

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 3
10 October 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.

Assistant Headteacher Message

It's hard to believe that we've already reached the end of the 6th week of term! The new school year is flying by, and it has been brilliant to see everyone settling in so well. There has been so much going on in school over the last couple of weeks – our Year 6s had an amazing time at Alton Castle, showing great teamwork and enthusiasm, and many of our pupils have been out on their bikes taking part in Bikeability, growing in confidence and learning important road safety skills. Today we also marked World Mental Health day, taking time to reflect on the importance of looking after ourselves and each other. It has been lovely to see so many pupils showing kindness, positivity, and care across school. Thank you all – pupils, staff, and families – for making the start of the year so positive!

The Gospel from St Luke will be shared with us at Mass on Sunday

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. Traveling from Galilee to Samaria, he came into a small town. Ten men met him there. These men did not come close to Jesus, because they all had a harmful skin disease. But they called to him, "Jesus! Master! Please help us!" When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

While the ten men were going, they were healed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (This man was a Samaritan.)

Jesus asked, "Ten men were healed; where are the other nine? Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed."



Our Young Disciple from Year 3 have shared their ideas for this week's Gospel reflection.

This scripture reading has a very important message for all of us. Only one man came back to thank Jesus, even though ten were healed. This teaches us that we should say thank you – to God and to others – when we receive kindness of help. It also shows us how we should have faith, and trust and believe in God.

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:

We are deeply saddened to share the news that Mrs. Smallwood's husband, Paul, sadly passed away last week.

As a school community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Smallwood and her family. They remain very much in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

We remember all those in our school community who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.



October – The Month of the Rosary

October is a special month in the Church calendar as we focus on the Rosary, a beautiful prayer that helps us reflect on the life of Jesus and Mary. Throughout this month, our school community will be taking time to pray the Rosary together, learning more about its mysteries, and deepening our understanding of faith and reflection. We encourage families to join us in this tradition at home, taking a few quiet moments to pray and reflect together.



Charity Fundraising

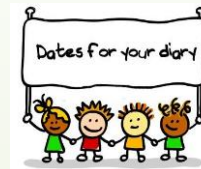
The total raised at the Macmillan Coffee Event was £241.00. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and charity.



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.

Diary Dates



Monday 13th October

Y6 Reading Open Day 9am

ICOT to wear own clothes – Feast Day of St Carlo Acutis (for 12.10)

Y6 Parents 9:30am support with secondary school applications

Paddle for Y5 & Y6

Bikeability – Hub

Tuesday 14th October

Y5 Reading Open Day 9am

Y6 Parents 9am support with secondary school applications

Black History Month afternoon

Wednesday 15th October

Whole School Harvest Mass 9:30am

Thursday 16th October

Y3 Reading Open Day 9am

Y5 & Y6 Football (after school)

Friday 17th October

Y4 Reading Open Day 9am

Bikeability – Hub

Monday 20th October

Y1 Phonics Open Day 9am

Class Photographs

Tuesday 21st October

Y2 Phonics/Reading Open Day 9am

Girls Football (after school)

Wednesday 22nd October

4-AMJ to wear own clothes – Feast Day of St Pope John Paul II

Football Tournament at Star City 1pm-4pm

Thursday 23rd October

Reception Phonics Open Day 9am

Y5 at the Eco Park

Forest School – Hub

Friday 24th October

5CG to wear own clothes – Feast Day of St Jude (for 28.10)

Break up for the half term holiday

Monday 3rd November

Return to school

Prospective parent meeting 5pm

Tuesday 4th November

Basketball Y5 & Y6 (after school)

Wednesday 5th November

Y6 Parents Confirmation Meeting 2:30pm

Friday 7th November

EYFS Communication and Language workshop 9am
(more info to follow)

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

Year 3 Cake Sale

On Thursday 23rd October, the children in Year 3 will be hosting a cake sale to raise money for their chosen charity, CAFOD. Cakes and biscuits will be on sale for children all across school to buy. A reminder text will be sent out to parents closer to the time.

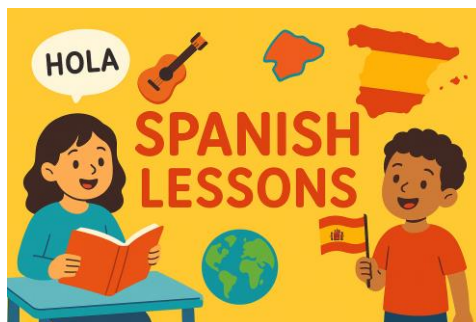
Many thanks in advance for your support with raising money for this important charity.



Spanish Lessons

We are delighted to announce that children in Year 3 have now begun their exciting journey of learning Spanish! This marks the start of a language pathway that will continue through to Year 6, giving our pupils the opportunity to develop their skills and confidence year on year. Learning a new language not only broadens horizons and deepens cultural understanding, but also strengthens memory, problem-solving, and communication skills. We are thrilled to see our pupils embracing this Hispanic language with such enthusiasm and look forward to watching their progress as they continue their learning.

¡Hasta luego!



School Council

This week our School Council have been set a task by Mr Carroll!

The councillors were asked to discuss ideas for new Track-it prizes for the school. They met last week and brainstormed ideas, deciding on what prizes could be used for less and more points. They thought about what the children would find useful as a prize, as well as things they would just enjoy. The School Council went back to their year groups and gathered ideas from their peers.

On Tuesday, they met with Mr Carroll and pitched their ideas to him. He was impressed with how well thought out the ideas were and we hope to see a few of them soon. Well done School Council!



Flu Vaccinations – 26th November

Flu vaccinations will take place in school on **Tuesday 26th November**. Consent forms have been sent home with your child – please make sure these are filled in and returned to school **before the date**. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community healthy this winter!



Inclement Weather

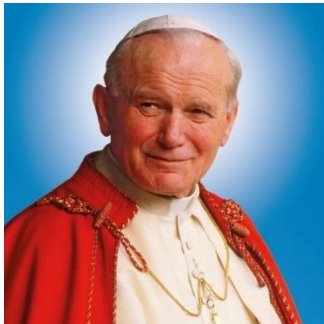
If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that school needs to close, please listen to the local radio stations. The school texting service, school website and the school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am, then you can assume that school will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

Remembering St. Pope John Paul II – Feast day 22nd October – Class Saint 4AMJ

This month, we take time to remember St. Pope John Paul II, a remarkable leader of the Church whose life continues to inspire Catholics around the world. Born Karol Józef Wojtyła in Poland, he became pope in 1978 and served for over 26 years, sharing a message of faith, hope, and the dignity of every person.

St. John Paul II travelled extensively, connecting with people of all ages and backgrounds, and encouraged young people to embrace their faith courageously. He was a strong advocate for peace, justice, and the value of human life. His teachings remind us that holiness is lived in everyday actions, through love, service, and courage.

As we remember him, may his example inspire our school community to live with faith, compassion, and a commitment to making the world a better place.



Alton Castle Residential

This week, our Year 6 students enjoyed an exciting and reverent residential trip to Alton Castle. The children had a fantastic time developing their Catholic faith, participating in a variety of Outdoor Adventurous Activities and making new memories with their friends. They were a real credit to the school and their families, demonstrating excellent behaviour throughout the visit.



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.

3 November 2025 – 5pm
10 November 2025 – 9am

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



SCHOOL FUND FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 TO 2026

Parents are requested to make a donation of £10.00 per child or £10.00 per family to our school fund.

This donation will go directly towards:

- Workshops and hands-on learning activities
- Food tasting and cultural experience days
- Visitors such as authors, theatre groups or scientists
- Whole school events and celebrations

Please donate via www.parentpay.com

Thank you for your continued support.

Feast of St Carlo Acutis – 12th October – Class saint ICOT

This month, we celebrate the feast day of St Carlo Acutis on 12th October. Carlo was a remarkable young man from Italy who lived a deep and joyful faith in the modern world. Born in 1991, he is often called the first millennial saint, showing that holiness is possible in every generation.

Carlo had a great love for the Eucharist and used his passion for technology to share his faith, creating a website to catalogue Eucharistic miracles around the world. He believed that the internet could be used as a tool for good and to bring people closer to God.

His canonisation was officially declared on 7 September 2025, when Pope Leo XIV proclaimed him a saint in St. Peter's Square. His life continues to inspire young people and families everywhere to live with faith, kindness, and purpose in their daily lives. As we honour his feast day, may we be encouraged to use our own gifts to serve others and grow in friendship with Christ.

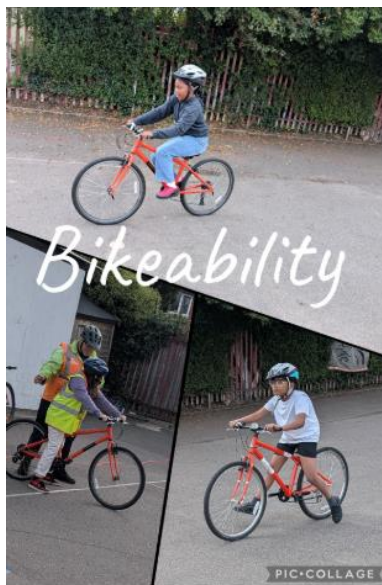


Year 6 Bikeability

Over the past three weeks, our Year 6 pupils have been taking part in Bikeability. This has been a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their cycling skills and confidence.

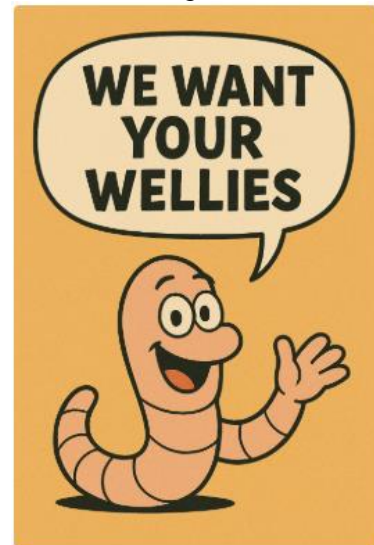
Some children have learned to ride a bike for the very first time, while many others have gained valuable experience riding safely on the road.

The next group to take part will be the Hub children on 13th & 14th October, followed by Year 5, who will begin their training in the week commencing 10th November.



Nursery Garden

This year we are continuing to nurture the Nursery Garden. We are starting to collect items to allow for more pupil involvement in the garden.



Please could you forward any old wellington boots to Miss Corkery. All sizes will be accepted, just we ask they are clean and still waterproof.

Secondary School Applications

Applications are now open for secondary school places starting in September 2026.

You can apply through the **Birmingham City Council website**:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The closing date for applications is **31 October 2025 at 11:59pm**.

It is **very important to apply on time** — late applications are less likely to secure one of your preferred schools.

Applications submitted **after 31 October 2025** will be treated as **late** and will not be processed until **after offer day on 2 March 2026**.

We will be holding two sessions at school to support parents in applying for Secondary School places.

These will take place on the following dates:

Monday 13 October: 9.30 – 10am and 2–3pm

Thursday, 24th October: 9–10am and 2–3pm



This month we are celebrating Black History Month. A time where we celebrate and honour the achievements of past and present black inspirational people. A continued engagement with black history is vital as it helps us understand and learn from the past. Black History Month is an opportunity to understand Black histories, going beyond stories of racism and slavery to spotlight Black achievement. Black History Month may only be a month, but we will continue to celebrate the contributions of black culture and individuals in our shared society all year round.

The theme for Black History Month 2025 is "Standing Firm in Power and Pride." It celebrates the strength, courage and achievements of Black communities. It reminds us to honour history, embrace identity, and keep pushing for justice and equality – talking boldly with pride and using our power to shape a better future.

We will be exploring the arrival of the Windrush and its people. Learning about the Windrush is important because it helps us understand how people from the Caribbean came to Britain to help rebuild after World War II. They worked hard, faced unfair treatment and helped shape the country we live in today. The Windrush story teaches us about courage, kindness and standing up for what's right. It reminds us to welcome others, respect different cultures and be proud of our shared history. By learning about Windrush, we honour the people who made a big difference and make sure their stories are never forgotten. Their journey is part of all of us.

Additionally, this month we will be celebrating the works of Alma Thomas, Vanley Burke, Clementine Hunter, Reggie Laurent, Lois Mailou Jones, Yinka Ilori, Deborah Roberts and Basquiat. The children will then create their own pieces of artwork based on these artists.



Harvest

It is traditional for St Bernadette's to collect dry and tinned goods to donate to the Sifa Fireside Charity who support the homeless within Birmingham. We would be grateful of any donations for this worthy charity to be sent between Monday 29th September – Wednesday 15 October. (Please see flyer below) A special Harvest Mass will take place at Holy Family church at 9.30am on Wednesday 15 October (Year 1 – Year 6) in celebration of the Harvest. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the walk to Church.



Putting people most in need first
**Preferential Option
for the Poor**

Our most needed from the Harvest Festival

Thank you for considering a donation to SIFA Fireside. Below is a list of the items needed to provide our rough sleeper support services this Autumn.

SIFA fireside



Food Items

- Instant coffee
- Baked beans
- Fruit squash
- Instant meals (e.g. Pot Noodles)
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned meat and fish
- Tinned soup
- Sugar



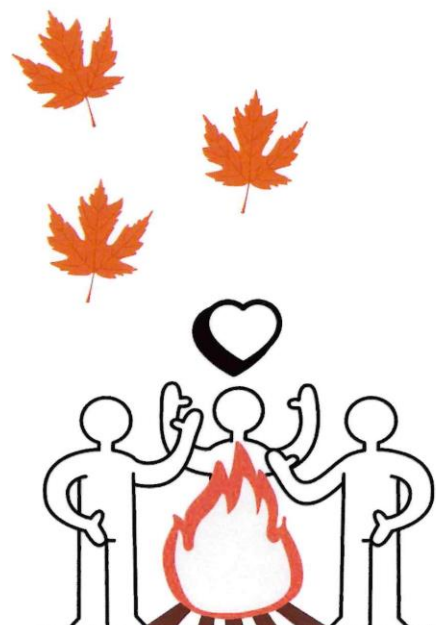
For rough sleeper packs

- Cereal
- Chocolate
- Cereal bars/biscuits
- Crisps
- Soft drinks



Birmingham, you're not alone

SIFA Fireside, 48-52 Allcock Street, Birmingham B9 4DY
Registered charity number: 1049728



Lumiina in Y3 has been developing her creativity skills at home, producing some fabulous paintings. She has kindly let us keep her beautiful turtle painting so we can frame it and display it in school for everyone to enjoy. I'm sure you will agree that she is a talented budding artist, and we are delighted to celebrate her work.



Year 5 & 6 Football

It has been a busy week for our footballers in years 5 & 6!

On Monday, we travelled to the Rosary for a friendly fixture and came away with a thrilling 8-7 victory in a very exciting match.

On Wednesday, the team took part in the Birmingham City FC competition, competing brilliantly against strong opposition and finishing 3rd out of 10 teams. We narrowly missed out on qualification by just 2 points – a fantastic effort from everyone involved.

On Thursday evening, our league campaign kicked off at Holly Lane. Despite some determined performances, we were beaten 2-0 in both matches. The players showed great teamwork and resilience, and we look forward to building on these experiences in the next round of fixtures.



National Poetry Day – Thursday 2nd October

On Thursday 2nd October it was National Poetry Day. It was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to explore their creativity and enjoy the magic of words. A special well done to Saanvi in Year 4, who proudly shared some of her beautiful poems with the us. Her thoughtful writing and imaginative ideas inspired us all – thank you, Saanvi, for helping us celebrate the power of poetry!

A Rainy Day

I used to detest a rainy day,
There were no outdoor games to play.
And even though our house was roomy,
The colourless, characterless rain made it gloomy.
Now, I don't tend the rain at all,
For when no friends come to call,
I've all the company I need,
I get on my wellies, and my coat and head outside.

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.

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 2RW, 3EG, 3DH, 4AMJ, 5CG and 5ET for best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done to RCB for the best attendance in the Foundation Stage!

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
90%	RLC 92%	ICOT 95%	2SH 95%	3DA 95%	4FM 95%	5MF 96%	6CB 96%
	RCB 97% 	IOB 95%	2EOB 96%	3EG 99% 	4AMJ 99% 	5CG 98% 	6CC 89%
	REL 94%		2RW 97% 	3DH 98% 	4KL 90%	5ET 99% 	6ZB 95%

Whole School Attendance	95%	Currently, the whole school attendance is 95% which is below the 96% that is expected.
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SEND Parent Sessions

Meet the *experts*

Come along to our Coffee Mornings & Afternoons — a relaxed space to meet other parents and chat with visiting professionals about ways to support your child.

OCT
9

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

9 - 10 AM

Practical tips on supporting speech, language and communication

NOV
20

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

2:30 - 3:15 PM

Strategies for independence, motor skills and sensory support.

DEC
10

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

9 - 10 AM

Understanding learning, behaviour and emotional development.

JAN
26

COMMUNICATION AND AUTISM TEAM

2 - 3 PM

Advice and support for children and young people with communication differences and autism.

FEB
2

COMPASS

Online safety

9 - 10:30 AM

FEB
3

COMPASS

Supporting your child with worries

9 - 10:30 AM

FEB
11

LANGUAGE, LEARNING AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT

9 - 10 AM

Support for children with learning and language needs to build confidence, engage in school and achieve their best.

MAY
5

COMPASS

Build self-esteem

9 - 10:30 AM



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.

Shining Light Award

CLASS	NAME	How children who have brightened the lives of others through their actions and/or attitude.	CLASS	NAME	How children who have brightened the lives of others through their actions and/or attitude.
Nursery (Blue)	Billie-Josephine	For always being kind and helpful towards her friends.	Nursery (Yellow)	Ali	For improved behaviour.
Nursery (Green)	Isla-Mae	For being kind and helpful towards her friends	Nursery (Red)	Dottie	For showing kindness and care to others.
RCB	Muhammad	For being a special buddy for our new member of RCB you have been a great example to him this week!	4AMJ	Rayansh	For his amazing gymnastics skills in PE lessons
	Zara	For excellent speaking and listening skills and always using her manners!		Jaiden	For writing an excellent character description in English.
REL	Laila-Grace	Lovely contribution to our prayer service on Creation.	4FM	Bilal	For being a polite and kind member of our class.
	Roisin-Bernadette	Being a kind and thoughtful friend.		Amelia	For always using good manners.
RLC	Lamech	For growing in independence and always trying his best.	4KL	Hadassah	For being so kind to others.
	Asher	For always being so kind and helpful towards his friends.		Harvee	For always looking out for others.
ICOT	Everly	For being kind and thoughtful.	5CG	Mariamawit	Working so hard with her English reading outside of the classroom.
	Arthur	For being kind and helpful.		Ariisa	Being so helpful and polite in all of her Y5 lessons.
IOB	Khadijah	For always using her manners and being kind to others!	5ET	Jaspreet	For being such a positive member of our class.
	Cameron	For always trying his best in lessons and being a kind friend.		Tilly	For settling so well into our St. Bernadette's family and sharing her excellent RE knowledge.
2EOB	Odutayo	For excellent Maths work and helping others!	5MF	Katie	For trying so hard in every maths lesson!
	Fatima Urwa	For trying super hard in English and being a kind friend!		Jake	For such a brilliant effort in an out of school football match!
2RW	Sylvie	For always being super helpful in class.	6CB	Aidan	For beautiful manners!
	Azmaeen	For his amazing drawing of a rocket.		Cathal	For trying so hard in class!
2EOB	Mariah	For being such a helpful and polite member of our class.	6LC	Lily	For trying so hard and persevering especially in Maths this week
	Roman	For always trying your hardest in lessons!		Sadhika	For always setting a beautiful example of behaviour and her kind treatment of others.
3DA	Albie	For being supportive and helpful.	6ZB	Connor	For giving 100% effort in all he does.
	Reyah	For trying so hard in her English writing.		Millie-Rae	For always being so kind and considerate.
3DH	Lumiina	For her outstanding effort in everything she does.	Shining Light Award <i>'You are the light of the world.'</i> Matthew 5:14		
	Jack	For always trying to be a good role model for others.			
3EG	Lexie-Rae	For trying hard and contributing to lessons frequently.			
	Leela	For always trying hard and contributing to lessons frequently.			