



Headteacher  
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# *St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School*

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Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

## **October Newsletter**

Dear Parents and carers,

What an incredibly busy and enjoyable half term it has been. It has been wonderful to come back to some 'normality' though we are constantly reminded that these times are anything but normal! I want to thank you once again for your support and understanding in regard to Covid- 19 rules and restrictions. It is due to all of our vigilance that we have been able to manage the positive cases we have had in school over the past weeks. We would ask that you continue to be vigilant for symptoms over the half term break and continue with regular lateral flow tests at home. As a staff we will be continuing with our twice weekly testing too. I have attached some frequently asked Covid related questions at the end of this newsletter, as always we are happy to answer any queries you might have in the office.

This half term we have enjoyed whole school assemblies and services including our 'Welcome' liturgy where we came together as a whole school family for the first time. We had an extra special welcome to our new children in Apple class. We have even resumed our hymn practices thanks to Mrs Round and Miss Maymon, our resident musicians. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and it has been delightful to hear their wonderful singing once again.

I hope that if we are able, and our risk assessment allows, our parents, families and carers can be welcomed back into school to celebrate with us once again in the not too distant future. We have a number of celebrations coming up in the second half of our Autumn term including our Remembrance and Advent services, we will continue to risk assess on an event-by-event basis and will keep you informed. Please look out for any information on the school App.

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Ilerioluwa Odipe and Sophie Redmond in Sycamore class. They were successful in their applications for our very first Head Pupils. I'm sure they will do a fantastic job in the year ahead.

We also share congratulations with our Team Captains Caleb Lucas, Holly Borrelli-Jackson, Ben Millar, Annabelle Moorish and their deputies Daniela De Silva, Leandro Hampsey-Bell, Kacper Andrearczyk and Myrto Fragkiadaki. We have also elected our new school council who will work alongside Mrs Pilkington to improve our school and provide the pupil's voice in our school. We have appointed our school chaplaincy team who will work alongside Mrs Shoulder & Mrs Bramhall to enrich our prayer life at St Bernadette's and our Laudato Si Stewards who will work alongside Mrs Lewis in our work to look after our common home.

## Harvest - The season of Creation

Our harvest festival was a rather bumper edition this year, we held our Harvest liturgy and all classes contributed to the service and were a credit to our school, we thank Mrs Bramhall for organising the service. This year we held our very first 'Harvest Afternoon Tea' lead by Willow class who baked scones and prepared the hall for their invited guests all in order to raise money for CAFOD. On the day, £171 was raised and after costs we were able to send £100 to our chosen charity, we thank our families for their generosity.



This is what some of the children had to say about their experience: -

*Zoya: I loved greeting people and being their waitress. Everyone was so polite, "May I take your order please?"*

**Anton: My favourite part was designing the poster for the CAFOD collection - it's such a good cause!**

*Christopher: I liked the harvest afternoon tea. I really enjoyed serving the parents - it was fun!*

**Rufus: I liked tidying up at the end as I got to talk to lots of other parents!**

*Nana: I liked making the scones and eating them!*



**"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40**

We would also like to say a **HUGE** thank you to all of our families who donated a phenomenal amount of food to our Harvest food and toiletries collection. Together we have truly made a difference to the lives of our most vulnerable families in our local area. This year our Harvest Collection went to The Trussell Trust Food Bank in Morecambe. Here are some pictures of our Year Five pupils loading the van with the food bank volunteers.

**Well done everyone – you have all lived out our St Bernadette's Gospel values!**





## The Month of the Rosary

Throughout October Mrs Bramhall has been leading the children in a lunchtime prayer club to pray The Rosary. The children have responded to the call to prayer and have attended in large numbers. We are truly proud to be a Catholic community united in prayer. Perhaps as we will finish this special month during half term, you could continue to pray The Rosary together at home.

## School Adventures

Over the last few weeks Oak, Elm, Beech and Eucalyptus classes finally got to go on the Borwick Hall trips. A fantastic time was had by all, children and staff alike. Thank you to those parents who sent wonderful emails in to thank the staff and those of you who shared kind words of gratitude on the playground. These messages of support are very much appreciated and have been shared with the staff. Please look out for our parent survey on trips coming very soon.



## Learn to Ride!

Apple class have been super busy too, learning to ride with Bikeability. All the children showed great listening skills, determination and resilience. Who knows we may have a Tour De France champion of the future in our midst!



This is what the children thought:-

***'I liked the bit where you went to the cone when the man said the colours.'* Teddy Johnson**

***'It was good, I can use my bike with just my pedals'* Isabel Cowey**



## Help your PTA needs you!

Friends of St Bernadette's PTA are looking for members. We would be grateful for any support you can offer. Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the activities we have been able to offer and on our membership. We are looking for members with an aptitude for finances, organisational skills and a willingness to support our school in whichever way they can. The friends are not just about raising funds for our school but are also about providing activities and events which bring our school community together. We do ask for a commitment to three meetings a year and as much or as little practical support you can offer – many hands make light work as they say. Please respond if you can to the expression of interest form which will be available via the school app. Those who fill in the form and wish to join the Friends committee are welcome to come along for an informal meeting at 6pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The Friends page on the school website has been updated to show the Christmas events coming up soon – there are lots of lovely activities for our children to do as we are not able once again to hold our Christmas Fayre due to Coronavirus risks.

## School Website

Please take a minute or two to look at the school website which has been updated with lots of new information about curriculum and learning, yearly overviews and homework on our class pages and safeguarding at St Bernadette's. There is also a new parental feedback page coming soon! It's really important to us at St Bernadette's that we know the views of our parents.

If you have something you'd like to bring to our attention and discuss or something that you've been really impressed or happy with, please let us know! If any staff member or pupil has gone the extra mile for you or your child this week, then we would like to know about it!

Your feedback will be sent to the school office and we will respond as appropriate.

## Parents Evening

This term's Parents evenings will be Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. These meetings will be virtual via Teams, appointments will be organised in the same way as we have done before.

Dates for your diary

Date	Function
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying Week <b>£1 donation for NSPCC</b>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Virtual Parliament Visit
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Judge's Lodging's Trips for Apple, Oak and Elm classes – more details will follow
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Own clothes day for donations of Christmas chocolate for the friends Christmas raffle
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Pantomime - Snow White
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm + 6pm	Christmas Nativity Apple, Oak & Elm Classes
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner & Friends event

	Christmas Jumper and Snowman Drive £2 for the Friends of St Bernadette's.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent service 1:30pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Final Assembly and the Friends Christmas chocolate Raffle School closes @2pm

We hope you have a safe and happy half term and return to us on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November refreshed and ready to begin our next half term together.

God bless,  
Mrs Shoulder

## Frequently Asked Questions – Coronavirus

### **My child has Coronavirus symptoms what should I do?**

Telephone the School Office to advise your child will not be attending as they are symptomatic and book a PCR test at a test centre. We will ask you to share the result with us. If the test is negative and your child remains well, they may return to school. If the test is positive you will need to engage with test and trace and isolate as directed.

### **My Child has a cough and/or a temperature, can I use a lateral flow test to check for Coronavirus?**

No, if your child is unwell with a cough or a temperature you must seek a PCR test because your child is symptomatic. We appreciate that this is the time of year for coughs and colds and that not every illness is Covid related. However, we must all follow the rules in order to keep cases down.

### **If my Child demonstrated Coronavirus symptoms in school what will happen?**

You will be contacted and advised you need to collect your child and book a PCR test. Your child will remain at home until they are fit and well and able to share their negative result.

### **We do not have to isolate anymore, do we?**

Bubbles in school are no longer in place.

We will notify you by letter via the school App if there is a positive case in your child's class.

The whole class is no longer required to isolate. However, if your child is identified as a close contact along with all other 'Close Contacts' of the positive case, your child will be required to take a PCR test and, providing they are not symptomatic, may return to school as normal. Should a positive result be returned, your child will then need to isolate as directed.

NHS Track and Trace will work with families to identify 'Close Contacts'. School will always do our best to support any family who needs help identifying close contacts whilst their child has been in school.

### **I have a box of Lateral Flow kits at home, can I just use this?**

No, if your child has been identified as a close contact they would have to have a PCR test.

### **Someone in my household is positive. Can my child attend school?**

We would require the pupil to seek a PCR test and share this result with school. If the pupil is negative, please remember that this is a negative result at the point of the test and your child could still develop Coronavirus within the Isolation period. We would strongly encourage a daily Lateral Flow Test and if you are in any doubt seek a further PCR in order to protect the wider community.