



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter – January 2021

NEW BEGINNINGS

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a happy and holy Christmas albeit a very different celebration than we are used to and a very happy new year to you all.

I am delighted to join St Bernadette's as your new Headteacher and despite all the worries of the current situation; it was lovely to see so many happy and smiling faces on Monday. Unfortunately, our being together physically in school didn't last very long at all! However, I am so very proud of our school community who rallied for each other in the most difficult and anxious of times. I want to thank all of the staff who came in and prepared the school for our keyworker provision. Thank you to the teachers for all of their hard work in providing excellent remote learning timetables for you all. Thank you to the office staff who worked tirelessly to coordinate keyworker places and thank you to the Governors for all of your support in what has been a very challenging week for us all.

St Bernadette's, I have been totally 'blown away' with how you, our community - parents and families, came together to support one another in making keyworker spaces available for each other. You were incredible! To those of you still on the waiting list, I haven't forgotten you and will be in touch as soon as any places become available.

As ever, our children are an absolute credit to us all, they have engaged superbly with our remote learning. Whether in school or at home they are completing fantastic work. Keep up the good work!

School will re-open to all pupils, according to current guidance and subject to change, after the February half term on 22nd February.

The Epiphany of the Lord

The nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Isaiah 60:3

Father peter shares a homily and a prayer focussing on the Epiphany of the Lord from Matthew 2:1-12.

Reach for the Stars.

On Wednesday last, the Church commemorated the first manifestation of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. We call it 'Epiphany' a word derived from the Greek meaning 'to appear' or 'to be shown forth.' The Epiphany is about searching for meaning, purpose and revelation. The Magi were men of great learning, intellect and wealth, yet they weren't prepared to sit back and imagine they knew it all. Guided by a star and motivated by hunger for truth, they stepped out of their comfort zone and set out across the desert not knowing what they would find or how long it would take. It was a journey of faith and great courage.

The Gospel Reading that day was an invitation for all God's people to step out of their old way of life and search for something new. My favourite thought comes in the last verse (12) about the Magi returning to their home country by a different route. This has to have a different meaning other than just escaping the evil clutches of King Herod. I am a great fan of the late, great American Archbishop Fulton J Sheen, now declared Venerable by the Church. He was the first television evangelist in America in the mid-20th century. Black and White TV, using a blackboard and chalk, no computer graphics in those days, he preached the Word of God in his weekly broadcast. In people's hunger and search for the truth, his audience figures topped all the top entertainment programmes of the time. Commenting on this verse about returning home by a different route, he said: of course, they did; for no one comes to Christ Jesus and goes back the same way they came! To 'encounter' Jesus is to have our lives transformed. God bless you all.

A Prayer.

O God, we pray for those who do not know You, or who do not believe in You.

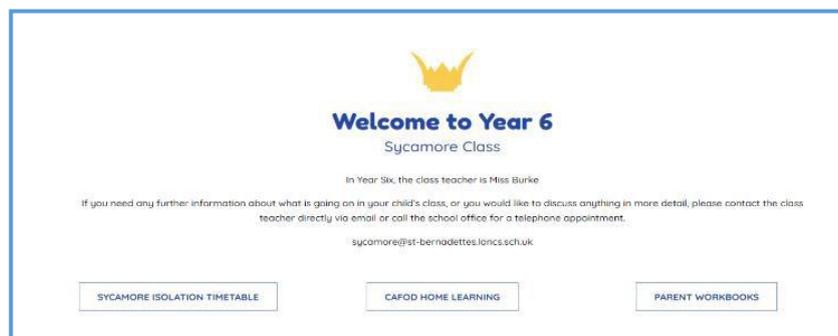
Help us all to show You to them through the lives that we lead, so that we may help them to discover the joy of knowing You.

Amen.

Saint Thomas More. (1478-1535)

REMOTE LEARNING PROVISION AT ST BERNADETTE'S

We appreciate many of you will also be working from home and may not always be able to support home education. Therefore, we have tried to keep our home learning offer as accessible as possible to fit in with busy family life. The Oak National video lessons will ensure that each child will be able to access learning regardless of parental input



We expect your child to follow the lesson schedule each day and complete all the work set. You can upload photographs of work to the class email or to the Teams Chat facility. The class teacher has set a daily Teams meeting where they will deliver daily worship, take an attendance register and answer any questions the children may have about their work. This will also be a good time for the teacher to facilitate conversation between the children in their class to support your child's wellbeing.

You can access fortnightly lesson timetables on your child's class page found on the school website. See the Class Information section <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/>

This timetable will have links, which will take your child directly to the Oak National lesson. Teachers may also set work using one of our other learning platforms see <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/remote-online-learning/>

Many of our staff will be working in the childcare provision for vulnerable and critical worker children; however, year group staff will be available via the class email or children can ask questions through the Teams Chat facility.

Parents can contact teachers through your child's class email account, e.g., apple@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk

For full details of our Remote Learning Provision, see <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/St-Bernadettes-Remote-Learning-Provision.pdf>

If your child does not have access to a computer, laptop or iPad you can ring school to collect a school iPad from the office. We have also included guidance on the use of Teams on our school website <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Teams-Guide-for-children.pdf>

Keyworkers attending school

I want to reassure you that the health and safety of our staff, pupils and families continues to be our prime concern, children will learn and catch up, but we cannot replace people. Please, I urge to follow the 'Stay at home' message in order that we can keep each other safe. We want nothing more than to be back in school with our children and the only way that will happen is if we continue to follow the rules with this further lockdown and do as we are asked to do. The key worker provision is based on numbers, staffing levels and of course, the safety of all of those involved. If your child is unwell, if anyone in your household feels unwell, please do not send them into school as this could result in the bubble closing for everyone. In addition, I continue to ask the following from you:-

- ✓ Wearing of face coverings when dropping off/collecting at/from school. These are compulsory for all adults and children over the age of 11. Please do not be offended if myself or a member of staff asks you to wear one, we are all trying to keep our children, our colleagues and our families safe. If you are exempt please let the office know.
- ✓ Socially Distance – DO NOT congregate together when waiting between bubbles. Either return to your car and wait or ensure there is at least 2m between yourself and another adult.
- ✓ For the next TWO weeks, DO NOT send your child to school with any cough or cold symptoms. Not everyone who has Coronavirus has all the symptoms. We need to be extra vigilant in order to keep the class bubbles and the school open for everyone. Children who present with cough/cold symptoms will be sent home.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your school community, I hope to see all of you again soon. Please take care, look after each other. If there is anything you need, if there is anything you a finding challenging or difficult, please do not hesitate to contact us at school either by email or by telephone.

Mrs D Shoulder
Headteacher