



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

February 2026 Newsletter

*“The Lord is close to the
brokenhearted.” (Psalm 34:18)*



Dear Parents and carers,

As a school community, we continue to hold Anne and her family in our thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of a much-loved colleague and friend. In these days of sadness, we have been reminded of God's closeness and comfort, and of the strength that comes from supporting one another. While there remains a deep ache in our hearts, we have also been so moved by the kindness, resilience and compassion shown by our children, staff and families. Anne's love for our school community lives on in the way we care for each other each day, and we move forward together with gratitude for all she gave us and hope for the days ahead.

Anne's funeral will take place at St Bernadette's Catholic Church on Monday 2nd March at 10am. Her family have asked that those attending wear colour to reflect Anne's joyful and loving spirit. They have also requested, in place of flowers, donations may be made in Anne's memory.

Many families have asked how they can honour Anne's memory through acts of kindness and generosity. Our Lenten charity this year is CAFOD's Candlelight Fund, which supports families around the world facing hardship and loss. We feel this is a beautiful way for our community to come together in Anne's memory. A link to donate can be found below for anyone who would like to take part.



<https://annebramhall.muchloved.com/>





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Children's Mental Health Week

What an inspiring week we had as a school community during Children's Mental Health Week. Every class took part in rich, active, and uplifting experiences designed to promote not only physical wellbeing, but confidence, resilience, teamwork, and a sense of belonging. We began the week with *Tag Rugby sessions* for all year groups. Outdoors, children threw themselves into developing their skills, supporting one another, and celebrating each other's successes. It was wonderful to see pupils who might normally feel hesitant in sport finding their stride and growing in self-belief.



Monday afternoon brought high energy and huge smiles as *Jennifer Mayor* led Street Dance sessions. The hall was alive with music and movement, and children showed fantastic enthusiasm and creativity. These sessions gave pupils a chance to express themselves freely—something so important for emotional wellbeing.

Throughout the week, each day offered something new and exciting.

Tuesday's activities continued to encourage us to 'keep learning' with a visit from *Lancaster University's Confucius Institute* who led us in paper-based activities to celebrate the Chinese New Year. They also took every class for a relaxation and movement session in the hall.

Wednesday's *UV Dodgeball* was a definite highlight, with glowing equipment, lots of laughter, and pupils cheering each other on.

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome artist *Chas Jacobs*, whose visit allowed children to explore creativity in a calm, reflective, and joyful way.





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We ended the week with Shaun Gash and *Wheelchair Basketball* on Friday—a powerful and memorable experience for every class. Not only did the children absolutely love the challenge, but the sessions also helped deepen empathy and understanding, building awareness of inclusion and the many ways people can lead active, successful lives.



The Impact on Our Children

Across the week, staff observed a marked increase in pupils' confidence, cooperation, and willingness to try new things. Many children embraced challenges they might previously have avoided, and conversations in classrooms reflected a deeper understanding of resilience, teamwork, and supporting others.

Most importantly, children had fun. They felt valued, included, and connected—and that sense of joy is at the heart of good mental health.





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Dance Showcase

Before the half-term holiday, Beech class took part in a dance showcase at Our Lady's Catholic College. After putting in a lot of hard work and practice learning the routine, our children performed marvellously on the day. Beech Class performed with smiles on their faces and really got the crowd involved with the big finale of the event. Thanks to those who came to watch and support the children on the day.

Mr Wood (Beech Class teacher)

School Nurse Drop-In

Kelly Morgan, our school link nurse, will be holding monthly 'drop-in' sessions in for an hour (9 – 10 am). Please feel free to come and see her for concerns regarding toileting, diet, behaviour, emotional health, sleep, healthy lifestyles and head lice. Dates below;

Tuesday 24th March 26
Tuesday 21st April 26
Tuesday 19th May 26
Tuesday 23rd June 26
Tuesday 14th July 26

Tax-Free Childcare Scheme Available

We'd like to remind parents that the Government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme can be used to pay for breakfast and after-school club sessions at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School.

Full details, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

The scheme is available to working parents, including those who are self-employed, earning at least the minimum wage but less than £100,000 per year (net income). It is primarily designed for parents in work who are not claiming Tax Credits, Universal Credit, or Childcare Vouchers. Once you set up an account on the Government website, you can make payments into it by direct debit or card. HMRC will then add a 20% top-up on the same day — for example, if you pay in £100, HMRC will contribute an additional £20.

Payments for childcare can be made directly from your Tax-Free Childcare account to the childcare provider.

To pay St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, please ensure you:

- Add the school as your childcare provider, and
- Share your child's reference number with the school so that payments can be correctly allocated in the Arbor app.





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With my thanks, prayers and best wishes,

Mrs C Round

Acting Headteacher

Diary Dates

Date	Event/Activity
Spring Term	
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
	Spring Disco – times TBC
	FOSB EVENT TBC
Monday 23 rd March	Easter Play Year 3 & Year 4 @ 2pm and 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
Thursday 2 nd April	Resurrection Assembly @ 9am – Elm Class, followed by the final assembly and the Easter Bonnet Parade – All welcome
	School Closes @ 2pm





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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

