health.



Loving God,

We pray for Pope Francis, asking You to be with him and bring him strength. You are a God of love and healing and we trust in Your care. Please help him to recover and give him the energy to continue his important work.

"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 30:17)

We place Pope Francis into Your hands, trusting in Your eternal care. May he be comforted by the love of the Church and the prayers of all the faithful. Through the intercession of Mary, the mother of Jesus, may he find comfort and peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son.
Amen.

Fasting During Ramadan – Important Information for Parents



During the Holy Month of Ramadan, we want to ensure parents understand the school's responsibilities regarding children who may wish to fast.

Fasting & Age Guidance: Children under 10 years old are not required to fast. As young children can become tired and struggle to safely participate in school activities without regular meals.


'Request to Fast' Form: Parents who wish for their child to fast at school must complete and return a permission form.

Requests for Food: If a child asks for food or drink, staff will provide it, even if a completed form has been submitted.

Health & Well-being: If a child shows signs of illness or distress due to fasting (e.g. dizziness, nausea), staff will offer them food or drink and may contact parents or emergency services if necessary.

Please see the letter that was emailed for more information.

St Chad's Sanctuary Donations



St Chads Sanctuary
Wish list:

We would love donations of Men's
Clothing :

Jeans/Joggers
T-shirts
Jumpers/Hoodies
Coats
Socks
Underwear(new)
Trainers
Backpack for adults
Longlife Milk
Carrier Bags(all types)

all donations to be in by
Thursday 20th March

All donations
placed by KS1
Doors
Daily

SCHOOL FUND ACADEMIC
YEAR 2024-2025



Parents are requested to make a donation of £10.00 per child or £10.00 per family to our school fund. Log onto <https://www.parentpay.com/> This payment will help to subsidise the cost of some of the activities that take place throughout the school year to enhance the curriculum ie workshops and theme days, and ensure our children continue to have the broadest possible experiences in school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

Congratulations to 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

Tyler	3
Jiyon	3
Tayah	4

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

Parents' evening is on Tuesday 25th March and Wednesday 26th March. **Appointments will go live on Teachers2Parents on Wednesday 12th March.** The focus of this parents' evening for Years 1 to 6 is Mathematics. Parents of children in Reception and Nursery will see their class teacher.

Inclement Weather



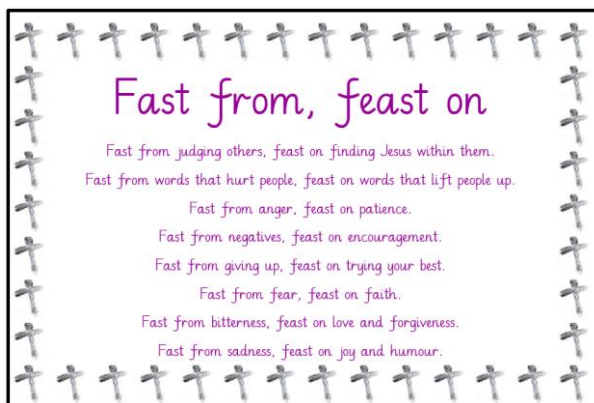
If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that school needs to close, please listen to the local radio stations. The school texting service, school website and the school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am, then you can assume that school will 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.

The Liturgical Season of Lent

After the end of Christmastide, we entered a few weeks of Ordinary Time before beginning the season of **Lent**, which began on Ash Wednesday (5th March 2025) and ends on Maundy Thursday (17th April 2025), the day before Good Friday. Lent is a time when the Church invites everyone to look carefully at their lives, to make Lenten promises and make a fresh start with God and with each other. Lent lasts for 40 days and the three 'pillars' of Lent are **PRAYER, FASTING** and **ALMSGIVING**.



FASTING:



PRAYER: Lent helps us to focus upon the precious gift of the Lord's Body and Blood, the Holy Eucharist and His many Sufferings and Death in His Sacred Passion.

PRAYER: Lent helps us to focus upon the precious gift of the Lord's Body and Blood, the Holy Eucharist and His many Sufferings and Death in His Sacred Passion.



ALMSGIVING. – During Lent, we will be **GIVING** to **The Good Shepherd Appeal**. We were so lucky to have a visit from Emily from Father Hudson's Caritas who spoke to the children about this charity. The Good Shepherd Appeal is a Lenten fund raising appeal run by Father Hudson's Caritas and is something we, at St Bernadette's, have supported for a number of years. Father Hudson's Caritas is the social care agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. They work in Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands to help people in need. Father Hudson's work spans across these five themes and they work with people of different ages, backgrounds, races, nationalities, and disabilities.



We are asking our families to donate some coins to The Good Shepherd Appeal. Perhaps you could make your own envelope. The children could donate some of their sweet or treat money, or raise money in other ways. All the money raised will help to care for children, families and adults in need.



This half-term, Year 2 are raising money for **Father Hudson's Caritas**. As we are currently in the Liturgical season of Lent, we are reminded of our duties to help and care for others.

Father Hudson's Caritas provide a range of services to people across the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, an area encompassing Oxford, Stoke-on-Trent, Coventry, Warwick, Worcester, and Wolverhampton. They work with people from all walks of life, offering friendship, care, and support and we are very excited to raise money to support them in their wonderful charitable work.



Father Hudson's work spans across these five themes and they work with people of different ages, backgrounds, races, nationalities, and disabilities.

We are hoping to create some **egg-cellent** hampers such as these to raise money for Father Hudson's Caritas.



We are kindly asking children in Year 2 to donate something Easter related, such as chocolate Easter eggs, crafts sets and/or books, which will then be added to an Easter hamper. We will be raffling the hampers to children across the school. There are currently lots of lovely things in Poundland, The Works and B&M just to name a few.

Tickets will be **50p for one ticket** or **a strip for £2**. The raffle will be drawn towards the end of the half-term. Exact details will be shared via text closer to the time.

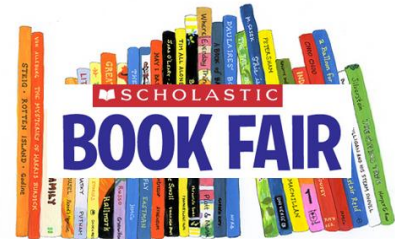


Please follow us on BlueSky:

@stbernsprimary.bsky.social

<https://bsky.app/profile/stbernsprimary.bsky.social>

We will no longer be posting on X/Twitter.



There will be a Book Fayre in school next week (Week beginning Monday 10th March). Parents will be able to come into school at the end of the day on Monday 10th March – Thursday 13th March 3.15pm-3.40pm to purchase books for their children. Alternatively, parents can come in before school from 8.30am-9.00am on Tuesday 11th March – Friday 14th March.

Easter Egg Raffle

We will be holding our annual Easter Egg Raffle in school for all pupils. Tickets will be sold in school on **Monday 7th March** and **Tuesday 8th March**, costing £1 per strip. All money raised will be donated to the Good Shepherd Appeal. Good luck!



Spotlight on Sports Basketball



Last week, our Year 5 and 6 basketball team took part in the Catholic basketball tournament, facing some strong opponents. The children showed fantastic teamwork, determination and resilience in every game. They gave it their all, improving with each match and never giving up. A big well done to Connor, who was chosen as our Player of the Tournament for his outstanding effort and skills by a teacher from St Mary's. We're proud of everyone who took part - well done.

KS2 Panathlon Champions!

We are proud to announce that our KS2 team won the Panathlon competition at Paget School! They showed fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship, competing in a range of inclusive sports.

A huge well done to our athletes for bringing home the trophy! Thank you to the event organisers and Mr Markham Jones and Mrs Yakoob who supported our team.



Nursery Places for September 2025

Was your child born between September 2021 and August 2022? If so, now is the perfect time to secure a place in our school nursery for September 2025! Our nurturing environment is designed to encourage curiosity and growth through play-based learning. Our experienced staff are committed to ensuring that your child thrives and they set the stage for a seamless transition to formal education. Join us in cultivating our school motto, 'Learn to Love, Love to Learn' in your child's early years. Enrol in our school nursery now by contacting Mrs. Smallwood in the school office and watch your child blossom into a confident, inquisitive learner.

thank
you

Sainsbury's
Argos

We wanted to say a huge 'Thank You' to Gill Swinnerton and the staff at Sainsbury's and Argos for their very generous donation to school. We were delighted to receive a very generous donation from Sainsbury's on Wednesday. For the third year in a row, they have shown incredible support for our school community. This year, they donated wellington boots for children in Nursery, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste. They also donated water play items for the children Reception and some new school uniform items, including sweatshirts and trousers.

We are truly grateful for this continued partnership and support, and we hope it will continue in the coming year.

School of Sanctuary Update

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

Matt 25:35



Orange Heart Campaign – Week Beginning 10th February

Children from Nursery and Reception took part in the Orange Heart Campaign, showing their support and solidarity for refugees. As part of this initiative, classes created posters with messages of kindness and hope, which were displayed around the school.

On Valentine's Day, the children made orange armbands to wear as a symbol of love and compassion for those fleeing war and persecution.

We are proud of our children for embracing this important cause and spreading a message of kindness.



Orange Heart Art Competition – Thank You!

A huge **thank you** to all the families who took part in the **Orange Heart Art Competition**. We were amazed by the wonderful range of **creative and thought-provoking artwork** submitted.

As a token of our support for refugees, the children's artwork will be taken to **St. Chad's Sanctuary**, where it will serve as a message of kindness, solidarity and hope.

Well done to all the children who participated, your artwork truly makes a difference!



School of Sanctuary Update



As part of our work towards the **School of Sanctuary Award**, we want to share some personal stories from our staff about migration. These stories, while not about asylum seekers or refugees, offer insight into what it's like to start a new life in a different Country.

Mrs Hussain's Family Story

My dad moved to Birmingham when he was around 10 years old, with the intention to support his family back home in Pakistan. At such a young age, the weight of those responsibilities felt heavy as he had 4 younger siblings and his widowed mother thousands of miles away struggling to live in difficult conditions. He was the first in his family to move to England and longed to start a new life here, with the hope of inviting his family in the years to come. He had to grow up fast, working hard in school and doing whatever he could to help his family, even though he was still just a young boy who had also lost his father at such a young age.

He lived in shared accommodation and at such a young age, this was a struggle. The people that he lived with were kind, but the adjustment to a new culture, language, and life wasn't simple. My amazing dad spent hours studying, determined to make something of himself, but at times, it felt like he would never see his family again. He missed his old life in Pakistan, and the pressure to succeed was always a lingering thought in his mind. He yearned to make his family proud, but at such a young age, wasn't quite sure how to. Both his determination and drive helped him to complete college, and he became an electrician, which provided him with somewhat of a stable income which meant he could support his struggling family back home.

At the age of around 18, my brave dad made the bold decision to leave Birmingham and move to Leeds, a decision that I will be forever grateful for! This new move enabled him to begin a career and something that he is still passionate about today. It was a new chapter, one where he could build his future in the not so sunny but the incredible county of Yorkshire, a place that will always be home.

After a few years he met my mum, who also made the huge move to England at the age of 19. After getting married, they eventually moved to a quiet, small village in Yorkshire. The village was a far cry from the hustle of the city, but it felt like the right place to settle down, start a family of their own, and create a life that my dad's own father would've been unbelievably proud of. Through it all, his journey was a testament to resilience—a young boy who had to become a man before his time, and in the end, built a life full of hope and new beginnings.

My dad's humble beginnings in Birmingham will always be incredibly special to me and when I myself moved to Birmingham 5 years ago, I felt that I was continuing in his footsteps in a city he still loves to this day. I spent the first year reliving his steps, visiting the places he cherished and recreating old photographs from his youth. He still enjoys pulling out the comparison photographs and is adamant his are better, however I beg to differ! To this day, he will still tell me how to get to places and that I am completely following the wrong directions, and as always, he is entirely correct! I will be eternally grateful to both my parents for moving from their home country of Pakistan, although it is a place that will always be home for our entire family, the living conditions are still incredibly difficult to endure. If it wasn't for their unwavering bravery, my entire family wouldn't have the access to the incredible life that we are blessed with today.

Birmingham will always be a special place to my dad, and even though my small village in Yorkshire will always be home for me, I'm glad that my amazing dad still has a connection to Birmingham through his daughter living here.



We are delighted to report that **Aleena-Louise** and **Gracie-Mae** successfully completed a First Aid training course during the half term. As part of the training, they learned essential life-saving skills such as putting a cast on a broken arm, CPR, listening for a heartbeat and practicing the recovery position.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the skills they have gained. For more information about the course, take a look at the **Mini Medics** website.

<https://www.minimedics.co.uk/>

Well done, Aleena-Louise and Gracie-Mae!



Charity Fundraising

Stroke
Association

We are delighted to report that Year 1 has raised an incredible £497 for the Stroke Association! A huge thank you to all the children and families who supported this important cause. Your generosity and kindness are truly appreciated. Well done, Year 1!

Mother's Day Celebrations in the EYFS

Friday 28th March 2025

On Friday 28th March, we're inviting our wonderful Mummies (or other family member) into school to celebrate Mother's Day, and to say thank you for being our amazing, shining stars. Come along and share some special time with your child with a selection of delicious snacks and drinks.

This is a chance for you to share a conversation with your child, complete some nice activities and toast to your special relationship.

Please confirm your attendance on Parent Pay. There is a £3 fee in total. Only 1 adult per child as we will have lots of children and adults to cater for. We look forward to seeing you!

Nursery's Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 28th March, 9:00-10:00am

Reception's Mother's Day Picnic – Friday 28th March, 1:00-2:00pm.

We look forward to seeing you!



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 and 3CK for the best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done RLC for the best attendance in the Foundation Stage!

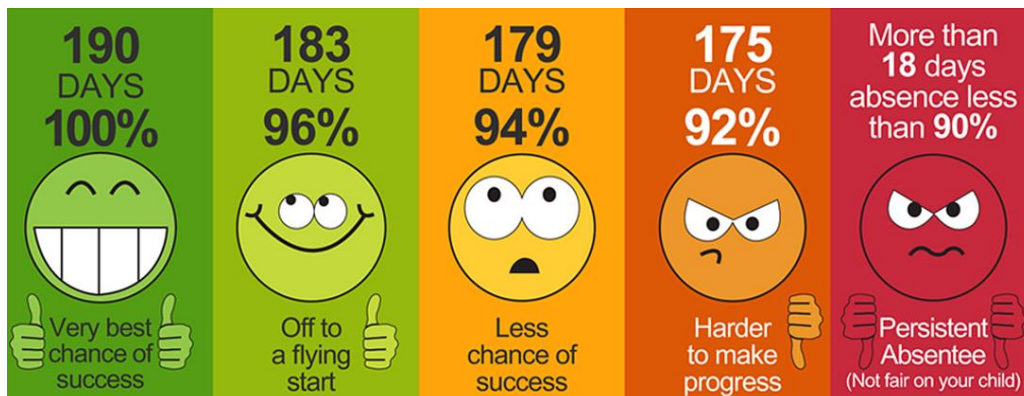
Attendance update

We continue to track attendance every week and work hard to ensure every child in school demonstrates good attendance and punctuality. If children are to reach their full potential they need to be in school every day, unless they are too unwell to attend. **We will make home visits from time to time, particularly if we have safeguarding concerns or if a child's attendance is causing a concern.**

Even if a parent has called the school to give a reason for their child's absence, a home visit may still occur. We aim to offer both support and challenge where needed, but always have the child's best interest at heart.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
90%	RSJ 92%	ICOT 96% 	2SH 96% 	3DA 93%	4RW 95%	5MF 94%	6CB 95%
	RCB 93%	IML/NL 93%	2EH 94%	3EG 94%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 93%	6LC 95%
	RLC 94% 	IOB 94%	2EOB 95%	3CK 97% 	4KL 96%	5FM 95%	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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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)	Eliana	For listening well in phonics.	Nursery (Red)	Aliza	For being a good friend to others.
Nursery (Green)	Omari	For making good choices as line leader.	Nursery (Yellow)	Asher	For working hard during our phonics sessions.
RCB	Thuwaraka	For always being a kind and compassionate member of our class and helping others!	3EG	Oluwasunmibare	For always being cheerful and settling into her new school well.
	Arthur	For excellent effort in Literacy. You have produced some amazing work to be really proud of!		Hugo	For always being helpful in the mornings.
RLC	Hunter	For always trying his best at independent writing!	4AMJ	Jones	For being an excellent role model while representing our school sports teams, demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship.
	Ka'eo	For being kind and helpful to his teachers!		Regan	For being an excellent role model while representing our school sports teams, demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship.
RSJ	Nathan	For always working hard and his positive attitude to his learning!	4KL	Jake	For being an excellent role model while representing our school sports teams, demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship.
	Everly	For her improved, independent writing in Literacy!		Isam	For a big push with his times tables learning.
ICOT	Oakley	For always using beautiful manners.	4RW	Michelle	For creating a beautiful prayer table for our class ready for Lent.
	Adam	For his enthusiasm in Maths lessons.		Haniya	For always working incredibly hard.
IML/NL	Evana-Susan	For trying hard with her handwriting.	5CG	Aaishah	Insightful contributions to the afternoon lessons.
	Josephus	For being a good friend to others.		Hassan	Thoughtful and perceptive commentaries during RE lessons.
IOB	Aleena-Louise	For always following our school rules beautifully!	5FM	Sadhika	For being such a kind friend.
	Evan	For always looking out for his friends.		Sara	For working so hard in her writing lessons.
2EH	Jack	For his effort in RE lessons.	5MF	Liyana	For always working so so hard.
	Aodhan	For his fantastic effort in English.		Jacob	For excellent work in RE.
2EOB	Arshith	For being kind to others.	6CB	Nathan	For being an excellent role model while representing our school sports teams, demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship.
	Dylan	For great effort in his lessons!		Gabriella	For being an excellent role model while representing our school sports teams, demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship.
2SH	Dua	For a positive attitude towards learning!	6LC	Sienna	For trying hard and listening carefully in lessons.
	Ibrahim	For trying hard in his maths quizzes!		Logan	For working hard on his sewing to create a sugar skull.
3CK	Freddie	For always being such a polite and helpful young man!	6ZB	Arianna	For always being reliable and trustworthy.
	Zachary Drew	For trying hard in his maths lessons.		Rocco	For demonstrating a more mature attitude this half term.
3DA	Harris	For his amazing improvement in his handwriting.			
	Lazar	For trying his hardest in all his work.			

Wonderful Writing in Year 1



We are proud to share two fantastic pieces of writing by Laith and Miyah in Year 1. They each wrote a short piece, retelling part of The Gingerbread Man, showcasing their brilliant spelling choices, creative use of adjectives and fantastic handwriting.

We are delighted with their hard work and creativity. Well done, Laith and Miyah!

The Gingerbread Man.

Seth took the cookies out of the oven.
The gingerbread man lifted his sticky head.
All of a sudden the last gingerbread man
winked. When the gingerbread man was
turning he bumped into the old crusty old
fox. The fox lead him to his den and
ate him up.

By Laith

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