



Headteacher
Mrs D Shoulder

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter – July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't quite believe that I am writing the last newsletter of our school year, how time has flown! We have had quite the rollercoaster ride this year! As always, I am deeply appreciative of your welcome and for your support in what have been very tricky and often difficult times. I am privileged and honoured to be your Headteacher. I look forward to what we hope will be a return to a more 'normal' routine and partnership in September

I would like to thank our staff and Governors, who throughout this most difficult of times, have worked extremely hard; been supportive of each other and remained ready to move, to be flexible and to 'do' whatever was required of them in order to keep St Bernadette's open and safe.

Most of all, I want to thank our children, who despite the challenges and interruptions to their schooling and lives generally, continue to be an absolute credit to us all, a joy to serve and wonder to watch as they grow and learn.

End of term events

In spite of the situation we find ourselves in, due to the determination of the staff, Miss Burke especially with our Year Sixes, we have been able to celebrate our Year 6 leavers with at least some of the usual traditions. This year we have been able to hold the annual water fight –I was suitably impressed by the amount of water the children managed to 'get in to' school! We have had our Year six production-available online and we have been able to hold a wonderful Leavers service albeit virtually and complete with a special guest, Mr McKeivitt!

In the rest of the school we have all enjoyed a wonderful transition morning and spent some time in our new classes with our new teachers and it was delightful to see how excited the children looked and wonderful to welcome Miss Maymon to our school family.

Today we celebrated our last day together at our whole school Mass of thanks, said by Father Peter and witnessed by all of the children, staff and our governor Jennifer in the glorious sunshine.





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We wish all of our leavers, children and teacher, the best of everything as they move onto pastures new. Please don't forget your St Bernadette's family and do come back and visit us soon.

Sports Day!



We had a fantastic day in school with the children and their enjoyment and excitement were palpable. Thank you to Mrs Wood and Mr Karim for organising such a wonderful day. Overall, it was a very successful day for St Sebastian House –the blue team who won both Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 events.

Goodbye from Mr Findlay!

We wish Mr Findlay all the very best in his retirement and thank him for the huge difference he has made to so many young lives. I'm sure he will be back to visit us again soon.





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Exciting Changes!

We have been very busy working together with the Governing Body to review our 'Mission Statement'. Given the current situation and the effects of the pandemic on education, our children and our staff it was appropriate to reflect on whether our current Mission statement reflected what we know our purpose 'today' to be. The following is the result of a series of collaborative meetings, refining and reflections in which every member of the school has had a chance to input and alter. In September we will be working together with the children to ensure that we fulfil our mission as a school family. I am sure that you will recognise some of the ways our recent experiences have affected the outcomes.

Our new, revised Mission statement is as follows and will underpin our Catholic curriculum.

At St Bernadette's our mission is.....

'...to ensure a loving and faithful learning community in which our children can become the person God created them to be. A community where we celebrate the dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual. Where we grow and learn together with joy, in the love of Jesus. In this love, we strive to be courageous stewards of creation.'

Our mission and purpose is rooted in scripture

*I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full
John 10:10*

And is driven by our Catholic values:-

*Love - gratitude & generosity
Faith - trust in God
Stewardship - responsibility for our common home
Respect - tolerance & compassion
Justice - equity & equality
Courage - resilience & determination
Kindness - love one another
Joy - awe & wonder
Humility - lack of ego
Service - work for the greater good*





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As part of our outward message of our faith and mission we have chosen to create our own 'values' cross which the children will refer to regularly to understand which aspects of our faith drive our learning. We have also created a visual representation of our Gospel values and an outwardly sign and reminder of what we are all striving to achieve.



Please keep a keen eye on the website as we make changes to the website to include our new graphics and to share our updated curriculum offer in light of the review of our mission.

Covid Positive Reporting

As has become the norm, you **MUST** report to school any positive lateral flow test taken where there are no symptoms up until midnight on Sunday 18th of July **or** you **MUST** report a positive PCR test to school where the symptoms began anytime between leaving school today and up until midnight Sunday 18th of July which is 48 hours after the last contact. PCR tests results may arrive after 3pm on Sunday 18th July and should report this as symptoms began within 48hrs of the last contact with school. This is required so that we can fulfil our legal obligations to 'Test and Trace' by notifying close contacts and suppressing the virus. On Monday 19th when the country moves to Stage 4 you must follow the advice given to you from Test and Trace.





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September Arrangements

Drop off:

When we return to School on Monday 6th of September, we will revert back to the 'usual' system of dropping off in the morning. The front gate will be unlocked at 8:45am when a member of staff will be on the playground to supervise children arriving to school. Children must be dropped off between 8:45am and 8:55am when the whistle will be blown and then children must line up outside the external door of their class. We will continue to operate our one-way system as this has proved successful – please be mindful of a pupil who will be using Hawthorn gate as an entrance and exit in his wheelchair. In order to keep all members of our school community safe bikes and scooter must **NOT** be ridden when on the school grounds. Parents and carers may leave their children with the supervising staff from 8:45am.

'From 19th July, the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.'

Pick up:

Upon our return on Monday 6th September the school day will finish at 3:15pm for all children. The school gate will be opened at 3:05pm and children will need to be collected from their external class doors with the exception of Year 6 who will continue to use the main reception as their exit point. We would encourage you to remain vigilant and socially distance where possible.

Face Masks

The government has issued the guidance below which comes into effect from the 19th July. We would however, strongly encourage the wearing of facemasks when on the school grounds due to the sheer numbers at drop off and pick up times.

'Admitting children into school In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.'





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Lunches

School lunches will once again be taken in the hall and we very much look forward to our whole school worship and celebrations taking place in person again. We will however, continue to keep a keen eye on the situation over the summer holidays and will inform you as soon as possible if these arrangements change before our return.

Worship and prayer

In this Sunday's Gospel we will hear how Jesus took his apostles to somewhere quiet,

'There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his disciples didn't have time to eat. So, he said to them "Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we can be alone

Mark 6:31

As we break for a much needed break, may we all take heed of Jesus' message in this scripture and find our quiet space. To reflect, recharge and remember all that we have to be thankful for.

On behalf of myself and all the staff, please accept my thanks for your kind cards and gifts and may you all have a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you all again in September when school reopens on the Monday 6th.

Best wishes and God bless,

Mrs Shoulder

