



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Bowerham Road
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LA1 4HT

Telephone/Fax: 01524 63934

E-mail: bursar@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk

Website: www.st-bernadettes.org.uk/school

28th March 2025

March Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few weeks, we always knew that changing whole school management systems, which include the parent communications and payment systems, was never going to be an easy task. I apologise to those of you who have been inconvenienced in some way either by the merging of emails by the system in transfer or by the changes to wraparound care and the payments there of. We are confident that as we all become increasingly more familiar with Arbor, the system will prove itself to be worth the initial challenges.



It has been a super busy and exciting time in school, with our Lenten Journey in full swing, a whole school trip to Eureka, Science week, a music festival and some sporting fixtures for good measure. Once again the children and yourselves have been absolutely amazing, our 'Food Bank Fridays' have been very well supported, so much so that we will need two visits from the Olive Branch to accommodate all of the donations. You will remember that when I wrote the last newsletter the FOSB had launched a 'Big Fundraiser' to raise money for new blinds in the hall and some of the classrooms. I am pleased to share that through the work of the governors we have now secured funding for that project with a little bit of help from the FOSB we will be having these installed over the Easter break. Please look out for the next FOSB challenge! This means that our Lenten Alms from our themed Fridays will now be shared between CAFOD and Animal Care.

We will soon be entering into our Holy week preparations, these preparations, prayers and assemblies are very important to our faith and are at the heart of our school mission. You are warmly invited to join us for our Holy Week assemblies and our Easter play. Our Easter play takes place in the church and may I please remind you that this is God's house and as such ask you to please remove baseball caps/hats etc. As the Easter play is a solemn story, we would ask that you refrain from taking photographs and videos during the performance. There will be an opportunity for you to take photos at the end.

I would also like to reassure you that the differences in our holiday pattern for this academic year to other schools is an extremely rare occurrence. The governing Body set the term dates and as a Catholic school it is important that we are in school during Holy Week. We are not alone in this, as most other Catholic Lancaster and Morecambe primary schools have also chosen to be in school at this time too. However, we are not insensitive to the





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difficulties that the difference in holidays has presented to some of our working families because of lack of holiday clubs or those with siblings in other schools, our aim is to always work with you and the governing body are aware of the challenges being faced. We were unable to run an in house holiday club as the cost of running such a club was too high and would have made it inaccessible to most families. We have contacted many external providers to run a holiday club for our holiday dates and sadly, none have been able to help.

Finally, I have to share with you that Lancashire County Council have had to raise the prices of school dinners. A school dinner will now cost £2.90 from the first April. This is as a result of increased staff costs and we will also be increasing our wraparound care costs from the first of April. Breakfast club sessions will now be £3.70 and £3.20 for sibling discounts. Afterschool club sessions will now be £7.75 and £7.25 for sibling discounts.

St Bernadette's Got Talent Variety Show



This was a first for our FOSB group and what a night we had! It was wonderful to see the children perform, we had singing and dancing, gymnastics, a very intense Rubik's cube routine, perfect pianists and a splash of comedy! It was so lovely to see the children enjoying the limelight and there were lots of proud and happy parents too. Thank you to everyone who took part and the Friends

who made it possible. We hope you will all join us for our Easter Bingo on Friday at 6:15pm. This is a cash only event.

Science Week: Eureka Visit & Animal Care

This is always an exciting week in school but this year we went all out with a visit to Eureka! Despite a coach breaking down on the way home, the children loved the day as you can see in the photos. This trip was an amazing experience for our children but as a whole school visit, takes an awful lot of organising and risk assessing. Let's give a huge cheer to Mrs Buchan and Mrs Maudsley who organised the trip and of course to all of our volunteers who stepped in to make this trip possible. Our children thank you from the bottom of their hearts.

Maggie the greyhound from Animal Care came to visit us to





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help us with our learning during Science Week. Maggie really was the sweetest dog, she visited every class and some of us were even lucky enough to stroke her. Her handler Steph talked to us about what it takes to look after a pet. She reminded us that there really is no such thing as a low maintenance pet, that all animals require lots of looking after.

World Book Day



character costumes and we spent the day exploring, enjoying and celebrating books as a school.

We celebrated World Book Day a day later than the rest of the world due to our exciting Eureka adventure. The children looked marvellous in their book



Throughout the day, we took part in a 'Guess the Teacher' book quiz, spent some time in paired reading with children from other classes, joined an online author session, and also got to experience the wonderful storyteller - Emily - once again.

Arla, from Beech class, said, "The storyteller had a beautiful

story to tell us. Her drumming skills were amazing too!"

Children from all classes enjoyed the experience of the storyteller and we will no doubt have Emily back again at school in the future.

World Book Day is an amazing time to focus on the joy and wonder of books. Thanks for your support in reading, sharing and exploring books with your children and for organising such magnificent costumes. I am already looking forward to the next World Book Day.

Mr Wood



Sports News

Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament





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Mr Karim reports 'St Bernadette's entered two teams into the Lancaster Schools Year 3/4 Football Tournament at Moorside this term. The children all played fantastically and one of two teams were triumphant winning the competition with 3 wins and 2 draws. They secured a place in the final against Ellel, this final was an exciting game finishing 1-1 after normal time with a penalty

shootout being needed to decide the winner. The penalty takers showed nerves of steel, scoring all three of their spot kicks. The hero in the goal was Magnus, he saved an Ellel spot kick.

The second team also played some amazing football and never stopped battling to secure joint 5th place. The children's attitude and determination were amazing all afternoon. As always, they did themselves, their parents and their school proud. A big thank you to Mrs Taylor, and Mr Dennett who supported Mr Karim.'

Mrs Wood reports: -

Cross Country Event



Last Monday, children from Y5 and Y6 took part in a cross-country competition at Ellel Primary School. This was the first cross-country competition for many years and the children were brilliant, giving it their all. St Bernadette's came second place and only 3 points behind the winners, Ellel. This was

a fantastic achievement on such a hilly and challenging course. Well done to all involved, especially Nancy, Sadie and Harry who all finished in first place in their races and all came away with gold medals.



Curling

Curling was another new event that some children from Y3 took part in. This event was against some local primary schools at Lancaster and Morecambe College. The children soon got to grips with the new sport and enjoyed competing against other schools. They had some great games and improved massively as the morning went on. They were very pleased to receive such lovely medals for taking part. Well done to all involved!



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Rugby

A Tag Rugby event was held at The Vale of Lune Rugby Club. This is always a great event in the year and our team of mainly Y5 children did very well! They won all of their group games with some fantastic tries scored and defensive play, they went into the cup as winners of group B. The next two games were very close and both ended in 4-3 defeats. The team finished in fourth place overall and should be very proud of themselves and how well they represented our school!



Laudato Si Garden



This half term, the Laudato Si Stewards have worked extremely hard digging and planting

our new garden at the back of school. They are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Johns, Mr Dennett, Miss Taylor and parent helper, Leighton Lewis, who gave up their time to help this project. Thank you also to these adults, Mrs Shoulder and Ellie's grandma for their

kind donations of plants, compost and bulbs. We would love to develop the garden further and the children have spoken about plans for a birdhouse and beehouse too. If we have any talented parents who could spare any time and would be able to make either of these for us, please speak to Mrs Lewis. We then hope to run an Eco Club later on in the year, where we can make bird feeders and continue to develop our garden.

Diary Dates

Date	Event/Activity
Friday 4 th April	Dress up in your 'Colour Team' day—£1.00 & Food Bank Friday—toiletries
Friday 4 th April	Easter Bingo at 6:15pm – cash only
Monday 7 th April	Easter Play 2pm & 6:15pm
Tuesday 8 th April	School Photographs






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Thursday 10 th April	Food Bank Thursday—nappies and wipes
Friday 11 th April	Break the Rules Day— 50p per rule or £2:50 to break them all. 
Monday 14 th April	9am Palm Sunday Assembly led by Apple & Oak classes
Tuesday 15 th April	9am The Last Supper Assembly led by Willow Class Year 6 Residential Information Evening for Parents 6pm in Willow Class
Wednesday 16 th April	9am Crucifixion Assembly led by Sycamore class
Thursday 17 th April	9am Resurrection Assembly led by Elm class followed by the End of term Celebration assembly and the Easter Bonnet Parade School closes at 2pm
Tuesday 6 th May	School opens for the summer term
Thursday 8 th May	VE day celebrations – children to dress in red/white & blue & a whole school picnic lunch – weather permitting!
Tuesday 27 th May	Marian Service
Thursday 29 th May	Ascension Day Mass at 9:15am
Friday 30 th May	School closes for half term
Friday 20 th June	Sports day
Tuesday 8 th July	Leaver's Play in school 2:30pm & 6:30pm



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Have a wonderful weekend

God Bless,

Mrs Shoulder



CATHOLIC
TEACHING
ALLIANCE

