



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

July Newsletter

Welcome to the final Newsletter of the year! We made it through what has been the hottest summer term I can remember. The children have been brilliant and there has been lots of additional water fun and outdoor play.

Apple class, with your support, have put faith into practice and sent lots of food off to the Olive Branch. They were super proud of themselves. Thank you for supporting them.

Our CAFOD fundraiser for Venezuela raised an amazing £267.62 which has already been sent off and will be making a difference to those most in need.

We have also added £654 to Mrs Bramhall's Candlelight Fund. Next year we will be working on raising money to fund a memorial garden for Mrs Bramhall in the school grounds.

As you will be aware, Mrs Buchan is leading our pupil development strategy in school and we are very much looking to improve our trips offer along with making changes to our playgrounds to create more inclusive playtimes. We need your help. Do you or your company know of any revenue streams or grants that school could apply to in order to raise funding? We are aware that the FOSB already do so much, that our parents always support us but we do need to cast our net wider. Any amount will help. Alternatively, do you have free time to garden or help us to create the memorial garden for Mrs Bramhall? Do you know of any garden centres that we could approach when the time is right?

St Bernadette's is a brilliant community who strive to do the very best for our children. This year, if nothing else, has proved that. I along with the staff and governors wish to thank **you**, our families, for the love and support you showed to us in our neediest time and for the love and gratitude you show to all of us.

Have a fantastic summer, enjoy that precious family time and come back safe and ready for another wonderful year.

God bless you,
Mrs Shoulder





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Cricket Club

Mrs Wood shared 'Well done to our Y5/6 cricket team! All of the players performed admirably on behalf of St Bernadette's and finished in third place against strong opponents. It was great to have the weather on our side after a cancelled tournament earlier in the term! A huge well done to Abhi, who was awarded player of our team by Lauren from Lancashire Cricket. '

Sports Day!

Apple, Oak and Elm Class had a fantastic afternoon participating in events which included an obstacle race, running race and a space hopper race. It was a very closely run event between the each of



the Saint's houses, Red team won with 53

points closely followed by Green Team with 51, Blue Team with 48 and Yellow with 36 points.

Well done to the Red Team for the winning score. KS2 had their sports morning on



Thursday. This time the Green Team were the victors with a score of 83 points, 2nd were Red Team with 92 points, 3rd the Yellow Team with 69 points and in 4th place was the Blue Team with 64 points. When the scores were added together the overall Sports Champions for 2026 are the Green Team. Well done! Thank you to Mr Karim and Mrs Wood for their input and organisation.

Changes to Free School Meal eligibility

We would like to make families aware that, from September 2026, the Government is extending eligibility for Free School Meals. This means that more families may now qualify for support, even if they have not been eligible in the past. If you think your circumstances may mean you are now eligible, we strongly encourage you to submit an application before the start of the new academic year. Why apply?

- **Applications are quick, secure and completely confidential.**
- **Eligible children receive a free school meal each day.**
- **Additional funding may also be available to support your child's education through the school's Pupil Premium allocation.**

Please note: If your child is already receiving Free School Meals, you do not need to reapply.

For children in Key Stage 1 even though your child receives free school meals already, if you think you qualify you can still apply as this will help towards trips, uniform etc. We encourage all families to take a few minutes to check their eligibility, as this support can make a real difference to children and families. Applying usually only takes a few minutes by



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visiting - [Apply for Free School Meals](#) . If you have any questions or would like assistance with an application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Classes For Next Year

Class	Teacher(s)	Teaching Support Staff
Apple	Miss A Stewart	Miss A White
Oak	Mrs H Pilkington	Mrs S Jackson Mrs B Bolton AM Mr S Dennett PM
Elm	Mrs R Wood (Mon) Mrs S Buchan (Tues – Fri)	Miss S Taylor
Beech	Mrs K Lewis (Mon,Tues, Weds) Mrs R Wood (Thurs & Fri)	Mrs T Hodgson
Eucalyptus	Mrs D Fondja	Mrs T Bergus Mrs C Lambert AM Mrs A Dolna AM Mrs B Bolton PM
Willow	Mrs C Round	Mr S Dennett
Sycamore	Mr B Wood	Mr P karim

The children visited their new classes on Tuesday 14th of July.

PE days for **NEXT YEAR** will be as follows:-

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class PE days	Oak Beech Willow	Willow Elm	Oak Eucalyptus Sycamore	Apple Beech Eucalyptus Elm	Apple Sycamore

Information Evenings

Welcome Information evenings for Parents next year. These meetings give you an overview of learning for that year group and offer you the chance to meet your child's teacher.

Class	Date	Time
Oak	Thursday 10 th September	4:30 -5:30pm
Elm	Thursday 10 th September	4:30 -5:30pm
Beech	Monday 7 th September	4:30 -5:30pm
Eucalyptus	Tuesday 8 th September	4:30 -5:30pm
Willow	Wednesday 9 th September	4:30 -5:30pm
Sycamore	Wednesday 9 th September	4:30 -5:30pm





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Uniform

Please remember our pre-loved uniform shop which Mr Dennett manages on behalf of the FOSB for all of your uniform needs. Pre-Loved uniform is beneficial for the environment and reduces the cost for you.

If your child has outgrown their badged uniform or is moving on and no longer requires their badged uniform, please consider donating the unwanted items to our shop.

We understand that in the run up to the summer holidays children may grow, shoes may break or be lost and as such we exercise some laxity in following up the uniform policy. However, our uniform is very important to us, it is important to our children and is a great leveller for all. As such we will be following up non-compliance with the uniform policy more closely when we return in September. Class teachers will send out non-compliance letters if necessary.

Uniform required for Autumn

- Grey trousers/Grey knee length shorts/Grey knee-length skirt/ Grey pinafore
- Pale blue shirt/Blouse
- Royal blue pullover/Cardigan with an embroidered school emblem (generic non-badged items are not acceptable)
- Grey/White socks/Grey tights
- School Tie
- Black sensible footwear (trainers or boots of any kind are not permitted)

Uniform required for PE days

- **navy blue** shorts (cycling and loose shorts are permitted) or **navy blue skort**, **navy blue** leggings and in winter **navy blue/royal blue** tracksuit bottoms. **(Branded items, such as Nike, are not permitted. Neither are 'gym' shorts which stop at the top of the thigh.)**
- **yellow polo shirt with the school badge** (*generic non-badged items are not acceptable*)
- Sensible trainers (Velcro until your child can tie their laces) or Black elasticated pumps,

Optional item for cold weather is the royal blue hoodie with school badge. No other hoodies maybe worn but school jumpers are permitted on PE days.

Jewellery

Children must not wear jewellery (e.g. earrings, ear studs, rings and bracelets) other than watches. (Electronic device with photo capability or access to the internet are not permitted)

Hair

Please ensure that your child's hair style / colour is appropriate for school: -

- Hair of shoulder length or longer must be tied back with a plain hair band in either blue, white or black only.
- Children are permitted to wear a thin plain head band in either blue, white or black only.
- No other hair accessories are permitted.

Bright colours, shaved patterns or excessively gelled or extreme styles are not suitable for school and as such are not permitted.





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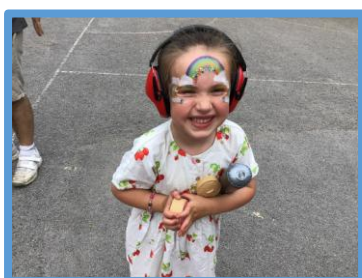
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Term Dates for the Autumn term

School opens at 8.45 a.m. on	School closes on	Holidays
Thurs 3 rd Sept	Fri 23 rd October at 3:30pm	INSET Days Tues 1 st September Wed 2 nd September Half Term Holiday: Mon 26 th Oct – Fri 30 th Oct
Mon 2 nd Nov	Fri 18 th Dec At 2pm	Christmas Holidays: Mon 21 st Dec – Fri 1 st Jan

Website link to Holiday Dates for 26/27 and full dates list will be shared with you in the September Newsletter. <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/term-dates/>

Message from The Friends of St Bernadette's



Firstly, I would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to our school family, teaching staff and volunteers for making this year our best fundraising year yet. Our Summer Fair was a huge success, together we raised just over £1353.50 for our school. This will help enormously in the near future. We had lots of fun, from riding cars to hook a duck, we even

had the Ghostbusters & the Police!

We have raised £4182 throughout this year and have pledged money for school trips, events, SATs snacks, party days, discos, festive gifts and to small things donated throughout this year. We also contributed £6000 to the big fundraising project for the refurbishment of Hawthorn and The Key Stage One Library areas. We couldn't have done it without you!!

This year the friends 'smaller things' have included, help with trip costs for all our school children. We pay £7:50 towards the cost of the most expensive trip in





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the year group for every single child in our school. We have purchased refreshments and party day snacks at Christmas. We've bought 'New starter' books, wet play games, festive gifts and much more, We are planning even more exciting events for 2026/27 ideas include Cultural food eve, Quiz events etc. We are always open to new ideas and we are always on the lookout for volunteers too. If

you can help, even if it's just for an hour or two at an event or if you are interested in joining the FOSB please email Miss Taylor fosbchair@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk No experience needed just a positive attitude and a smile.

Currently, we are a small team of 7. Made up of parents, school Staff and volunteers who try our very best to support the school in every way we can. However, it would be amazing to do bigger projects, such as library spaces and outdoor learning rooms or playgrounds. All of which would benefit our children and wider school community greatly. In order to do that, we



need more volunteers. Anything is achievable if we work together. St Bernadette's has big dreams.

Wishing you all a wonderful and relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing you all soon for more exciting events.

With best wishes

Miss Taylor FOSB Chair



Message from the Transport & Admissions Team at LCC for Year 5 Families

Dear Parents/Kinship Carers of Current Year 5 pupils

Before the summer holidays begin, we wanted to get in touch with you about next term's prospective secondary school application, and how important it is to consider home to transport prior to making your final decision.

You must consider carefully how your child will get to and from your preferred secondary schools before submitting your application for a school place.





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Pupils will only be eligible for free travel if they have an entitlement under the County Council's [Home to School Transport Policy](#). It is important, when selecting your preferences for a school place, that you have read and understood the information available on the [website](#) regarding [school admissions](#) and [travel assistance](#).

It is essential to remember - for transport purposes - the 'nearest suitable school' is the nearest school to the family home – and - in some cases, the nearest school will be located within another local authority area.

If you choose to send your child to a school that Lancashire County Council does not consider to be the nearest suitable school, there is no duty to provide free transport. You will need to make your own transport arrangements.

Assistance with home to school travel will not be needed for most children as they will attend their local school which will be within a reasonable walking distance when accompanied by a parent/carer as necessary.

However, if transport costs are a concern to you, please contact your Area Education Office before submitting your application:

NORTH AREA	SOUTH AREA	EAST AREA
Lancaster, Morecambe, Wyre and Fylde	Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley	Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale
(01524) 581148	(01772) 532109	(01254) 220747

If your child is not eligible for free travel assistance but you would like your child to travel to school by bus, you may be able to buy a season travel pass from us.

The County Council will not provide extra services for non-statutory pupils and you will need to [plan how your child will get to school](#) if space on the bus is not available.

Please call 0300-123-6738 or visit [School bus season tickets - Lancashire County Council](#) to make an application.

It is important to plan ahead. Please make sure that appropriate transport is available, should a place be allocated at your preferred school





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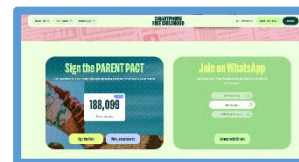
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Smartphone Free Childhood

Summer Explorer challenge

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/irl-explorer-passport>

I am sharing some information with you regarding a group who spoke to both primary and secondary school leaders throughout the Lancaster and Morecambe district at the District One Conference. You will have no doubt heard about the government's plans to ban smartphones from schools. The collective idea is that if we can prevent young children from being given smartphones we can improve the mental health and relationships of our young people and that we stand a better chance if we act together. We will be undertaking a survey early next year to see if there is enough support to ban smartphones for our children who bring them to school when they start walking home. Buying a brick/dumb phone is a great alternative for this. Please use the link to find out about this movement for yourself.



Smartphone free child hood

State: Founded in February 2024 after one WhatsApp group went viral, Smartphone Free Childhood is now a community of over 350,000 parents working together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.

We've made it our mission to provide solidarity, support and solutions to parents who are struggling with what's become one of the defining parenting challenges of our time.

And we're using the voice of our community to push for more support from the government in the battle to reclaim childhood from Big Tech's addictive algorithms.

Alternatively, Maria, Alberto and Manuel's mum and Aurelia's mum are both signed up members and will be reaching out to you on the playground and through class WhatsApp groups.

