



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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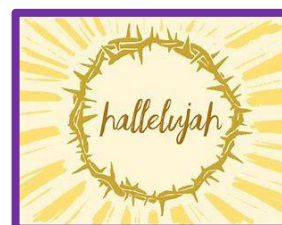
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## March & April Newsletter

*"Do not abandon yourselves to despair.  
We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our  
song." - Pope John Paul II*



Dear Parents and Carers,

As our spring term draws to a close, it gives us all time to reflect on just what a busy term it has been. In school we have been busy learning and mastering new skills, just like Teddy and Jacob who received a Headteacher's award for adding together (super speedily!) two digit numbers. We have celebrated World Book Day, Science Week and International Women's Day. We have hosted visitors, been on class trips, held our first Friends of St Bernadette's community event since covid, with a very successful 'Bingo' night. We have prepared ourselves for the Easter celebrations through our Lenten journey. As we pause, reflect on what has been and on what we have accomplished as a school community it should fill us all with immense joy to know that together we can achieve wonderful things



for others and ourselves; that together we stride towards fulfilling our school mission to

*'...to ensure a loving and faithful learning community in which our children can become the person God created them to be. A community where we celebrate the dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual. Where we grow and learn together with joy, in the love of Jesus. In this love, we strive to be courageous stewards of creation.'*

So on behalf of the staff and governors at St Bernadette's, I would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks for all of your support and wish you a very happy and holy Easter.

### Lenten Journey reflections – Pray, Fast & Give

Our Lenten preparations have continued in school this week where we have been preparing for Easter with our traditional Easter Production led by Eucalyptus and Beech classes. The children led us in a thought provoking and prayerful account of the events leading up to Easter and the resurrection of Christ. The staff and children's efforts were enjoyed by staff, children and our families alike. Their passionate singing and effortless presentation were just super. Well done, everyone!

Our class assemblies focussing on Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, The Crucifixion and The Resurrection have been taking place this week and for the first time, since covid, we have been able to invite parents and families to join us in prayer and celebration. Thank you to all of those who

joined us throughout the week and to the staff and children who prepared such thoughtful liturgies. Our Lenten fundraising and community works are an integral part of our Lenten preparations and this year we included acts of stewardship with our 'plant a seed'. Every child took home a seed and pot so that they could nurture a plant, we have litter picked these actions contribute in a small but important way in looking after our common home. We have undertaken works for the poor and the hungry in our foodbank Fridays, so far Mr Maudsley has undertaken two full car loads of donations to the Barton Road foodbank on our behalf. Our works for the sick and lonely have been making Easter cards for people in our parish, this was the first time we have done this and we were truly moved by the care taken in making these cards and by the wonderful prayers and messages sent by the children in their cards. These cards will be distributed by Father David, Deacon Paul and other Eucharist ministers who visit the housebound and the sick with the holy sacrament of the Eucharist as well as at Mass on Easter Sunday. Our Lenten charities this year were CAFOD, Mary's Meals and Mission Together and we raised, as a community, £412 in total.



Throughout Lent, the children have also embarked on a prayer journey to support them in their understanding of 'getting ready' for Easter. Each class has visited the church to reflect on and pray the Stations of the Cross, Lenten Masses have been held at 8am each

Wednesday so that we can come together with our parish community each week. Mrs Bramhall and Mrs Maudsley have held their ever popular 'Bible Club' and Mrs Shoulder has led a 'Contemplative prayer group' for the older children.



### World Book Day Memories



This year we even made it into Lancaster Guardian! Well done to one and all for some fabulous outfits and even more wonderful maps. Well done to our book token winners Caleb, Anastacia, Sienna, Thea, Joel, Amber and Amy.

Here are some pictures of our day celebrating how wonderful reading is and remember as Miss Burke says 'reading is a holiday

in your head', so let's keep up our reading journeys over the Easter holidays! We would love to see pictures of you reading during the holidays and in the most unexpected of places. You can send your photos to [bursar@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk) and we will share them on our reading for pleasure

page.





## Science Week



This year the theme for science week was making connections and we certainly made the most of that brief. In Apple, Oak and Elm classes lots of connections were made when

Aqualease came to visit us with their animals and aquariums. The children and staff got to observe and handle animals which inhabit the Morecambe Bay coastline and as such make links to life in their locality. Lots of scientific skills were developed but especially those of observation and research.



We also made the most of our links with Lancaster University who provided us with a visit from the planetarium. The whole school got to explore space and make connections to their learning on the solar system. It was amazing for the children to experience the awe and wonder of the universe and I'm sure this experience will inspire the scientists of

tomorrow. The staff and children want to say a huge thank you to the university and their staff who made this visit possible.



## International Women's Day



Inspired by the Lionesses our celebrations for International Women's Day took a football twist this year. Each girl in our school enjoyed a coaching session. We have even changed our playtime rota to include a girls football day.



Mr Karim shares:

'This term at St Bernadette's all the girls across the school had the opportunity to engage in some football activities lead by myself and Wesley Kendal, a football coach, who came into school to work with the girls. The girls told us what a fantastic time they'd had learning lots of new skills and playing fun games such as Cat and Mouse, One on One goal shoot and traffic light football control. Well done to all the girls, you were amazing and what a fabulous way to celebrate International Women's Day.'



## Sports News

St Bernadette's entered two teams into The Lancaster Schools Year 3/4 Football Tournament at Moorside. The children played fantastically and won some games, drew some games and had a couple of defeats. The children's attitude and determination were amazing and they did themselves, their parents and our school proud.



Our Y6 Netball Team took part in a Netball Tournament at OLCC. Playing against five other local primary schools, they finished in 4th place. The first few games were tough ones and as the games went on, they increased in confidence and won one of their games 7-0. The children displayed our Gospel value of resilience in their attitude and performances throughout the event. Well done to those children involved!



Year six visited Salt Ayre for a rock climbing experience as part of their PE curriculum. They learnt new skills, challenged themselves in lots of different ways and developed the teamwork.



## Water Workshop Visit from Brockholes



In Eucalyptus class, the children discussed how we use water and how much. They learnt about the processes involved in catching, storing, cleaning and moving water - the natural and human water cycles. They learnt about the positive actions they could make to reduce their consumption – every action counts! They also learnt about the link between water use and energy consumption and the benefits to the climate of energy use reduction.



They were able to discuss cost savings at home and in school that saving water can make.



## Parent & Family Surveys

Thank you for taking the time to fill in our surveys at our in-person parents evening, these are very important to us in being able to acknowledge what we do well and what we need to improve on. Overall, the surveys were very positive indeed: 98% of you said that your children liked school; 100% of you shared that you felt our school was a joyful and supportive community and 100% of you told us that your children felt safe in our school. There were two areas where you thought we could do



better or where we could support you more. One of those areas was knowing how well your child is doing in RE (religious education). The working level for your child is, as always, on the termly reports you receive and gives you an indication of how your child is doing. In addition to this there is the RE curriculum page of our website which shows what your child is learning in RE at any given time.

There is also a parents RE newsletter for the term for you to read. This newsletter informs you what your child is learning and has information about our prayer life in school and upcoming liturgies and worships. The following link will take you to the page:

<https://stbernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/curriculum/re/>

The second area highlighted for improvement was in our communication. Some of you thought there was too much, some too little and most of you thought the communication was good. Our school App has supported good and improved communication but like most technologies it does have its 'hiccups'. Please be assured we do try to give as much notice as we can with messages. I am aware of one occasion where families were sent a message very late on a Sunday evening. This was due to a blip with the system and for that, I apologise. We have also had suggestions for a return to paper letters being sent home, especially when regarding trips. Whilst a paper letter may serve as a reminder to give consent or send in payments, it would also be a huge burden on school resources and not very eco-friendly. Therefore, we will not be returning to a paper system. Mrs Maudsley will continue to send app notification reminders.

Should you have any suggestions going forward there is a direct link via the school website. We are only too happy to listen to them. These can be sent via the following link: <https://stbernadettes.lancs.sch.uk/auto-draft-7/>

### End of Term Reports

This week your child(ren) has brought home their 'End of Term' report. This report summarises their learning for the year so far in Religious Education, Reading, Writing and Maths.

Along with your child's report there is also your child's absence report. As poor attendance is the main contributor to children not reaching their full potential in school. These reports are printed on green paper if attendance is good, Orange if it has fallen below that which is expected (less than 95%) and red if attendance has been below 90% and considered to be persistent absenteeism. I would urge you to make every effort to ensure your child is in school. Holidays during term time are not permitted and authorisation for these will not be granted. Any leave during term time is the exception and authorisation will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances.

### Friends of St Bernadette's

A message from the Chair, Miss Susan Taylor



Firstly, a **HUGE** thankyou to our school family, parent volunteers and school staff volunteers for your continued support with our FOSB events, your dedication and creativity is much appreciated.

This term we have been working hard behind the

scenes to plan events and raise monies for our school. This term FOSB have

held a chocolate raffle, a Prize Bingo evening, Bags for School Collection, our Uniform Shop (also now online...thank you Vicki! <https://uniforably.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=11504> ) and a final day of the term Tuck Shop. All of these have helped raise funds for our school and aids with trip costs and equipment for school.



Watch this space for upcoming events such as our Cultural Food Evening and the return of our Summer Fair, we look forward to seeing you there. If anyone can donate any items for our summer fair they would be much appreciated we need items such as chocolate, gift sets or anything that would make a prize for our upcoming summer fair, these can be given to the school office. If you have connection to local businesses who might like to support our school through a raffle donation or sponsorship, please also get in touch.

We are always on the lookout for new members so if you are interested, please email me on [fosbchair@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:fosbchair@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk) for more information.

Have a wonderful Easter break.

### The Friends Of St Bernadette's Chocolate Raffle Winners



### A Message From Fr David

For me, as the priest at St Bernadette's, things start to get very busy in the lead up to Easter and it is perhaps when we are at our busiest that we start to forget some of the things that really matter in life. But the truth is that there are no things that do really matter – it is only people that really matter.

At the end of a busy term everybody is a bit tired, children, teachers and families! At times like this it is always good to stop to count our blessings. I have to say that it has been a joy and a blessing for me to be involved with our parish school. The school is blessed to have the children who come to learn and the children are blessed to have the teachers and other staff who help them to learn, to feel safe and to flourish.

All these blessings come from God. I hope that you will take the opportunity to join in some of our parish celebrations at this most sacred time of year. You will always be welcome.

With my best wishes to you all for a joy-filled Easter and a relaxing break.

Fr David



## Catholic Teaching Alliance



### **Train to Teach in your Local Schools**

Teacher Training courses starting September 2023

**FAQ:** Where can I train to teach with the Catholic Teaching Alliance?

**Answer:**

Primary (3-7 yrs) or (5-11 yrs) in Preston and East Lancashire

Secondary (11-16 yrs) in Preston and Blackburn

Post 16 (14-19 yrs) in Preston

For minimum entry requirements for the PGCE with QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) courses or for more information, please contact us by phone 01772 326931 or

email [ctaschooldirect@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ctaschooldirect@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: <https://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/>

### **Dates for your Diary**

Event	Date
School opens for the summer term	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April
FOSB meeting – all welcome	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April @ 5pm
Dan the skipping Man – whole need to wear PE kits on this day	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
Cultural Food night	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
School Photograph Day	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May