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Friday 24th May 2024

April/May Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience with this latest newsletter. It has been a very busy few weeks in school with lots going on. Ofsted visited us for a graded inspection and as I'm sure you will be aware, we are unable to share any outcome with you until we have the final report. We will share this with you as soon as it arrives. In the meantime, I would like to say how proud we are of our school community who really pulled together to show what a wonderful school St Bernadette's is. Our children were amazing and showed the inspectors all that it means to learn and grow in our community. Thank you for all your good wishes and to those of you who took the time to speak to the inspectors and complete the online parent survey. Your support has been greatly appreciated by all of us.



Our Year 6 pupils, Sycamore completed their SATs tests. We couldn't be prouder of them; they have worked incredibly hard. We know that this can be a worrying time for our children and always seek to reassure them that these tests do not 'see' all that is wonderful about them and the amazing young people they have become. They approached these tests with determination, resilience and maturity throughout the week.

Whichever high schools our children move onto, they should know how lucky they are to have them! As a special treat we invited the ice cream van into school and they all enjoyed an ice cream.



As we break for the half term, I hope the weather improves so that we can enjoy some sunshine and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Bishop Paul's visit & the blessing of the Marian Garden



Bishop Paul and Deacon Paul joined us on Monday for our annual Marian service and to bless our Marian garden. The garden looked delightful with some new plants and a lot of weeding! Thank you to Oak and Sycamore for their green-fingered magic. The afternoon was a real community event made all the more special with so many of you joining us. The children celebrated with an ice pop and tea and cakes were enjoyed by the adults. Thank you to Mrs Johns for her brilliant baking once again. We have some wonderful pictures to mark the occasion and some very special memories to treasure.



St Bernadette's Day



As we returned a little earlier than usual from our Easter holiday, we were able to celebrate the feast day of our patron, Saint Bernadette. We embraced a party spirit and came to school dressed in party clothes and celebrated with a special French themed lunch – thank you to Mrs Johns and the catering team. All classes also made grottos and learned about the life of St Bernadette.

Science in Willow Class



Year 5 have been observing examples of plants, including Spider Plants. The children were watching for new growth and seeing how the new plant a clone of its parent plant. Thank you to Ashton Hall Garden Centre for their kind donations.

Vikings Trip

Year 5 visited the Windermere and took part in a variety of activities including coin making, weaving, quill writing and a battle re-enactment. All the children got involved and thoroughly enjoyed their time. Willow class spent the day learning about the Vikings and what impact they had on Britain.



Sports News

Easter Fields Football Tournament

Mr Karim shares:

'This term, St Bernadette's entered a boys' and a girls' team in the annual Easter Field Football Tournament at Lancaster City Football Stadium. Both teams did themselves and the school proud. The girls' team did amazingly well to reach the final but unfortunately, just missed out winning the competition by a narrow 1-0 defeat to Bowerham school.



The boys also did fantastically well in reaching the quarterfinals but were defeated by the eventual winners Bolton-Le-Sands. A big thank you to all the parents that came to support their children and also thank you to all the parents and the children from across the school that came to support the teams. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm from the whole school community. Last but not least, a massive thank you to Mark Bateson (school governor) who gave up his time to help coach the teams.'

We also say a thank you to Mr Karim for giving his time so generously to promoting sport in our school.

Netball Tournament at Moorside



Two teams from Y5 and Y6 took part in a netball tournament at Moorside against 6 other teams. This was their first time playing 7 a-side netball games and they all played brilliantly, improving with every game. The red team got through to a very close final that finished 2-1 to St Luke's. Well done to all involved!

Lancaster Schools Swimming Gala

A group of children with the support of Mrs Buchan and Mrs Wood took part in the Lancaster Schools Swimming Gala at Salt Ayre Sports Centre. They competed against four other small local schools and performed exceptionally in all their races. The final scores were extremely close and with a total of 76 points, St Bernadette's finished in first place! Well done to all the children involved, we are very proud of you!



Friends of St Bernadette's FOSB News

This half term the friends of St Bernadette's have purchased a new book for each of our Apple class new starters - Reception class 2024-25 - as a welcome present and to inspire reading right from the start! We have provided snacks and drinks for our Year 6 children as they prepared to sit their SATs. We have also provided refreshments and ice lollies as part of our Marian Service celebration and our preparations for our upcoming Summer Fair on the 21st June are well underway. We are all keeping our fingers crossed for sunny weather!

If any of our parents can lend a hand at the summer fair to help on stalls etc. your help would be very gratefully received. Refreshments will be provided for volunteers. Any little bit of help is welcome, whether that be serving on a stall or tidying away at the end of the fair. Many hands make light work. If you can spare any time at all please email your interest and availability to Miss Taylor at: fosbchair@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk

Our Uniformly online pre-loved uniform shop By Mrs Brett is still available and we have lots to offer. The Friends would like to say A BIG THANK YOU for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you all soon. Please see the school website for further upcoming events. Have a wonderful half term Miss Taylor, FOSB CHAIR

Catholic Teaching Alliance



Still recruiting for a September 2024 start

Catholic Teaching Alliance - Train to Teach in Local Schools

Established since 2014, the Catholic Teaching Alliance is celebrating **10 years** as a teacher training provider. Train locally, schools in Preston, Blackburn, Blackpool or the Fylde coast.

Is teaching for you?
Next step after degree?

Minimum requirements for our teacher training courses are GCSEs in Maths and English (and Science for primary), plus an honours degree, class 2:2 or above.

Teacher training (PGCE with QTS) is available in all phases:

- Early Primary (3-7 years), General Primary (5-11 years)
- Secondary (11-16 years), Secondary with post 16 (14-19 years)

Please contact us for further information, or to book onto one of our **online information sessions**, call 01772 326931 or email CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/pgce-courses.html>

| Event/Activity | Date |
|---|--|
| School opens | Tuesday 4 th June |
| Year 6 Residential PGL Winnmarleigh | 5 th , 6 th & 7 th June |
| Sports Day | Friday 14 th June |
| Summer Fair | Friday 21 st June |
| Year 6 Leaver's Production | Tuesday 9 th July - 2pm & 6:30pm |
| Hawaiian Disco FOSB | Friday 12 th July |
| Leaver's Service | Monday 15 th July at 6:30pm |
| End of Year Mass @9:15am Church | Thursday 18 th July |
| School closes for the summer @ 2pm | |

Please have a happy, safe and fun filled half term!

God bless,
Mrs Shoulder