

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 19
5 July 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.

The Gospel of St. Mark will be shared with us at mass on Sunday this week. Gospel: Mark 6:1-6



Jesus left that place and went back to his home town, followed by his disciples. On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue. Many people were there; and when they heard him, they were all amazed. "Where did he get all this?" they asked. "What wisdom is this that has been given him? How does he perform miracles? Isn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters living here?" And so they rejected him.

Jesus said to them, "Prophets are respected everywhere except in their own home town and by their relatives and their family."
He was not able to perform any miracles there, except that he placed his hands on a few sick people and healed them. He was greatly surprised, because the people did not have faith.

Gospel Reflection

Jesus was back in his home town and teaching in the synagogue. How did the people feel when they heard him speaking? They were very surprised. They couldn't understand how Jesus, who they had known since he was a little boy, could have so much wisdom and teach so well. Why do you think the people were so surprised? They thought that they knew who Jesus was – the son of Mary and of Joseph the carpenter. They thought Jesus was just an ordinary man, but he wasn't. Who do we know Jesus to be? Jesus is the Son of God. But the people he had grown up with could not accept that Jesus was special. They did not believe in him. Sometimes when we know someone really well we can forget how special they are. It can be hard to see past all the things we know about them, to what they are really like. And sometimes we forget how special the things that we do are, because they just feel ordinary to us. The people listening to Jesus in today's reading judge him because of who he is and where he comes from. They are not willing to listen to him or to change their minds, even though he shows wisdom in his teaching. Do you think this is right? Why not? We are all part of one global family and we are all special. Maybe this week we can try to see how special the people around us are. Our friends and family – who do lots of special things, even though we sometimes don't notice. And this week, let's try not to judge anyone for where they come from or who their family is, but instead listen to them, look out for the special things that they do, and see what we can learn from them.



Gospel Reflection by Ava-Kay and Isabella

This Gospel reflects the fact that even though people do not necessarily appreciate your work, you can do amazing things, just like Jesus did. "Prophets are respected everywhere except in their own home town and by their relatives and their

family." People who know you best may not always see the great things that you do. Thank you to Ava-Kay and Isabella for a really thoughtful reflection on Sunday's Gospel.

Light a candle to offer a prayer

The father of Grace in Year 6
The mother of Safana in Reception
The mother of Mason in Year 1
Hope and Mrs Harston
The mother of Chloe in Year 4
The grandmother of Conall in Year 3
Miss Corkery and family
Mrs Shalvey and family



Our Friend Darcy



The 16th July will be the 3rd anniversary of our friend Darcy's passing. She would have been in Year 6 and leaving our school at the end of this year.

As we prepare for the children in Year 6 to move on to their secondary schools and carry with them their memories of St Bernadette's, they and we, will never forget Darcy. We have all carried her with us every day in our thoughts and in our prayers and she will be forever in all of our hearts. Her smile, her laughter and her sparkle remains and she will be a part of our St Bernadette's family now and always. Her special tree remains in the playground and will be decorated by her friends in Year 6. Darcy will be a special part of our leavers mass on Friday 19th December. As we say goodbye to Year 6, we hold her close in our hearts, our prayers and our minds, our brave friend Darcy, forever young and unique and special in every way.

I loved Darcy's bright laugh.

I love when we used to play Roblox.

I miss when me and Darcy used to trade fidget toys.

I miss when me and Darcy played games together.

We miss Darcy.

RJ, Renaiyah, Ruby and Amiah.



Diary Dates



Monday 8 July

9:30am – Year 2 Sports Day

1:30pm – Year 1 Sports Day

4RW Wroxeter Trip

Year 5 Camping Trip

Wednesday 10 July

9:00am – EYFS Mass (school)

Thursday 11 July

9:30am – Year 5 Sports Day

1.30 pm – Year 6 Sports Day

Friday 12 July

9:30am – Nursery Sports Day

Monday 15 July

4AMJ Wroxeter Trip

Tuesday 16 July

9:30am – Year 3 Sports Day

1.30pm – Year 4 Sports Day

Wednesday 17 July

9:30am – Reception Sports Day

9:00am – Year 4 Mass (school)

Thursday 18 July

Y6 Leavers Production – The Crossing Digbeth 5.30pm

Friday 19 July

Y6 Leavers Mass 9.15am

Charity Fun Day

School closes for Summer Holidays – 2pm



A Warm St Bernadette's Welcome

We have three new members of staff joining us in September and we welcome them to our school. Miss O'Brien will be joining us in 2EO, Miss Adu will be joining us in 3DA and Miss Fryer will be joining us in 5MF. We know you will make them feel extremely welcome and a part of the St Bernadette's family. All the children will have met their new teachers for September this week during our two transition days.

TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR

September 2024 – July 2025

The dates for the new academic year can be seen below. The diary dates for the year will be sent out with the first newsletter in September.

Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 2 September 2024 To Friday 25 October 2024	Monday 6 January 2025 To Friday 14 February 2025	Monday 28 April 2025 To Friday 23 May 2025
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
Monday 4 November 2024 To Friday 20 December 2024	Monday 24 February 2025 To Friday 11 April 2025	Monday 2 June 2025 To Friday 18 July 2025
INSET DAYS		
Friday 25 October 2024 Monday 24 February 2025 Monday 28 April 2025 Tuesday 6 May 2025 Monday 21 July 2025	Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 2025	<i>Please note that these dates may be subject to change</i>



Year 6 Production

Haris 6ZB

This year, our Year 6 production of Mary Poppins will be held on Thursday 18th July at the Crossing Theatre in South & City College Birmingham. **There will only be one performance**, which will be held at 5:30pm. Tickets will be available to purchase through Parent Pay on Friday 28th June on a first come, first served basis. A maximum of three tickets per child will be available to purchase at a cost of £5 per ticket. All proceeds will be donated to the Year 6 charity.

If tickets do not sell out, we will release any remaining seats closer to the production date, however these are unlikely to be seated with the initial seats. We will not be reserving any tickets so please ensure you secure your tickets at your earliest convenience. The closing date for purchase will be 12th July. We will issue more information about the performance closer to the release of tickets.



Gold Star this week for Timestable Tribe:

Pixi, Darren, Harris Myra and Noah



Mrs Kerrigan Retiring

It is with immense sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Kerrigan at the end of this term after an incredible 42 years serving the children and families of St Bernadette's School. She has been a fantastic servant to the school and has touched the hearts of literally thousands of children and their families during her time at the school, not to mention the number of staff she has supported along the way. It cannot be underestimated the role she has played in school, supporting across the school from Nursery through to Year 6, where she is currently Y6 TA. Her role in the pastoral care she provides for our children is second to none as well as her support for outside clubs and Residential Trips over the years. She is simply irreplaceable.

She has earned a well deserved rest and will retire at the end of this academic year. However, I have a feeling she will be back in school from time to time!! I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Kerrigan a very long and happy, well-deserved retirement. We will all miss her greatly and thank her for everything she has done for St Bernadette's over the past 42 years.

Ruby in Year 6 said, 'My memory of Mrs Kerrigan is going to Sheldon Country Park and watching the aeroplanes go over our heads.'

Myla said 'My memory of Mrs Kerrigan is when I was really struggling in English and she said really nice things to me that made me happy and much more confident in English. Thank you Mrs Kerrigan.'

Goodbye and Thankyou

We also say goodbye to Miss Shally, Miss Oldham and Mrs Lewis. Miss Oldham joined us in September and Miss Shally joined us in 2022. We would like to thank them for their service to St Bernadette's and wish them all the success as they move on to their future careers.

Mrs Lewis

Mrs Lewis will be retiring from her role as Teaching Assistant and Breakfast Club Supervisor. She has been an incredible servant to St Bernadette's Catholic Primary over the last 22 years and will be greatly missed. Thank you Mrs Lewis for everything you have done for the children and families of St Bernadette's. Happily, she will be continuing in her role as lunchtime supervisor in September.

Year 6 Leavers Donations

Year 6 will be sadly leaving us at the end of this term. We wish them all the best of luck as they move on to their new secondary schools. If they would like to donate their school ties and/or PE pumps before they leave, they would be gratefully received.

Reading Books

Please could you have a big search at home for any school library books that may be in bedrooms or cupboards and PLEASE return them to school next week.

Jewellery

Even though it is coming to the end of term we still need to maintain standards within school. There are a number of children coming into school with jewellery on and also a number of girls with acrylic nails. Please ensure your child has removed these before they come in to school otherwise we will ask them to remove them. Thank you for your support.



Leavers' Photos

We would like to put together a photo montage of our current Year 6 pupils, showcasing their time in St. Bernadette's. We would love to be able to include at least one photo of every child in Year 6, whether this be a recent picture or something from any point in their time at St. Bernadette's. Dig deep for those first day at school, World Book Day or Nativity pictures and help us remind our children just how much they've grown!

If you have any photos that you are happy for us to include, please submit them to the email address below:

leavers2024@stberns.bham.sch.uk

We would welcome as many pictures as you are able to send!

Saint Thomas the Apostle – Feast Day 3rd July



Died c. 72

Patron Saint of doubters, architects, blind people, builders, geometricians, masons, surveyors, and theologians

Saint Thomas the Apostle is best known for doubting the Resurrection of Jesus, when he said, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe” ([John 20:25](#)).

The Acts of the Apostles mentions Thomas in the list of Apostles who gathered in the upper room after Jesus’ ascension into Heaven. Otherwise, Thomas is not mentioned again by name but is referred to generally with the other Apostles, such as at Pentecost. However, various ancient traditions widely believe that Thomas took Jesus’ final words seriously when Jesus said to the disciples, “. . . you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

According to the most reliable traditions, Thomas arrived in India around the year 52. He preached in southwestern India, as well as farther north. One ancient text called “The Acts of Thomas” speaks of many conversions and miracles that Thomas performed. Around the year 68, it is believed that Thomas and his companions travelled to eastern India, where he preached the Gospel, cared for the poor and sick, and erected churches. Tradition further states that Thomas worked to convert kings and their families as a way of gaining their support to convert the people. In Chennai, there is a hill called “Saint Thomas Hill,” believed to be the location of his martyrdom. Around the year 72, legend has it that while praying on that hill, Thomas was pierced in the back with a spear by order of the king for converting his wife and other family members to Christianity.

As we honour this great Apostle of the Lord, ponder the zeal he must have had to leave his home, family, and community, and travel to the far regions of India where he spent the rest of his life sharing the Gospel, baptizing, and establishing the Church. He died a martyr, which is fitting for such a courageous man. Though he struggled with doubts at first, his doubts were transformed by Christ. Filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Thomas never looked back. As you ponder his life, reflect on any ways you can learn from him and imitate him. If you struggle with doubts, know that the Holy Spirit can transform those doubts and fill you with the same depth of zeal and commitment as Saint Thomas.

Prayer: Saint Thomas the Apostle, you became a faithful follower of Jesus. Though you struggled with an occasion of doubt, that struggle transformed you into a new man. Please pray for me, that every struggle and weakness I have will be eliminated and transformed so that God can use me to fulfill His holy and perfect will. Saint Thomas the Apostle, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

First News

We are excited to share with you that First News have given us access to their summer reading resources. First News is delighted to provide a free First News digital subscription for every pupil over the summer holiday in 2024.

Knowing that reading loss can be a concern over the summer holidays, First News wanted to combat this with their free summer reading. It aims to keep students informed and entertained all summer with trusted and impartial news & games. First News is aimed at 7 to 14-year-olds and helps keep pupils reading while improving their critical literacy and oracy skills.

Just use this link to register for free access:

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/summer-reading-2024/?fn=1212REA5FCX5>
www.bringintonbrum.co.uk

Year 4 Residential

30 Year 4 children have been to the Pioneer Centre in Kidderminster from Monday to Wednesday of this week. They had a fantastic time and their behaviour was outstanding. A big thank you goes to Mr Wayne for organising the trip as well as Mr Markham-Jones and Mrs O'Brien for all giving up their time away from their families to allow the children to have this amazing experience that will be remembered for a very long time.

Year 5 Residential

50 Year 5 children will be heading off to Wales camping on Monday morning until Friday. Please say some prayers that the weather will be kind to us.



Year 6 Charity Event

On Friday 19th July, Year 6 are holding a Fun Day to raise money for Childrens Hospital. All children will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of games including:

Chocolate tombola

Coconut shy

Hook a duck

Penalty shoot out

Soak the teacher



**Chocolate
Tombol**



Each game costs 50p.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the children in Year 3 and the three children from Year 5 and one child from Year 6 who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday. They all looked incredibly smart and it was a beautiful and reverent mass. Thanks to all families who made the mass so special. A big thank you to Mrs Hill, to all of the teachers involved in helping the children prepare especially all the Year 3 staff and Mr Baker for preparing the singing and those who supported mass on Saturday morning. I would also like to say a huge thank you to members of our school choir who gave up their Saturday morning to help the Year 3 children make their First Holy Communion so special.



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 2SH, 3EG, 4AMJ and 6LC for the best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done RCB 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
89%	RSJ 96%	ICOT 93%	2SH 98% 	3OB 96%	4RW 95%	5CB 92%	6KH 94%
	RCB 98% 	IAS 96%	2EH 94%	3EG 99% 	4AMJ 96% 	5CG 95%	6LC 96% 
	RLC 90%	IPD 91%	2EO 93%	3CM 90%	4KL 91%	5FM 94%	6ZB 92%

Whole School Attendance	94%	Currently, the whole school attendance is 93% which is below the 96% 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	Lilly-Rose RCB	Evan RCB	Albert RSJ	Amari RSJ	Norah RLC	Safana RLC
Year 1	Dylan IML	Arshith IML	Idris ICOT	Lumiina ICOT	Keegan IAS	Jumana IAS
Year 2	John Paul 2SH	Sophia 2SH	Buster 2EH	MJ 2EH	Rayansh 2EO	Amelia 2EO
Year 3	Maiya 3EG	Ava 3EG	Lewis 3OB	Arsema 3OB	Badar 3CM	Amelia 3CM
Year 4	Harley 4KL	Emmy 4KL	Zoya 4RW	Inayah 4RW	Amelie 4AMJ	Hassan 4AMJ
Year 5	Anne Mary 5CB	Louis G 5CB	Zachary 5CG	Sienna 5CG	Josie 5FM	Atif 5FM
Year 6	Jacob 6LC	Norah 6LC	Lucas 6ZB	Sham 6ZB	Heran 6KH	Loza 6KH

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)	Ka'eo	For transitioning well into Reception.	Nursery (Red)	Ella	For always being so kind, helpful and caring.
Nursery (Green)	Lottie-Jo	For her fabulous role-play of Jesus at the wedding of Cana.	Nursery (Yellow)	Ruby-Marie	For being so engaging with everyone in Nursery.
RCB	Roman	For working so hard during French day, joining in with the dancing and asking great questions.	3OB	Katie	For being kind to others.
	Jesudabira Delight	For being so respectful and reverent during our class prayer service.		Micah	For his excellent behaviour in all lessons!
RLC	Norah	For always being such a kind and caring friend.	4AMJ	Kieran Jai	For excellent behaviour and perseverance on the residential.
	Safana	For always trying her best in all she does.		Leo	For excellent behaviour and perseverance on the residential.
RSJ	Albert	For his super efforts in his independent writing.	4KL	Jawad	Excellent mime artist performance on French Day.
	Amari	Always hard working and trying his best.		Charlotte	Excellent mime artist performance on French Day.
IAS	Mikaeel	For his amazing costume on French day!	4RW	Abisolaoluwa	For her enthusiasm with all activities on residential.
	Olivia	For her fantastic costume on French Day.		Chloe	For her enthusiasm with all activities on residential.
ICOT	Eve	Excellent answers in RE.	5CB	Hiba	For fantastic work in RE!
	Aodhan	Excellent answers in RE.		Isla-Mae	For always showing kindness to others in school.
IML	Norah	For a fantastic effort with her Mona Lisa costume for French day.	5CG	Logan	For trying so hard in Maths and working so well with Jacquie.
	Zachariah	For trying hard during our French day activities.		Hi jab	For always setting a good example for others to follow.
2EH	Harris	Great effort in English.	5FM	Sh'Kyah	For working so hard in his English lessons.
	Covenant	Fantastic contributions in RE.		Mia	For always showing kindness to others in school.
2EO	Cirear	For some fabulous answers in RE.	6KH	Montaha	For being a great Y6 representative during RE Inspection.
	Myra	For embracing transition days!		Andrew	For having the courage to read aloud in assembly for the first time.
2SH	Issa	For always having brilliant answers to share in class.	6LC	Thea	For trying mussels so enthusiastically!
	Taylor-Dee	For always using lovely manners and being kind.		Afrin	For showing great potential as an artist in our still life sketching.
3CM	Tehya-Grace	For reading beautifully during our Going Forth Mass.	6ZB	Kian	For contributing so well to our end of year production.
	Alan	For always raising his hand to answer questions.		Kaiyan	For a phenomenal donation to our Year 6 charity!
3EG	Jones	For always greeting the adults in the morning.			
	Declan	For acting very reverently during communion.			