



# *St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School*

Bowerham Road  
LANCASTER  
LA1 4HT

Telephone/Fax: 01524 63934

E-mail: [bursar@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-bernadettes.org.uk/school](http://www.st-bernadettes.org.uk/school)

## *Newsletter – December 2020*

“Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.” Mark 13:33

‘As Advent starts and we begin our countdown to Christmas, we are reminded that this season is not just a time for preparing to celebrate Christ’s birth.

We are reminded that we are also waiting in hope and expectation for Christ who is to come.

Even though we do not know when that time will be, we are told we must be on our guard, stay awake, so that we are not caught unprepared.

This year it has felt like we have been on our guard at all times, remaining vigilant, to keep ourselves and others safe from coronavirus. It has been exhausting and worrying for us all.

So, this Advent, as we try to be awake to the signs of Christ’s presence in our world, let us take time to remind ourselves of the goodness that we can see around us, of the difference we can make to others when we reach out in love.

And let us hold onto the hope that this brings.’ CAFOD 2020



## New School Website and ParentApp

We have been busy preparing our new website and ParentApp so that we can improve communications between school and families. Please download the ParentApp, as this will be one of the main forms of daily communication between school and parents. All information and notices will be in one place, which will make your life just that little bit easier. You should receive a notification in the next few days.

Our school website is now live. Please have a good look at the website as we have included new areas: prayer resources, keeping safe online, keeping healthy in mind and body, remote online learning and class pages. You will also find timetables of work on the class pages for when your child has to isolate.

Digital technology is playing a very important part in school life during this pandemic. Please make sure you:

- ✓ Set up your ParentPay account- ask office if unsure.
- ✓ Set up your child's school email account using outlook. The office will reset passwords or remind you of the email address. We have to use a school account for safeguarding.
- ✓ Download Teams to your device
- ✓ Download the new ParentApp
- ✓ Keep checking the website

## Emergency Assistance Grant Scheme

The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant Scheme has been introduced to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essential items due to financial hardship caused by Covid-19. This scheme is temporary. To be eligible, individuals should be

- Aged 16 years or over and a resident of Lancaster City Council district
- Experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of Covid-19 and not have enough resources to meet immediate short-term needs
- On a low income or in receipt of one of the following benefits: Universal Credit; Jobseeker's Allowance; Employment Support Allowance; Income Support or Pension Credit

Details on how to apply can be found here

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/coronavirus-information/emergency-assistance-grant-scheme>

Lancaster has been placed into Tier 3 restrictions <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

Please continue to social distance and wear face coverings on school grounds. It is important that we stay alert in the next few weeks so that we can all enjoy the Christmas break. Thank you for your continued support.

## Parents' Reflection for December

*In school, we subscribe to Ten: Ten who provide super resources and materials to support prayer and liturgy across school. They also provide a monthly parent reflection at*

[www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/)

### JESSE TREE ADVENT CALENDAR

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, all the children in school received a Jesse Tree Advent Calendar so that you can share the scripture readings together as a family. The children will also listen to these readings in school each day.

The Early Church adopted the idea of Jesse Trees to help people link decorating Christmas trees with the events and prophecies leading to Jesus' birth. A Jesse Tree depicts the relationship of Jesus with Jesse and other Biblical figures who were the ancestors of Jesus. Jesse was the father of King David and is looked upon as the first person in the genealogy of Jesus.

### EYFS/KS1 Class Nativity

This year our Nativity will look very different. We ask that all children in Apple Class, Oak Class and Elm Class come to school dressed as either an angel or a shepherd on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. As they will stay in their costume, there will be no need for them to change into other clothes.

Elm Class will retell the Nativity story through narration and acting. Oak Class will sign to a number of carols and Apple Class will perform their carols outside.

We will send details of how you can view these performances nearer the time.

We will record these performances so you will be able to view them at your leisure.

## KS2 ADVENT CLASS WORSHIPS – VIA TEAMS

KS2 teachers will send a Teams link to one of their Advent worships, prepared by the children, for you to share a little time of quiet reflection. This link will go to your child's email.

Beech – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 09.30

Eucalyptus- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 09.30

Willow- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 09.30

Sycamore- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 09.30

## Christmas Party Day- including Panto and Christmas Lunch

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December is going to be a busy day in school. This year's pantomime is Robin Hood. It is an online panto and the children will stay in their bubbles and watch it in class. The whole school will tune in on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December so we can at least have a feeling of togetherness. There is no charge for this Panto. In order to make this a special treat the children may come in dressed as a panto character. The children can create their own characters if they wish.

The children will then have their Christmas Lunch (including Christmas crackers) within their class bubbles. Click link for menu [https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/fresher\\_plus\\_christmas\\_cold\\_packed\\_lunch\\_poster.pdf](https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/fresher_plus_christmas_cold_packed_lunch_poster.pdf)

In the afternoon, the children will play party games.

## South Lancaster Refugee Project Christmas Appeal

This year instead of the children sending Christmas cards to each other in school we are asking you to donate to the South Lancaster Refugee Project.

This will also save paper to support climate sustainability. So far, we have raised £87.00

Please make your donations on Parent Pay. Thank you.

## CARDS FOR KINDNESS

Help reduce loneliness in older people during COVID-19 by sending a message of hope.

If you are making or sending Christmas cards this year then why not consider sending one to a residential care home to help reduce loneliness in older people. Loneliness is a growing problem among older people, and in care homes, it can be a particularly difficult issue to resolve. Figures from Age UK show that 200,000 older people have not had a conversation with friends or family for a month, and 60% of people in care homes get no visitors at all.

Please find further information on this website and homes to send them to in the Morecambe Bay area [www.healthierlsc.co.uk/cardsforkindness](http://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/cardsforkindness)

### Poppy Appeal

We are delighted to inform you that you raised £269.71 for the annual Poppy Appeal. Thank you so much for your support for such a worthy cause.

## Lancashire Pupil Attitude Questionnaire Survey 2020

As we did not hand out our usual pupil attitude survey in the summer term because of lockdown, we are asking parents and pupils to follow the links below to complete this year's parent and pupil attitude survey.

**This survey will go live at 9.00am on Monday 30 November 2020 and closes on Wednesday 16 December 2020.**

**St Bernadette's DFE number is 3607.**

Please note by sharing the questionnaire with your child you are consenting to them completing it.

Children's Attitude Questionnaire for Early years and Reception:

<https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159358978689>

Pupil's Attitude Survey for Years 1-6:

<https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159343688965>

Parent Questionnaire for parents of pupils Reception – Year 6:

<https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159367695414>

## Living Streets

We all know that the areas around schools are becoming increasingly congested with traffic and sometimes this can be quite dangerous. St Bernadette's have decided to team up with the Walk to School Challenge to find ways we can help families with their school journeys. We know that many of you have to drive to school but maybe we need to think about where to park. Could you park further away from school and then walk? More information about this challenge will be sent in the coming weeks and next term.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools>

## VIRTUAL VISITS

Even though we have not been able to go on any trips or have visitors in school, this has not stopped us from providing enrichment opportunities for the children. Years 2-6 have had virtual author visits. Years 5 and 6 have had a talk from Lancaster University's Planetarium. Year 6 had a talk from the Parliament service and Y2 have been invited to a Victorian Christmas from Bristol Museum. We hope that next term we can find more opportunities to enrich our curriculum.

## LIVE SIMPLY CHALLENGE

Our school councillors have been busy. Apple class are trying to eat all their lunch so that there is no waste. Oak class are trying to use both sides of paper. Elm class are trying to eat all their fruit every day. Beech class are making a poster about saving electricity. Eucalyptus class have planted bulbs in the front garden thanks to a kind donation from one pupil. Willow have decided that once a week they are going to unplug all their devices (computer, iPad etc.) at home for an hour. Sycamore have had a competition to design an Eco-Lunchbox information poster for parents. (Click link for poster <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/auto-draft/> )

Mrs Hegarty has been working hard to put in place our Forest Schools programme here at St Bernadette's and more information about this will be sent next term.



## End of Term Reports

The children in Oak (Year 1) to Sycamore class (Year 6) will receive an end of term report on the last day of term, Friday 18th December.

## Holiday List

Click the link to see our holiday list for 21/22

<https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/01024-Holiday-Arrangements-2021-22-1-3-1.pdf>

## THE FRIENDS OF ST BERNADETTE'S RAFFLE

Two books of raffle tickets have been sent home with your child.

The cost is £1 per ticket or £5 per book.

More books are available if needed.

All tickets (sold or unsold) to be returned to school by Friday 11th December ready for the draw on Saturday 12th December.

Money to be paid via ParentPay and ticket stubs to be placed in a named envelope and handed into class.

Many thanks

On Friday 18th December, Reception and Years 1- 3 will finish for the Christmas break at 2pm. Years 4-6 will finish at 2.15pm

Thank you for all your support this term.

Miss Burke

Acting Headteacher





## **Food Bank Friday**



**During December, we will continue to collect donations for the food bank. Each week we will focus on a particular food bank staple although any non-perishable donations would be gratefully received. Please bring an item (or more) to school on the dates below. Thank you**

**All donations will go to The Olive Branch in Lancaster.**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Baked Beans or a jar of coffee**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - Tinned soup or a Fray Bentos' tinned pie**