# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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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. John will be shared with us at mass on Sunday this week.

John 18:33-37



Then Pilate went back inside the palace. He called Jesus to him and asked, "Are You the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "Is that your own question, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew. It was Your own people and their leading priests who brought You before me. What have You done wrong?" Jesus said, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it belonged to this world, My servants would have fought to keep Me from being given over to the Jewish leaders. But My kingdom is from another place." Pilate said, "So You are a king!" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. That is true. I was born for this: to tell people about the truth. That is why I came into the world. And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me."

#### Gospel Reflection



Our Young Disciple has written this week's reflection.

This Gospel tells us that Jesus was king, but not a king who tells people to do things for Him. Instead, He came to earth to teach us about God's truth and how to receive God's love and forgiveness.

The Gospel tells us we should follow the truth and choose what is right. Those who live by the truth will find peace and joy for all eternity in heaven.



Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe This Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November is the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is also the final Sunday of the liturgical calendar - the last Sunday of Ordinary Time. The season of Advent begins the following Sunday on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Jesus is a King of love, mercy, peace, and forgiveness who comes to lead us to the truth and to eternal life. Jesus is a King who teaches us to serve with humility and gentleness — "*For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*" (Mark 10:42-45).

The purpose of this feast is to draw our minds and hearts closer to acknowledging this.

Dear Jesus, I believe in you. You are my King. I praise Your holy name. I want to follow You. Help me to be like You. Guide me in all I say and do. Help me to live in Your way. Amen

#### Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for: The mother of Mason and Killean The mother of George Miss O'Toole and family Erin, Orlaith and family



## By now you should have already booked your child's parents' evening appointment for either **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November** or **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** via the link sent from Teachers2Parents. The focus of this parents' evening for Years I to 6 is English. Parents of children in Reception and Nursery will see their class teacher.

Don't Forget parents' evening!

Please note, parents' evening for the children in ICOT English set will now take place on  $\rm 10^{th}$  and  $\rm 11^{th}$  December.

Meeting for Prospective Nursery/Reception entry in September 2025



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

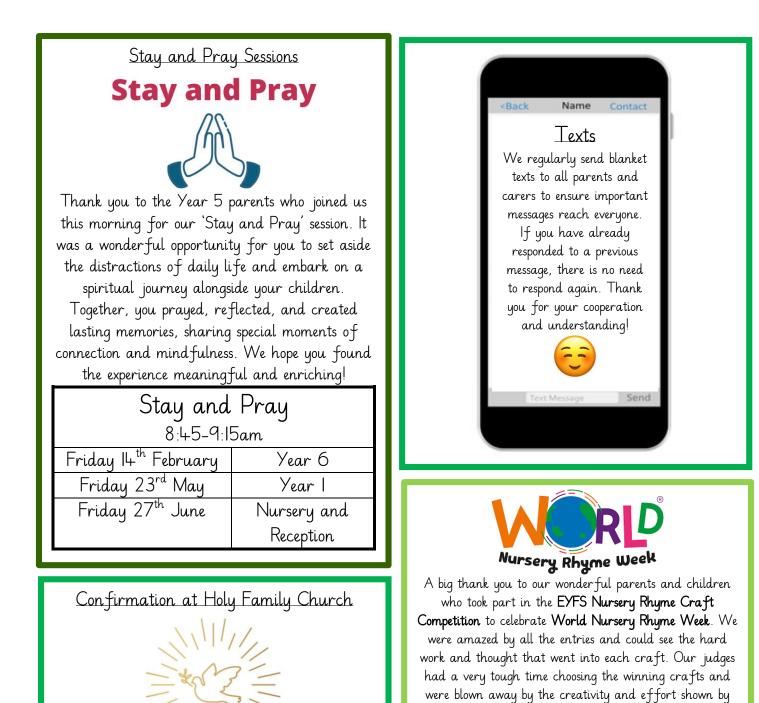
> Tuesday 10 December 2024 – 10am Friday 10 January 2025 – 1.30pm

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

## Diary Dates



Tuesday 26th November Parents' Evening - English Wednesday 27th November Parents' Evening - English Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November NSPCC Workshop – Year 2 and 5 Friday 29th November Advent Service St. Andrew's Day (For 30<sup>th</sup>) – Chocolate bar and children to wear blue or white. Saturday 30th November St. Andrew's Day Monday 2nd December Maths assessment week Yrl-6 <u>Wednesdau 4<sup>th</sup> December</u> Falconry visit for Nursery in school Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December Year 5 Confession Year 6 Confirmation at Holy Family Church – 6pm Friday 6th December 11.00 am -Advent Livestream Feast of St Nicholas IOB – Children to wear their own clothes EYFS/KSI Craftmas - tickets on ParentPay Wednesday IIth December Afternoon tea for parishioners of Holy Family Church- 1:15pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 am - Year 2 Play for Parents Year 6 Confession Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 am - Nursery Play for Parents of children in Red and Green group Gold Star own clothes day <u>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</u> 9.30 am - Nursery Play for Parents of children in Blue and <mark>Yellow</mark> group <u>Tuesdau 17<sup>th</sup> December</u> 9.30 am - Reception Play for Parents Year 5 & 6 Carols – 6pm Wednesday 18th December 9.30 am - Whole School Mass Christmas jumper day & dinner for Children Thursday 19th December Year I Prayer Service - 9am Year 4 - Confession Feast of St. John (for 27th 4RW) - children to wear their own clothes Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December Finish for Christmas Party/Toy Day



Our Year 6 confirmandi will be confirmed on Thursday 5th December at 6pm by Bishop David Evans. Confirmation is the sacrament by which a person renews and confirms the promises made, on their behalf by their parents and godparents, when they were presented for Baptism.

Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they receive the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit that they can draw strength from as they bear witness to Christ in their lives through word and deed.

Please keep our Year 6 confirmandi in your prayers as they prepare for this special milestone in their faith journey. Miss Cowings, Mr. Carroll, Miss Finnegan, Mrs. McCartan, Mr. Abbott, and Mr. Malone thoroughly enjoyed judging the competition. While they felt that all the children who participated were winners, they could only select six as the final winners.

both Nursery and Reception children.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Mrs. Jones for organising the event and to all the EYFS staff for their support in making it such a success.



A big well done to Eden-Ivy from Nursery, who was also one of the winners!

#### St. Cecilia



Today the children in 5FM celebrated their class saint, St. Cecilia. They also planned their Stay and Pray session around her.

Our class saint is St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians. St. Cecilia loved to sing and praise God through music.

Her feast day is on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. St. Cecilia is remembered for her courage and faith. Even when she faced challenges and persecution, she continued to sing joyfully to God, inspiring those around her.

St. Cecilia shows us how music can bring us closer to God and how we can use our talents to spread joy and love to others. She is a wonderful example of faith, courage and the power of music to touch hearts. By Samrawit 5FM

#### SCHOOL FUND ACADEMIIC 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.

Jan	Year 4
Saavi	Year 3
Jaydan	Year 5
Zoey	Year 6



'Bring It On Brum!' is running FREE activity clubs in Birmingham for young people aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related <u>free school meals</u>. There are a huge range of activities available including sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music. Programmes vary depending on the type and location of each local club and each holiday club will give your child a nutritious meal too! Please read the 'Bring It On Brum!' letter which was emailed to parents and carers of children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals this week. If you believe you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, but didn't receive a letter via email, please contact Miss O'Neill in the school office.

Bookings for Winter holiday clubs will open on Monday 2 December 2024 at: www.bringitonbrum.co.uk



#### 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 First Sunday of Advent – Sunday I<sup>st</sup> December 2024 "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." Matthew 3:3

The Liturgical Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and runs through to the Solemnity of Christ the King.



Advent is the first season of the liturgical year. It is a time of waiting for the birth of the Messiah, the word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word 'Adventus' which means arrival or coming. There are four Sundays in Advent and you will notice at Mass that the colours used for vestments and altar cloths during Advent are purple, with pink on the Third Sunday of Advent to symbolise hope. The Advent season is one of anticipation, reflection and hope as we wait for the arrival of Jesus.

#### Advent Prayer

Be with us, Lord, as we enter this waiting season of Advent. We thank You for the many blessings in our lives and with anticipation, preparation and hope we look forward to the arrival Your Son, Jesus, the light of the world. Amen

Advent Service in School On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, the children will be marking the beginning of Advent with a special Advent Service in school. <u>A Special Moment: Theresa-Maria blessing from Popel</u> We are thrilled to share some exciting news from our school community!

During the half term holidays, Theresa-Maria, along with her family and families from her parish, travelled to Italy for a pilgrimage. Theresa had the opportunity to visit the 4 major Basilicas which are: Basilica of St Peter, the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, the Basilica of St Mary Major and the Arch-Basilica of St John Lateran. She also travelled to Padua, where she saw St Anthony of Padua's incorrupt tongue, and Assisi, where she saw the incorrupt body of Blessed Carlo Acutis - the cyber apostolate of the Catholic Church. The highlight of the trip for Theresa was definitely the visit to Rome where she got a blessing from Pope Francis at St Peter's Square.





Christmas Craftmas Get ready to *jingle all the way* with our Reception and KSI Christmas Craftmas on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Join us for an hour filled with festive cheer and creativity as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year! Immerse yourself in the spirit of the season with a variety of Christmas themed activities. All money raised will be donated to Holy Family Church. Please buy a ticket today via Parent Pay. Open to all parents and pupils in Reception, Year I and Year 2. There are limited spaces available so be quick!

## Reading Roundup





#### Author Spotlight - Dr Matt Bothwell



My name is Matt. I'm an astronomer, writer and aspiring supervillain. I wrote Astrophysics for Supervillains so children could learn all the amazing things about space they don't teach you in school (and also as an excuse to tell all my most terrible jokes. Sorry about that). Astrophysics for Supervillains is my first book for children and it's basically the book I wish I read when I was in school, to teach me about space while having as much fun as possible.

Yours in mischief, Matt

#### Nursery Stay and Play

This week, parents and carers of our children in Nursery had the opportunity to come into school to take part in gross motor activities with their children. Great fun was had by all and it was great to see so many parents and carers attend.

Thank you to the Nursery staff who organised these sessions for parents and carers.





Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – St. <u>Andrew's Day</u> To celebrate St. Andrew's feast day which falls on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, children are asked to wear blue or white to school and to donate a bar of chocolate for the Holy Family Christmas Bazaar.

#### Holy Family Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday 7th December in Holy Family School Hall from IIam to 2pm. Come along to get into the festive spirit and enjoy a wonderful day filled with games, stalls and Christmas fun for the whole family.





<u>School of Sanctuary Update</u>

'I was a stranger and you made me welcome.' Matt 25:35

We are excited to share a fortnightly update on our journey toward achieving the School of Sanctuary award. These updates will highlight the steps we are taking as a school community to create a welcoming, inclusive environment where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.



Year 4 Charity Fundraising — St. Chad's Sanctuary

Each half term, children in each year group take responsibility for charity work, choosing a charity to support as part of their commitment to serving others. These activities provide our children with valuable opportunities to practice selflessness, generosity, and compassion while deepening their understanding of solidarity and the responsibility we all share to care for and support members of God's Family.

This term, Year 4 has chosen to raise money for St. Chad's Sanctuary, a voluntary project supported by many friends, including St. Chad's Cathedral and The Salvation Army. St. Chad's Sanctuary is a place of welcome and hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees, offering practical support, English classes, and signposting to other services. This ties closely to our work towards the School of Sanctuary Award, as we aim to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.

From Monday 25th November to Friday 6th December, Year 4 will be raffling tickets for their Holiday Hampers to support this wonderful cause. A single ticket will be £1, three tickets for £2 and five tickets for £3. Last year, the Holiday Hampers were extremely popular, filled with perfect treats for Christmas and this year's are just as exciting!  $\clubsuit$  Don't miss your chance to participate and support such an important initiative. Below are examples of the hampers from last year!



Christmas Gift Appeal: Donations Needed by Friday 6th December

This year, we are supporting St Chad's Sanctuary in their mission to bring joy to those in need this Christmas. The sanctuary distributes Christmas gifts to men, women, children and babies of all faiths and backgrounds. Currently, they only have 200 of the 600 gifts needed. Typical gifts include hats, gloves, toiletries for adults, and toys, crafts, stationery, or hair accessories for children.

If you would like to donate, please label items (e.g., male, female, or child with age range), leave them unwrapped or place them in a gift bag, and bring them to school by Friday 6th December. We will arrange for all donations to be delivered to St Chad's Sanctuary.

Your generosity can make a real difference! Thank you for your support.



## Miss Odeta's Journey – A Story of Resilience and Determination

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.

Miss Odeta, one of our valued teaching assistants, has an inspiring story to share. In 2006, 18 years ago, she made the brave decision to travel to England on her own. Two years earlier, Lithuania had joined the European Union, and at a young age, she sought independence and new opportunities. She had always been intrigued by England, a country she had learned about in school and seen in enticing images. While studying in Lithuania, she wanted to earn some money during the summer holidays, which led her to move here.

She settled in Dorset, a place vastly different from the Lithuanian countryside she was familiar with. Living in a small seaside village, she noticed there weren't many people or pavements around and assumed most of England was like this. Her perspective changed dramatically during her first visit to London, where she experienced the hustle and bustle of city life and realised the diversity of the UK.

In her early days in England, Miss Odeta faced challenges. She worked in a laundry, travelling up a steep hill daily. Some of her colleagues displayed unwelcome attitudes, which made her feel undervalued. However, once she had talked diplomatically to the manager things improved. This shows Miss Odeta is driven by a correct, fair attitude to all people.

Her life in England took a new turn when her son was born in Dorset. When he was five months old, they moved to Birmingham. In 2011 her son joined our school nursery and in 2012 Miss Odeta began volunteering at St. Bernadette's. While volunteering in our nursery, she discovered a passion for working with children, leading her to complete Level 2 and Level 3 Teaching Assistant courses at Solihull College. During this time, she juggled her studies, work and motherhood, demonstrating remarkable perseverance.

After completing her qualifications, Miss Odeta welcomed her daughter and continued to work night shifts in a care home while supporting her family. Her love for St. Bernadette's inspired her to apply for a lunchtime supervisor role, where she worked for three years. Her enthusiasm and dedication motivated her to apply for a teaching assistant role last year, and she now works in Year 6, supporting both teachers and pupils.

Miss Odeta's story is a testament to her resilience, adaptability and passion for education. She has overcome challenges, embraced opportunities and dedicated herself to creating a positive impact in our school community. We are incredibly proud to have her as part of our team.

Through these personal stories, we hope to foster greater understanding and appreciation of the diverse journeys that make up our school community as we continue working towards our School of Sanctuary Award.

#### Christmas Celebrations — Dates for your Diary



- Wednesday II<sup>th</sup> December: Parishioners of Holy Family Church are invited to watch the Year 2 dress rehearsal at I:15pm, followed by afternoon tea.
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December is the Year 2 Nativity Play. Doors open at 9am for a prompt start at 9:30am.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December is the Nursery Nativity Play for Red Group and Green Group. Doors will open at 9:15am for a prompt start at 9:30am.
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December is the Nursery Nativity Play for Blue Group and Yellow Group. Doors will open at 9:15am for a prompt start at 9:30am.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December is the Reception Play for Parents. Doors open at 9am for a prompt start at 9:30am.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December is the Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Family Church. Doors will open at 5:30pm for a prompt start at 6pm. £1 per adult on entry and all money will be donated to Holy Family Church.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas dinner. Children who have a packed lunch can opt to have a school dinner o this day. A form will be sent to parents via a text in the coming weeks. It is also Christmas Jumper Day. Children can replace their school jumper or cardigan with a Christmas jumper and donate £1. All money raised will be donated to Holy Family Church.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December is Whole School Mass (Year 1-6) at Holy Family Church at 9:30am. This mass will be prepared and led by Year 3 and Year 4. We would be delighted to see some of our parents and carers at this mass.
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December is the Year I Prayer Service. It will begin promptly at 9am and will be finished by 9:30am.
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December is **Christmas Party Afternoon**. Children can wear party clothes to school on this day and they are asked to bring a small plate of party food (no nuts). Please ensure their food plate is labelled. It is also **toy day**. Children can bring in one toy from home to play with in school. No electronic devices such as IPads, smart watches or smart phones and no cameras or devices with cameras please.



### 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 3CK and 4KL for the best attendance across school!

#### 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.

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Nursery	Reception	Year I	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
ମା%	RSJ 93%	ICOT 95%	2SH 94-%	3DA 93%	4RW 94%	5MF 95%	6CB 96%
	RCB 93%	IML/NL 95%	2EH 93%	3EG 95%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 95%	6LC 95%
	RLC 93%	IOB 94%	2EO 95%	3CK 97%	4KL 97%	5FM 93%	6ZB 95%

Whole School Attendance		Currently, the whole school attendance is <b>95%</b> which is below the <b>96%</b> that is expected.
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#### Behaviour Ambassador of the Week

Well done to the following children who have been a fantastic role models in demonstrating our behaviour expectations and values for the last two weeks:

Reception	Brae RSJ	Aaron RSJ	lbrahim	Ruby	Khadija Fatima	Lilah
			RCB	RCB	RLC	RLC
Year I	Nancy	Hassan	Tiara-Vogue	Adam	Rumaisa	Kyla
	IML/NL	IML/NL	ICOT	ICOT	IOB	IOB
Year 2	Reylin 2SH	Aseed 2SH	Conal 2EH	Eve 2EH	Salahuddin 2EOB	Leela 2EOB
Year 3	Keavy 3EG	Faustina 3EG	lssa 3DA	Freya 3DA	Orla 3CK	Amreen 3CK
Year 4	Namira 4KL	Alisha 4KL	Tehya 4RW	George 4RW	Paisley 4AMJ	Daniel K 4AMJ
Year 5	Hassan 5CG	Kacie 5CG	Harley 5MF	O'Laiyah 5MF	Keira 5FM	Inayah 5FM
Year 6	Jessica 6CB	Jasir 6CB	Anayah 6LC	Francis 6LC	Tilleah 6ZB	Finley 6ZB

Special Certificates - Each week a child from each class is nominated to receive a special certificate through the post. The pupils who are awarded these certificates have shown that they really understand what it means to live as Jesus taught us, perhaps by being particularly kind or helpful. Well done, to the following children:

CLASS	NAME	REASON	CLASS	NAME	REASON
Nursery (Blue)	Miguel	Wonderful singing.	Nursery (Red)	Zimal	For joining in with Makaton signs and becoming more independent.
Nursery (Green)	Adam	For settling into nursery so well.	Nursery (Yellow)	Asher	For excellent work during our maths sessions!
RCB Zayn	Dariel	For beautiful singing in our Christmas Play practice.	3EG	Haadi Abbas	For making an effort with his handwriting.
	Zayn	For excellent writing this week in Literacy!		Hugo	For being a good morning helper.
RLC	Khadijah	For always trying her best with her literacy work!	ĻАМЈ	Regan	For being an excellent role model fo his peers when attending the multi sports festival.
	Lilah	For always being kind and caring to her friends and teachers.		Shaydon	For reading the introduction as par of the year 4 bass so reverently.
RSJ	Aaron	For trying so hard with his independent writing in Literacy.		Mariamawit	For always volunteering to read in assemblies or Mass.
	Brae	Always so kind, helpful and caring to her friends and teachers.	4KL	Warda	A huge improvement in attitude and behaviour since the start of the year.
ICOT Helena	Helena	For always listening and following instructions.	4RW	Jake	For his amazing contribution in t KS2 sports competition.
Amari		For always showing super behaviour around the school.	+1\**	Ella	For her amazing contribution in t KS2 sports competition.
IML/NL	Sylvie	Fantastic maths work.	500	Khaleesi	Working really hard in English wit new vocabulary and sentence types
	Azmaeen	His beautiful handwriting.	5CG	Millie-Rae	Making a great effort in lessons an coming into school with a smile ever day.
Muhammed IOB Aadam		For his beautiful manners.	5FM	Sadhika	For her wonderful drawing of St Cecilia.
Miriam		For always trying her best in lessons!	511	Danielle	For being brave and reading in ou prayer service.
2EH Jack	Jack	For his effort in RE.	5MF	Cathal	For an outstanding piece of writi in English!
Evangel		For her fantastic effort in all her work.		Isla-Rae	Such a brilliant attitude during ma lessons.
2EOB	Muhammad Hussain	For always sharing and contributing in lessons!	6CB	Callum	For trying hard in all his lessons!
	Norah	For trying hard in all her lessons!		Lillie-Grace	For trying so hard with her homewo
2SH	Isla	For being an extremely helpful member of our class!	6LC	Leniyce	For working really hard with her lo division.
	Jacob	For always trying hard in our lessons and sharing his brilliant answers!		Ebel	For trying his best in every single lesson.
3CK _	Jenson-James	For always contributing in lessons.	6ZB	Archie	For creating a phenomenal piece of work for our Carol Concert.
	Betty-Rae	For helping others in class.		Tafari	For being such a polite and kind you man.
3DA	Conan	For his outstanding effort in all his lessons.			





# Christmas Help

We're here if you need a little extra help this Christmas

Food parcels and kids toys

Wednesday 18 th December 2024 11am - 1pm St Martins Church Centre 140 Witton Lodge Road, Erdington, B23 5AP



# NURSERY AND RECEPTION CLASS OF SEPTEMBER 2025



I Love my School

St Bernadette's is a place where the children are offered stability and enrichment to learn effectively and develop into well rounded, responsible and respectful young people.

Please visit our school website and Twitter page to learn more about St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School and Nursery and see all the fantastic learning opportunities that are available.

www.stberns.co.uk

www.twitter.com/StbernsPrimary



8TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT 10.00 AM 10 DECEMBER 2024 AT 10.00 AM 10 JANUARY 2025 AT 1.30 PM Please scan the barcode to register your interest

**OPEN MEETINGS** 

Teachers are great and they're always happy to help.

## ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

For more information please contact the school office on admissions@stberns.bham.sch.uk or telephone 0121 783 7232

Admission policy applies.