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Wednesday 30th November 2021

November Newsletter

*The true light that gives light to everyone, was
coming into the world*

John 1:9



Dear Parents and carers,

As we enter Advent and begin our preparations for Christmas, life becomes busy, hectic at times and we can often find that we are overwhelmed with all the 'to do' things and forget what we are 'really' preparing for. I'd had incredibly **busy** day when one of our pupils brought me a poem she wanted to share with me. Her poem reminded me to stop, think and remember the 'why?' of Advent. With Amy's (Y5) permission I am sharing the poem with you, so that you may find the time to stop, be still and reflect.

***As the wind whistles in my ears
And the snow begins to fall,
I look to the heavens
And praise our Lord.***

***As the bird sings its song
And the fish swim in their pond,
God hears my call
For that I am fond.***

***As the sun rises
And as the sun sets,
I hear the Holy Spirit's
Voice in my head.***

Governing Body

There have been some changes on the Governing Body for our school, Jan Grabowski has decided not to stand as Chair of Governors at the end of his term. He has also resigned his post as a Foundation Governor on the Governing Body and will complete his term of office on the 16th December. We at St Bernadette's would like to thank him for his tremendous service and for supporting the 'ship' in the most turbulent of times – I'm almost certain that he didn't sign up to Covid and all its complications!

We therefore welcome Mr Paul Wyre, grandfather of Michael in Apple class, to his new role as Chair of the Governing body. He has a longstanding relationship with the school and I am sure he is known to many of you who are parishioners.

Advent Preparations



The Prayer Leaders have been very busy organising ways in which our school community can **'be ready'** during Advent. Luke has produced a poster which has been shared with all the classes.

- They will be leading prayers on Tuesday lunchtimes for the children.
- They have organised a 'Nativity' charity raffle for Crisis, a charity who helps the homeless; remembering that Mary and Joseph found themselves without a home the night Jesus was born. Tickets cost 20p each or £1 a strip. The prizes include a Gingerbread home kit, 2 x selection boxes and a box of quality street.
- We will be holding 2 food bank Fridays and a Foodbank Thursday on the last day of term.
- Finally, they need your help to spread a bit of Christmas cheer. As your children write your Christmas cards please encourage them to make or write one extra card. These cards will need to be posted into the special post box in the school office and will be given to members of our community who are housebound, in care homes or otherwise not receive a Christmas card at all.

Remembrance Service & Poppy Appeal



We were led by our Prayer Leaders in a contemplative and respectful Remembrance service. Every child made their own poppy in memory of a loved one and this wall of remembrance was taken down to church and shared with the parish. Thank you to those families who were able to come and remember with us.

We have just received notification that as a community we raised a grand total of £384.83 in aid of the poppy appeal. We have it on good authority that this is a phenomenal amount.

Well done St Bernadette's!

Pupil Parliament

The year 6 Laudato Si Stewards and Mrs Lewis had a wonderful day visiting the Town Hall in Lancaster to meet with other local schools for a Pupil Parliament Day.

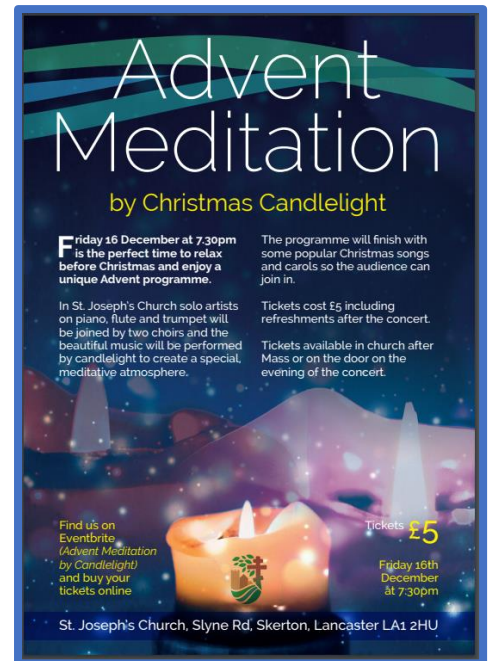
In the morning, the group discussed sustainability and the importance of getting our message heard - to look after our planet. They worked collaboratively to produce banners asking us to care for our world. In the afternoon, the group took part in a peaceful protest to share this message with our local community and get our voice heard. Well done to all involved.



Advent Service at St Joseph's

An 'Advent Meditation by Christmas Candlelight' will take place at St. Joseph's Church, Skerton, Lancaster on Friday 16th December 2022 at 7.30pm. It is a chance for Parishioners, and the school communities to experience readings and music which helps us to prepare for Christmas. It is not a concert nor a service, but a chance to meditate on the coming of Christ at Christmas.

There will, however, be opportunities for people to join in on some well-known carols at the end. **The Tickets are £5.00 and go towards the restoration of St. Joseph's church.**



Sports Festival

10 children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 had the opportunity to spend a morning at the University of Cumbria at a sports festival. The children had a fantastic time participating in various sports including Boccia, sit down volleyball and gymnastics. The children had a wonderful time and they all received a certificate for their participation and hard work.



Girls Football

Mrs Lewis and Mr Karim took two girl's football teams to Moorside to play some friendly matches. The girls did a fantastic job! The **A** team beat



Moorside **A** team by a magnificent 12-0. The **B** team did a fantastic job too with a very close game, narrowly losing by 4-3. For lots of the girls it was their first time playing in a football game against another school and representing St Bernadette's. Well done to all the girls involved. You were brilliant.



Football club

This term Mrs White and Mr Karim ran a Year 3/4 Football club. The children learnt lots of new skills and the importance of team work. On the last week the children participated in a mini World Cup Tournament with each team being allocated a country to represent. The children fully enjoyed this experience and congratulations to the winning team Spain.



Help Your PTA needs you!

Friends of St Bernadette's PTA are desperately looking for members. We would be grateful for any support you can offer. Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the group and we are yet to recover! As it stands there is only have **one** parent on the committee, the rest of the committee are staff; myself, Mrs Maudsley, Mrs Bramhall, Miss Taylor (Chair) and her partner Stephen. We would love to run more community and family events but there simply aren't enough of us. If you could spare some time, have ideas for the group or can help in anyway please contact Miss Taylor via email fosbchair@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk

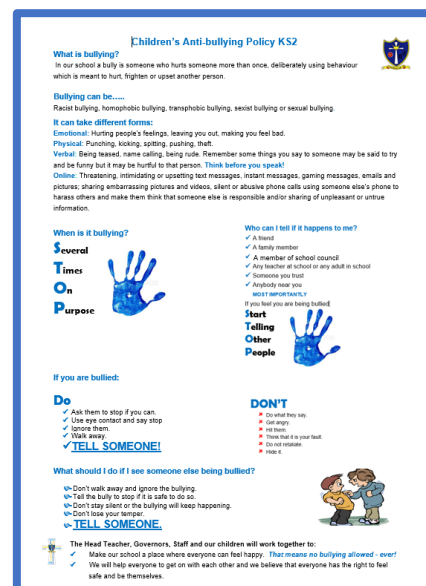


Anti-Bullying events

We had a rocking time in school and are doing our bit in taking bullying down through '**KINDNESS**'. The children enjoyed high energy workshops with a very strong message. At St Bernadette's we love that we are all different, unique and special.



With the help of the Head Pupils and Team captains and our teachers we updated our anti-bullying policy which you can read here: <https://st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Anti-Bullying-Policy-23.pdf> and we made our own children's version so that everyone can 'Reach out & Speak out'



Dates for your diary

	Date
Food Bank Fridays	2 nd & 9 th December Thursday 15 th December
Apple, Oak and Elm class Nativity performances	Tuesday 6 th November & 2:30pm & 6:30pm in the Church. No tickets required.
Whole school FOSB Movie Night and Christmas Jumper Day (please do not buy one especially)	Thursday 8 th November 3:30pm – 5:15pm in classes
Celebration Assembly – Parents & Carers welcome	Friday 9 th November 2:30pm – school hall
Sacrament of Reconciliation Father David will be offering the sacrament to those children who have made their first communion.	Tuesday 13 th December AM
Advent Service in church – all are welcome	Tuesday 13 th December @ 2pm
Christmas Dinner & Party Day – the children can wear their own sensible clothing	Wednesday 14 th December
School closes at 2pm	Thursday 15 th December
School reopens	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023 & 8:45am

Finally, Lancashire County Council have asked that we share the following link to 'Cost of Living Support and advice: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living/> . If you are struggling please do come in and see us and we will see what help we can offer. For those of you who have enquired about how you can help families in our community who may be struggling we do have a charitable 'pot' in school which we use to support families in our school. Donations to this pot are warmly received.

God bless,
Mrs Shoulder