

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

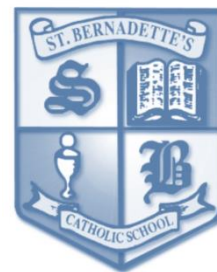
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Newsletter 10

31 January 2025

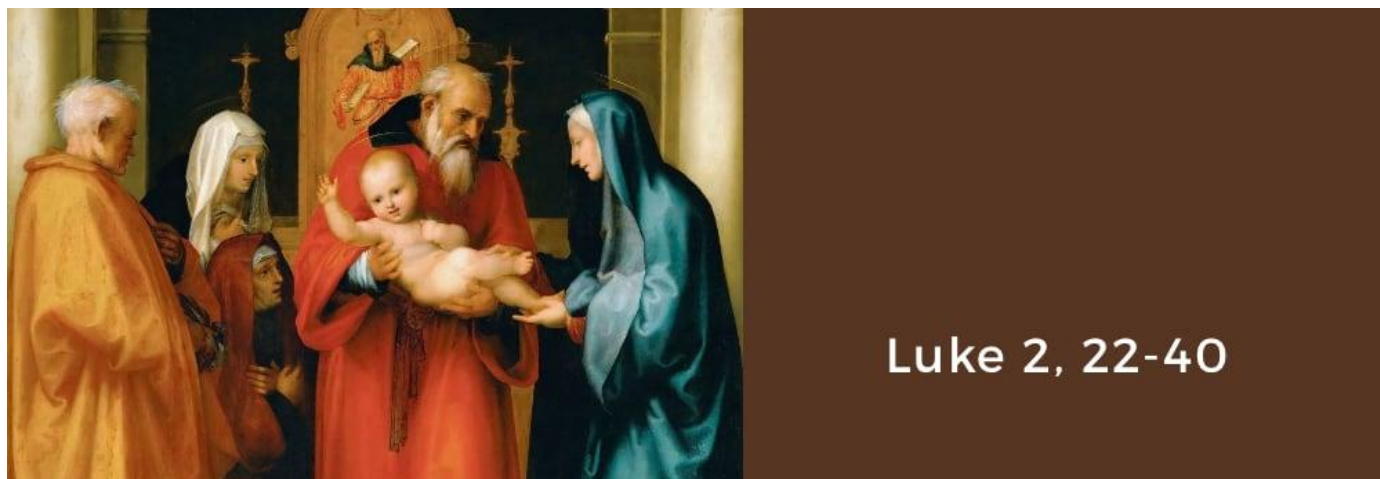
*At St Bernadette's Catholic School, you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.*

## Half Term Break

Please remember that school will close at 2.00pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, for the half term break. The children will return to school on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February as Monday 24<sup>th</sup> is a training day.

In Mass this week, we will listen to Luke's Gospel.

Luke 2:22-40 22 And when the day came for them to be purified in keeping with the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord— observing what is written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord— and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is prescribed in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to the restoration of Israel and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: Now, Master, you are letting your servant go in peace as you promised; for my eyes have seen the salvation which you have made ready in the sight of the nations; a light of revelation for the gentiles and glory for your people Israel. As the child's father and mother were wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Look, he is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is opposed— and a sword will pierce your soul too -- so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess, too, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came up just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And as the child grew to maturity, he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



Luke 2, 22-40

## Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for:

The mother of Mason and Cillian who continues with her treatment.

The Father of Miriam in Year 1

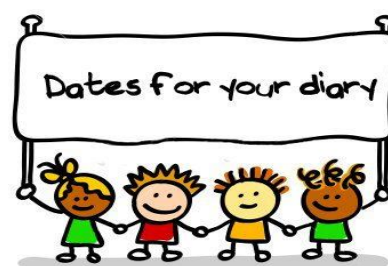
The Whyte Family

The Cooper Family

The Montgomery Family



## Diary Dates



Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

International week in school

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Key stage 1 mass in school 9.00am

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Whole School mass - Holy family Church  
9.30am

Communication and Language workshop for  
Nursery parents 9.00am

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

First Holy Communion meeting in school for  
Year 3 children 5.00pm

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Feast of St Valentine - 4KL to wear own  
clothes

Year 6 Stay and Pray 9.00am

Year 1 Valentine's Disco 2-3pm

**School closes for half term**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

school closed Staff training Day

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

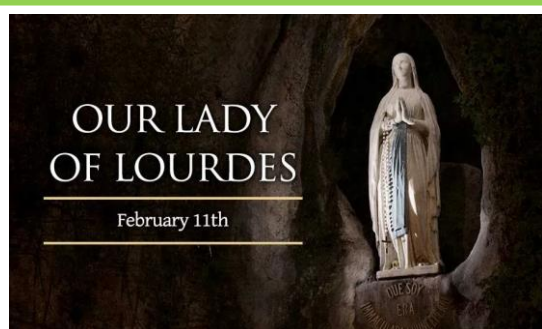
Year 3 mass in school 9.00am

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Year 4 confessions in school

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Year 6LC celebrate Feast of St David -  
children to wear Red



### **The Feast of Our lady of Lourdes – World Day for the Sick**

The World Day for the Sick, February 11<sup>th</sup>, was introduced by St. John Paul II to help us remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their caregivers. He chose this day because it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; which commemorates the appearances of Our Lady to Bernadette Soubirous, our school patron saint. Our Lady made 18 appearances to Bernadette, the first one being on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1858 and the last one on 16<sup>th</sup> July in the same year. Lourdes has been a site of pilgrimage, renowned for healing, ever since.

Our Lady of Lourdes is the class saint for IOB. The children in Miss Bowden's class will celebrate the feast day **and can come into school wearing their own clothes on 11<sup>th</sup> February.** We will have a whole school mass on 11<sup>th</sup> February at Holy Family church 9.30am to which parents are invited to attend.

### **Maths Open week**

Thank you to all parents who took the time out of their busy day to attend the Maths Open mornings last week. We hope this gave parents an insight into the work that is covered with their children as well as ideas as to how they can support their children at home. Thank you to all of our teachers for leading these sessions. Remember that the Calculation Policy can be found on our school website as well as some ideas for parents who would like to do some additional maths work with their children at home.

### **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.

## Shimmering sapphire

Congratulations to our two superstars in Year 1 for being the first children to achieve their Shimmering Sapphire Award in school. The children must be able to quickly recall their number facts to 8 if they are to achieve this award. We hope many others will follow their lead.



## Reading Success.

Mrs Khan has been working with a group of children from Year 5 and Year 6 to develop vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension this year. The children have worked hard both in school and at home showing great commitment and enthusiasm. It's been lovely to see their progress in their reading levels and their desire to improve their comprehension scores. Well done to Ayaan Maya, Ray, Charlie, Jiya, Jasir, Amily, Sh'kaya, T'fari, Harley, Kahil, Teejay and Samantha from Year 6 and to Samrawit, Ezra, Darren, Cathal, Emmy, Ismaeel, Jeswin, Isa-Rae and Leon in Year 5. A huge thank you also to Mrs Khan for her dedication and determination to ensure this intervention is a success for all children involved.

## Hub Highlights

We have had a very busy few weeks in the Hub with lots of teachers and additional adults joining us. We loved listening to Mrs Mohamed sharing a story and to Mrs Clarke teaching us phonics. Jiann has proven herself to be a whizz at completing jigsaws, Aldrin shone in his phonics work, Anish beat Mr Markham-Jones at curling, Evana was a perfect little mouse when reading the Gruffalo with Mrs Canning and we loved listening to Francie-Joe's adventures. We can't wait for more visitors next week!

## Key Dates to Remember This Academic Year

Week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs all week.

Week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June – Phonics Testing in Year 1 and Year 2

Week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Year 2 SATs all week

Children in the above year bands must attend school during these weeks as tests cannot be administered outside of these dates.

## Charity Fundraising

# Stroke Association

Each half term, children in each year band take the lead in charity work by adopting a charity of their choice. This half term, Year 1 has chosen to support **Stroke Association UK**.

To raise funds, they will be hosting:



- A Valentine's Disco for Year 1 children on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 2–3 pm. (See ParentPay for more details.)



- A raffle to win a huge teddy bear– open to the rest of the school:  
50p a ticket  
£2 for a strip of 5 tickets

Thank you for supporting our children as they learn the importance of giving back and making a difference! ♥♥

### St Chad's Sanctuary Donations

We are collecting donations for St Chad's Sanctuary and would greatly appreciate your support.

If you would like to contribute, please see the wish list below. A trolley will be placed outside Nursery every Friday morning and afternoon for donations. This will continue until the end of term.

### Wish List

We would love donations of:

- **Men's clothing** – t-shirts, underwear, jumpers, coats, jeans, trainers, and socks.
- **Nappies** – sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- **Baby wipes.**
- **Backpacks for adults.**
- **Carrier bags** – plastic, fabric, paper, long-life, large, or small. We can find a use for them all!

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

### 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

Grear	Y3
Louis	Y4
Alisha	Y4
Halima	Y4

### Year 5 and 6 Football Matches

On Tuesday, 21st January, our Year 5 & 6 football team played two league games at Castle Vale Stadium. The first game was a nail-biting 2-2 draw against a tough Hillstone team. We were 2-0 down at half-time, but the team didn't give up and fought back brilliantly in the second half. Martin and Sonny both scored great goals to secure the draw. Marcus was our Player of the Match for his fantastic performance as a striker – he was a real handful for the opposition!

Our second game was a tough one against St Barnabus. The boys persevered in the cold and gave it their all, but unfortunately, the result didn't go our way. A big shoutout to our goalkeeper Archie, who was named Player of the Match for his excellent performance. Thank you to Mr Markham Jones and Mrs Yakoub for their support.



### 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.



## Young Voices 2025

Yesterday, a group of Y5 and Y6 children took part in the Young Voices choir which was held at the Genting Arena. This was an incredible event and an experience that will stay with the children for the rest of their lives. The children had been rehearsing after school for this event since September and performed with 7,000 other children from many different schools. Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to Mr Carroll and Miss Lakin for giving up their time to lead the rehearsals.



## Uniform Reminder

Please remember that we do have a strict uniform code and children will be reminded of this if they are not in the correct uniform. Children should be in a grey skirt or grey trousers and if they choose to wear trousers these should be a straight legged trouser, leggings are not permitted. In the winter months the children can wear a grey v necked sweatshirt or jumper or a grey cardigan, hoodies are not acceptable. All children should be wearing their school tie, with the exception of the Nursery children. Thank you for supporting us in this matter.



## Termly Reports

By now, all parents will have received their child's termly reports. Thanks to all class teachers for preparing these reports and to Miss O'Neill for emailing them to parents. If you have not received your child's report, you should contact the school office immediately and they will ensure this is emailed to you next week.

## School Councillors

This week, teachers and pupils have been choosing their 24-25 School Councillors. Children in Years 5 and 6 produced some fantastic speeches and the voting commenced! Miss Coley and Ms Mohamed are looking forward to working with the children to share pupil voice and ensure school is a positive and engaging place to be. Congratulations to our School Councillors!

Year 1 Christel & Benjamin

Year 2 Jason & Isla

Year 3 Jiyon & Esther

Year 4 Shaydon & Janet

Year 5 Liyana & Kieran

Year 6 Olivia & Denzel



## International Week

Next week, the children will participate in International week and will explore the reasons why some people have left their country of birth and are seeking asylum in another country. They will have visitors in from St Chad's Sanctuary to speak to them about the work they do and from the British Red Cross and Asylum Matters. They will also have the opportunity to meet some individuals who are currently in the UK seeking refugee status. We hope that the children will begin to understand some of the reasons why people flee their own country, the prejudices they experience when they arrive in the UK and the support that we, as a community, can offer them. This work will contribute towards our School of Sanctuary status that we hope to achieve at the end of this academic year.

asylum matters



### Alton Castle Trip for Current Year 5 Students!

We are delighted to announce an upcoming trip to Alton Castle for our current Year 5 students, who will be in Year 6 next academic year. The trip will take place from Monday, 6th October 2025, to Wednesday, 8th October 2025.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a fun, spiritual and educational adventure, building lifelong memories with their classmates.

For more information, please contact Mr. Markham-Jones or visit ParentPay for details.



### No Jewellery Policy

Please remember that children should not be wearing any jewellery to school. A number of children are arriving in school wearing ear-rings and necklaces and are constantly being asked to remove these items. As previously stated, if children are having their ears pierced then they should do so in the summer break and their ear-rings can then be removed before the new academic year begins.

## Stay and Pray



### Year 6 Stay and Pray

The parents of Year 6 are invited into school on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 8.45am** for a Stay and Pray session in class. The children will have devised their own prayer service and would be delighted if their parents joined them on this morning.

### 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.

# School of Sanctuary Update

## Mrs Canning's Migration Story.

I was born and raised in Dundalk, Co. Louth, sharing a secondary school with the Corrs, interviewing Steve Staunton for my school magazine and even managing to achieve fifteen minutes of fame next to Dustin the Turkey on Den TV.

After completing my degree in University College Dublin, I was offered a place on a teacher training course in Ireland, specialising in English; I was also offered a teaching position in Dubai. But no, the bright lights of Birmingham were calling and in September 2008 I moved to Bartley Green. My plan was simple: train to be a teacher, finish the course in a year, and then head back home. Just one year, I told myself. Easy, right? Well, it turns out the universe had other plans. That one year turned into something much bigger, thanks to a city I never expected to fall for: Birmingham.

Let me start with my first impressions. I arrived ready to dive into my studies but completely unprepared for the Brummie accent. "Yow alright?" threw me off entirely. Was it a question? A statement? A secret code? As much as I tried to embrace this new adventure, there were things I deeply missed: my family and friends, of course, but if I'm honest my deeper yearning was for Tayto crisps, Club Orange, and, of course, a proper portion of curry chips. No amount of hunting could replace those little comforts of home so I resorted to smuggling Lyon's tea back after every trip to Ireland. The curry chip in my pocket did not fare so well!

But as I settled in, something clicked. People from every corner of the world living, working, and celebrating together. It was like a living tapestry of cultures, and I was hooked.

What made it even more special was knowing that my family's roots were intertwined with Birmingham's story. My parents had moved here in the 1970s, looking for work and a better life. My two older sisters were born here, adding to the family legacy. After seven years, they returned to Ireland, but the connection to Birmingham never really faded. Even my brother came back here years later for work. So, in a way, I wasn't just starting a new chapter—I was continuing a family tradition.

Training to be a teacher was no walk in the park. There were moments of self-doubt, cultural adjustments (little break, copybooks and principal, for instance), and the occasional day where I questioned if I'd made the right choice. Teaching phonics was particularly challenging. As an Irish person who struggled with 'th' words, it felt almost cruel to teach children how to pronounce "think" when I couldn't get it right myself! I'd break out in a cold sweat every time a school trip to the Thinktank was mentioned—the irony wasn't lost on me. Through it all, the resilience my family instilled in me kept me going. Hard work, commitment, and service to the community weren't just words; they were a way of life.

Birmingham's people made it easy to stay. I found friendships that felt like family and communities that welcomed me with open arms; the staff at St. Bernadette's became my extended family. The city's heartbeat—its mix of history, progress, and endless cups of tea—became my own. By the time I finished my course, the idea of leaving felt unthinkable. Fast forward sixteen years and I'm married to a Blues fan (much to the horror of my Villa-loving family) and have a two-year-old child with a very pronounced Brummie accent.

Looking back, I came to Birmingham expecting a temporary stop. What I found was a home. It's funny how life works like that. The city, with all its quirks and charms, became part of my story. So here I am, years later, still in Birmingham, still learning, still teaching, still missing Tayto crisps, and still trying to master the art of navigating Spaghetti Junction without panicking. And you know what? I wouldn't have it any other way.



### **Pilgrimage Of Hope**

Many thanks to Miss Finnegan for preparing our school Pilgrimage this week. Six stations were created to allow the children to reflect on how it might feel to be seeking asylum in a foreign country. The children considered what it would be like to pack for the journey, how they would feel saying their goodbyes to their family and friends they would leave behind and the hardships they might face as they travelled to their new destination. At the fourth station, children considered what life would be like in a refugee camp whilst they waited to be granted asylum and the emotions they would experience when they arrived in a new country, being unable to speak the language and dealing with unfamiliar customs. The children concluded their pilgrimage by considering how they could make people feel welcome and included who were new to the country.

### **The Flight into Egypt- An Acrostic Poem by Iga**

Many of the children have recently been studying the story of Mary and Joseph's flight into Egypt and have considered how they must have felt as refugees at that time. Mary and Joseph were fleeing from a credible threat of violence by the authorities of their homeland as it was Herod's intention to kill all baby boys under the age two years. Like many people today who arrive in the UK looking for a safe haven, Mary, Joseph and Jesus were asylum seekers.

The children in Year 5 were tasked to create an Acrostic poem in RE last week based on the theme of Refugees. Iga wrote a poem which was worthy of sharing with our entire school.

**R**ude Herod, killing everyone in sight.  
**E**scaping on a donkey, only darkness no light.  
**F**leeing to safety, no trails left behind,  
**U**nder God's safety, protection and care.  
**G**uided by hope, they travelled with Jesus God's son  
**E**very step they took, God's plan had begun  
**E**gypt was like Mary's and Joseph's and Jesus' sanctuary.



# Supporting Refugees: Orange Heart Campaign

**Together with Refugees** is a national coalition of hundreds of organisations that believe in showing compassion for people fleeing war, persecution or violence. They are committed to promoting a kinder, fairer, and more effective approach to supporting refugees in the UK.



As part of this initiative, we are proud to use the orange heart symbol to represent compassion and solidarity with refugees. Inspired by the refugee national flag and the colours of a lifeboat, the orange heart stands for hope, kindness, and support for those in need.

During the week of **10th February**, you will see orange hearts displayed around the school. On **Friday 14th February**, all children will wear an orange heart on their sleeve to show their support for refugees.

By participating in this campaign, we are sending a powerful message of love and compassion.



**TOGETHER WITH REFUGEES**

# 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 KSI 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
91%	RSJ 92%	ICOT 96% 	2SH 95% 	3DA 94%	4RW 94%	5MF 94%	6CB 94%
	RCB 92%	IML/NL 93%	2EH 93%	3EG 94%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 93%	6LC 95%
	RLC 93% 	IOB 94%	2EOB 94%	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)	Evie-Mae	Super name writing.	Nursery (Red)	Arjun	For trying his absolute best to build and trace his name independently.
Nursery (Green)	Chase	Using new vocabulary when baking our gingerbread men.	Nursery (Yellow)	Jairus Dan	For trying hard to complete Wellcomm activities.
RCB	Grayson	For super effort in handwriting lessons and helping your friends!	3EG	Peniel	For increased contributions to class discussions in afternoon lessons.
	Harlow-Rose	For making a fantastic den for you and your friends to enjoy! You are very creative!		Oscar	For effort with his maths presentation.
RLC	Izayah-Deen	For creating a fantastic dragon mask for Chinese New Year!	4AMJ	Lewis	For making an excellent effort in Maths during open week.
	Nariyah	For her fantastic enthusiasm about Chinese New Year!		Aaron	For making an excellent effort in Maths during open week.
RSJ	Nathan	For his super amazing progress in Phonics. Well done for moving up to your new Phonics teacher!	4KL	Aariz	For being the first person in our class to achieve full marks in MTC practise.
	Abhi	For working independently at the writing table and working so hard.		Alisha	For consistently impressive writing in English.
ICOT	Albert	For trying really hard with his handwriting.	4RW	Jake	For his superb answers in lesson.
	Tiara-Vogue	For super answers in RE.		Rose	For settling in well.
IML/NL	Tyler	For fantastic answers in Science.	5CG	Leo	Amazing Poetry work with Mrs Ryan.
	Christel	For showing great progress in Maths.		Laicen	Amazing investigative skills used in Science this term.
IOB	Kyla-Rose	For her super effort in all afternoon lessons!	5FM	Clay	Great investigative skills used in Science.
	Evan	For his amazing answers in RE!		Edwin	For his fantastic effort and contribution in Maths.
2EH	Idris	For being helpful around the classroom.	5MF	Ismaeel	Brilliant understanding shown in Science this half term.
	Iyla	For her fantastic effort in Maths.		Melody-Rose	Great contributions during RE discussions.
2EOB	Lucas	For an excellent learning attitude!	6CB	Olivia	For settling back into St. Bernadette's so well.
	Amelia-Rae	For being kind and caring to others.		Kayne	For trying hard to improve his handwriting in English.
2SH	Isla	For being a helpful member of our class.	6LC	Ayaan	For trying really hard in maths.
	Muhammad-Aseed	For being a kind friend to everybody he meets.		Sonny	For producing a superb newspaper report in English.
3CK	Buster	For always being prepared to help others.	6ZB	Milania	For being such a considerate and thoughtful young lady.
	Amar	For trying hard in his science lesson.		Artemisia	For brightening the classroom up each day.
3DA	Harvee	Trying his best and always offering a helping hand.			
	Myra	For trying her best and giving her all in Maths.			

## Art Competition – Orange Hearts



We are excited to announce a Valentine's Art Competition for children as part of our School of Sanctuary Award. We invite all children from Nursery to Year 6 to create artwork that reflects hope and kindness towards refugees. Children may also include kind messages such as:

★ Show your heart for refugees

☞ Refugees need love

The orange heart is a symbol of compassion for those fleeing war and persecution. Inspired by the refugee nation flag and the colours of a lifebelt, it represents hope and kindness.

All entries will be proudly displayed in school, and winners will be announced on **Friday 14th February**. Every child who takes part will receive a special certificate.

**Guidelines:** Your artwork must include an orange heart, but beyond that, you are free to be as creative as you like!

Please ensure all entries are handed in by **Monday 10th February** or earlier.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Finnegan



School of  
**SANCTUARY AWARD**  
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary



# Communication & Language Workshop

*For parents of children in Nursery or Reception*

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 9.00AM (Main School)**

**1.9 million children in the UK are currently struggling with talking and understanding words.**



*To learn how you could make a difference and improve your child's communication and language skills, please attend our parent workshop*



The workshop will include:

- Helpful hints and tips
- Story book suggestions
- Simple game ideas
- The importance of 'toddler talk'
- Strategies to develop communication
- Pronouncing phonics sounds correctly



**Please confirm your attendance via Parent Pay**



### Child Death Review Team Comms

*The Child Death Review Team (CDRT) Newsletter is circulated to all partners within Birmingham and Solihull to highlight campaigns and share learning from local child death reviews.*

#### Childhood Head Injuries

Following the recent death of a child who sustained a head injury the CDRT would like to highlight the importance of following the NHS Guidelines in relation to seeking medical advice if they have any symptoms.

Children are incredibly active, and they have little sense of danger, so it is not surprising that they are prone to head injuries. In addition, their heads are large in proportion to their bodies and therefore more vulnerable to damage than adult heads. Head injuries may involve the scalp, the skull, the brain, or its protective membranes.

Most head injuries are not serious, but you should get medical help if your child has any symptoms after a head injury.

[Head injury and concussion - NHS](#)

#### Preventing head injuries in children

Falls are the most common cause of accidental injury to children. While most falls aren't serious, active children often fall over and some falls can lead to death or long-term disability. So it's important to get the message across about the simple things that parents and carers can do prevent serious falls.

##### **How many children are injured in falls?**

- Every day, 45 children under five are admitted to hospital following a serious fall. Stumbles are to be expected, but more serious falls which lead to head injuries can have a life-long impact.
- Falls are one of the most common causes of childhood accidents.
- Falls are also a serious risk for older children. Each year, around 27,000 children aged 5-14 are admitted to hospital after a fall.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has some useful resources on preventing falls in children.

[Falls | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

[falls\\_factsheet\\_2024.pdf](#)



How safe am I from  
**a serious fall?**