



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Bowerham Road
LANCASTER
LA1 4HT

Telephone/Fax: 01524 63934
E-mail: bursar@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk
Website: www.st-bernadettes.org.uk/school

30th September 2025

September Newsletter

As this is the first of our newsletters this academic year, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the new members of our St Bernadette's family. To Apple class and their families; to Ellie, Samtosh, Abhirath and Atharva and their families who have joined us in other classes across the school. We would also like to welcome back all of our pupils and their families, though it does feel like the summer holidays are a very distant memory!



This September has provided a very special start to the new school year with the visit from the travelling statue of Our Lady of Lourdes. This wonderful occasion was to celebrate the centenary of our Diocese and as our school patron, St Bernadette, had a special devotion to our Lady of Lourdes, this occasion was one to be treasured. Thank you to those of you who attended some of the events during the visit. I hope like us and the children you enjoyed taking part. The statue has now returned to Diocese and will be presented to The Mater Christi Academy Trust to treasure.



New Playground Whistle Routine

You may have noticed that there are now two whistles in the morning. We have altered our end of break whistle routines to improve health and safety and behaviour at the end of break times. This change also applies to the drop off whistle in the mornings and we would appreciate your support. On hearing the **first whistle, all children must stand still** and on hearing **the second whistle children must walk to their lines**. Whilst we appreciate that the mornings can be very busy, we would ask that if you remain on the playground after the gates open at 8:35am, that you support us with this new routine.

I would also take this opportunity to remind both children and adults that bikes and scooters are not to be ridden on school premises. If you wish to bring a bike or scooter into school and lock them in/to the shelter at the bottom of the field you **MUST** walk them round.



Year 5 – Willow Class trip to Southport

On Friday, year 5 took a trip to the Atkinson Gallery, Southport to see the work of pop artist, Chila Kumari Burman in her exhibition, 'Southport I Love You.' We had a brilliant time exploring her art. We also got to make our own neon art and studied a variety of painting in the main gallery where we took part in a collaborative art sketching activity.





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Uniform News

We have been very impressed with how smart the children have looked on their return. All children should be wearing their winter uniform except on **PE days** which are as follows:

Monday – Sycamore & Eucalyptus

Tuesday – Oak & Elm

Wednesday – Oak, Beech & Willow

Thursday – Apple, Beech, Eucalyptus, Willow

Friday – Elm & Sycamore

Uniform Survey Feedback

With regard to last term's uniform survey outcomes, I will be discussing the matter of the Gingham dresses with governors and will report back to you any change in outcome. I have been contacted by one or two parents regarding the colour of the PE polo shirt chosen. As the yellow polo shirt was by far the favourite of the children, and enables our children to stand out on trips and at sporting events, this choice will not change. I have also been contacted by a parent who would like to know if the blue polo shirts will be permitted in the summer term. As the new uniform policy reduced the amount of polo shirts required, I do not foresee that the blue shirts will be permitted. However, I will clarify this with the governors in our Autumn meetings.

One of the main concerns/issues some parents raised was the consistency with which our school uniform is applied. Children also told us that they felt it was not fair when other children don't follow the rules. So please do not be offended if you are challenged if your child is not in the correct school uniform.

Uniform reminders for the Autumn term:

- * Children are not permitted to wear large bows and accessories in their hair. Small clips which keep the hair off the face are acceptable. If your child has had a 'holiday braid' it must now be removed for school.
- * Long hair should be tied up out of the face. We have had some notifications of head lice from parents since our return and the easiest way to prevent their spread is to tie up your child's hair.
- * Jewellery, with the exception of watches, is not permitted in school. This rule is for health and safety. If your child has had their ears pierced within the last 6 weeks, we ask that you come into school to sign a health and safety waiver form. This is **NOT** a parent consent form to wear earrings. In all other cases we ask that all earrings are removed. Should children come to school wearing earrings that they are unable to remove themselves, you may be called to come into school and remove them.
- * Yellow Polo shirts are part of our summer and PE uniform - all children should now be wearing their shirt and tie.
- * Boots of any kind are not permitted to be worn in school. If there is adverse weather and you would like your child to wear boots for warmth or dryness, please ensure your child has their school shoes in a bag so that they can change into them on arrival at school.





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Pre-Loved Uniform

Our pre-loved uniform is available via our Friends group. All badged items are available on this link <https://uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=11504> Thank you Vickie, from the Friends of St Bernadette's Committee for organising this and especially for all the washing and ironing! As ever, if you need support with school uniform, please come and speak to us in the office.

Lost Property

Can I please urge you to **name all of your child's** uniform so that we can return wandering items to you quickly. There has already been disappointed parents who have been unable to find lost items.

Communications to school

It is with a heavy heart that I write this next section. At St Bernadette's we do our absolute best for your children. We want them to be safe, to be happy, to learn, to feel loved and valued. However, from time to time, issues can arise where parents and carers may feel aggrieved or unhappy with a decision made by school. Whilst we are always happy to hear feedback, both positive and negative, what we will not accept is aggression or nastiness either verbal, physical in person, over the telephone or via email. As this is an issue that is becoming more frequent I need to share with you that **All** staff know that they do not have to accept this kind of behaviour from our families and can and will terminate any such interactions should the communication become unacceptable.

We have also been made aware of how a few of our parents conduct themselves on WhatsApp and Facebook in regard to school. I would take this opportunity to remind you, if I may, that you are your children's first teacher, and they will follow your example. Children often pick up on this type of thing; they can and do tell us in school when they are aware that their parent has posted something unkind about school and screenshots of messages and comments often make their way to the school office from other concerned families. We have an open door policy at St Bernadette's where your comments and responses are welcome. WhatsApp 'campaigns' are not helpful in the long term, and therefore I would ask you contact school directly if you have an issue as we are the ones who can help sort it out. We are currently working with other schools on a shared policy of communications so I hope to be able to share that with you in due course. In the meantime, thank you to the majority who treat us with the love and respect we afford to you all.

Road Safety & Parking Concerns

There have been two near misses involving children since our return to school. Please be very careful with your speed and with where you park. Whilst we understand that drop off in the mornings and pick up in the afternoons are busy and everyone has somewhere else to be the safety of your children must remain paramount. Parking on the yellow lines, the zig-zags and near the entrance and exit to and from the church car park increase the danger. If





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you are using the church car park, please slow down there have been numerous reports of parents whizzing in across the pavement and through the car park in a hurry.

I have also received complaints from our families who hold disabled badges. They need to be able to use the disabled parking badges in the church car park and have been unable to do so because there have been drivers who use them as a normal space. This is very inconsiderate and I would urge you to refrain from using these spaces without entitlement with immediate effect.

Nasal Flu Immunisations

The School Vaccination Team will be in school on Monday 20th October to administer the annual flu immunisation for **ALL** classes. You will have received an email with a link for you to offer your consent. The school nursing team arrange all aspects of the immunisation programme with parents and carers directly. School, in particular Mrs. Maudsley, do not co-ordinate consent.

Parents' Evening

The first Parents' Evenings of the school year will take place on Tuesday 25th November and Thursday the 27th November from 3:40pm. These open evenings will be in person and will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your child with their class teacher. The booking form will be made available to you soon.

Data Collection Forms

This year we will not be sending out data collection forms as you can all see the details we hold for you and your child in your Arbor account. Please take the time to check these details are correct and inform the office if changes need to be made. We have had incidences in school where we have been unable to contact parents and carers when their child has hurt themselves or become ill during the school day. This poses a safeguarding issue and does upset your child if you cannot be contacted.

Sports News

Mr Karim shares,

'This half term the girls in years 4, 5, and 6 and the boys in years 5 and 6 have had the opportunity to take part in our



football clubs. Despite the wet and muddy conditions, the enthusiasm has been impressive. The children have had a great time learning new skills and participating in mini-matches. It's wonderful to see their teamwork and sportsmanship shine through!





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Diary Dates

Date	Event/Activity
Autumn Term	
Friday 10 th October	Rosary 8:30am – All welcome
Friday 17 th October	Rosary 8:30am – All welcome Year 5 CAFOD Afternoon Tea at 1:30pm – All Welcome
Monday 20 th October	Whole School Flu vaccinations Foodbank Donations this week for Harvest
Tuesday 21 st October	Castlerigg information evening for Year 5 parents only 6pm in Willow class
Friday 24 th October	Rosary 8:30am – All welcome Harvest Celebration @ 9am in the school hall – All welcome Close for half term 3:30pm
Monday 3 rd November	School opens at 8:45am
Tuesday 4 th November	Rock Kidz Day – children to come to school in their best rock outfits
Wednesday 5 th November	Brockholes Trip – Elm class only
Monday 10 th November	Odd socks day 20255
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day 2:30 pm in the school hall – All welcome
Wednesday 19 th November	Jubilee Celebration 2:30pm in the school hall
Thursday 20 th & Friday 21 st	Year 5 Castlerigg residential trip
Monday 24 th November	Year 4 trip to Lancaster - Romans
Tuesday 25 th November	Parents' Evening 3:40 -6:30pm
Thursday 27 th November	Parents' Evening 3:40 -6:30pm
Friday 28 th November	Own clothes day for donations to the Friends Christmas chocolate raffle
Monday 1 st December	Apple & Oak class trip to Judges Lodgings
Friday 5 th December	FOSB Christmas Bingo
Wednesday 10 th December	Whole School Panto visit to The Grand
Friday 12 th December	Final Assembly @2pm in the school Hall – All Welcome
Monday 15 th December	Nativity @ 2pm & 6:30pm in Church





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Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas jumper day
	Christmas Dinner Day
	Class Parties
	Termly Reports to Parents – Years 1-6
Thursday 18 th December	FOSB Movie Night
Friday 19 th December	Advent Service 9am Church – All Welcome
	School Closes @ 2pm
Spring Term	
Monday 5 th January	School Opens @ 8:45am
Tuesday 6 th January	Epiphany Mass @ 9:15am
Wednesday 4 th February	School Photos
Friday 13 th February	Own Clothes day for Easter chocolate donations
	School Closes @ 3:30pm
Monday 23 rd February	School opens @ 8.45am
Friday 27 th February	Wigs and Wellies Day & Foodbank Friday
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Food Bank Friday
Friday 13 th March	Wacky hair & Socks Day
	Food Bank Friday
Tuesday 17 th March	Parents' Evening 3:40 -6:30pm
Thursday 19 th March	Parents' Evening 3:40 -6:30pm
Friday 20 th March	Pyjama Day
	Food Bank Friday
Monday 23 rd March	Easter Play Year 3 & Year 4 @ 2:30pm 6:30pm
Friday 27 th March	Break the Rules Day
	Food Bank Friday
Monday 30 th March	Palm Sunday Assembly 9am
	Apple & Oak classes – All welcome
Tuesday 31 st March	Last Supper Assembly @9am – Willow Class All welcome
Wednesday 1 st April	The Crucifixion Assembly @ 9am - Sycamore Class – all welcome
	Termly reports to parents – Years 1 - 6





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Thursday 2 nd April	Resurrection Assembly @ 9am – Elm Class, followed by the final assembly and the Easter Bonnet Parade – All welcome
	School Closes @ 2pm
Summer Term	
Monday 20 th April	School Opens @ 8:45am
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Day – children may come to school in the beavers, cubs, brownies and scouts uniforms
Monday May 11 th – Friday 15 th May	SATs week Year 6
Thursday 21 st May	Year 6 Residential Trip to Tower Wood Parents' information evening @ 6pm
Friday 22 nd May	Marian Service 2pm in school – All Welcome
	School closes at 3:30pm
Monday 1 st June	School closed for INSET Day
Tuesday 2 nd June	School Opens @ 8:45am
Monday 15 th June – Wednesday 17 th June	Year 6 Residential to Tower Wood
Thursday 18 th June	Own Clothes Day for filled jars
Friday 19 th June	Sports Day
Friday 26 th June	Summer Fair
Monday 29 th June	SS Peter & Paul Mass 9:15am – All Welcome
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 6 Leaver's Play @2pm and 6:30pm
Friday 10 th July	FOSB School Disco
Monday 13 th July	End of Year Reports to Parents Year 6 Leaver's Service in Church @ 6:15pm
Thursday 16 th July	Final assembly @ 2pm – All Welcome
Friday 17 th July	School closes at 2pm

God Bless,

Mrs Shoulder

