



Headteacher  
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# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Wednesday 20th December 2023

## December Newsletter *Merry Christmas*

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11*



Dear Parents and carers,



It has been a busy, lively and community spirited end to the term. Thank you as always for your support and kindness which always shines throughout our school and parish community but is overwhelmingly abundant at this time of year. We have received food and toy donations and financial donations from members of the school



community and from our parish. Because of you and your generosity, we have been able to make a real difference to the lives of children in our own community. I thank you from the bottom of my heart on their behalf.



In the season of advent, we prepare to celebrate the God's greatest gift to us – his Son. Inspired by this we have been busy preparing in school to be beacons of this love to others, in our thoughts, words and deeds. Our prayer leaders have led the way, preparing Christmas cards for our governors and school

volunteers who give so much of their time to our school. They have led prayers for peace in their lunch times and decided that our Christmas collections this year would go to the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal. This year together we raised £296. It is amazing what can be achieved with your support, a cup of hot chocolate and a kit-kat!



Our final week of the term has been full of fun and super busy! We have enjoyed Christmas parties, a special visitor who even made the time in his very busy schedule to read a story to Apple class. We enjoyed our first Christmas musical evening, had a very special Christmas lunch and celebrated our Advent service together.



Today we shared hot chocolate in Apple and Willow classes and our 'always' winners had a festive lunch with me! We also said goodbye to Mrs White and wish here all the very best for her new chapter.

## A Letter from Father David

Dear All,

I am very aware that for some of you this will be a tough time of year with many competing demands on your finances. I do hope that one way or another you will be able to enjoy Christmas and I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to join us at Mass this Christmas. The crib service which will be at 4pm on Christmas Eve will be especially aimed at the children and should be a joyful occasion.

This year we will be supporting CAFOD's campaign to improve sanitary conditions for those who cannot take for granted some of the things which we cannot imagine living without. A WC can be installed for £70 and it is my intention that we have a collection to see whether we can raise sufficient to purchase at least one WC.

Last year, we asked that the children bring up a small offering for the food bank. This year we would like to focus on personal hygiene and would ask for the following kind of items:

- deodorants - men and women
- disposable razors - men and women
- women's toiletries
- babies' nappies
- baby toiletries - shampoos etc
- shampoos

Anything you can donate will be gratefully received but please do not feel under any pressure to give anything, especially if you are struggling yourselves. The most important thing you can bring to church on any occasion is yourself!

A number of parents have been in touch with me about next year's First Holy Communions. The celebration will be on Sunday 9th June and will be for children in Class 4. Any further information about this will be given out at Mass in the New Year so if you wish your child to participate, please come and get involved on a Sunday morning (or Saturday evening).

With my best wishes to you all for a Happy and Holy Christmas,  
Fr David



### Nativity!

Apple, Oak and Elm class led us in a joyous retelling of the nativity story with uplifting singing, big smiles, energetic angels and some epic dance moves! Thank you once again to the staff who dedicated so much to preparing the children and to you for your support with costumes, words and no doubt lots of singing! It always amazes me how heartfelt these occasions are and it is wonderful to see the enormous sense of pride the children feel when performing for their families. Well done to one and all.



### Judge Lodgings Trip – Apple & Oak class

Both Apple class and Oak class enjoyed a brilliant history trip to the Judges Lodgings to experience a Victorian Christmas. Thank you to all the volunteers who accompanied us on the day, without your support these days would not be able to take place.



## Creative Play club



Miss Taylor & Mrs Bergus have held a creative play club with Years 3 & 4; we have designed and made Shrinkeez keyrings, origami star hangers, homemade slime and playdough alongside many creative play options including mindfulness pictures, kinetic sand and tactile toys. The group were very enthusiastic and showed their creative skills throughout, a very fun filled 5 weeks.

## Glow Dodgeball

This half term some children from Eucalyptus Class took part in a glow dodgeball festival at Lancaster University. Mrs Wood and the children involved had an amazing time playing against lots of local schools. The festival had a focus of honesty and the children were brilliant. Well done to all involved!



## Reports, Attendance, Lunch Club and Hot Chocolate Club!

Last Friday, your child will have brought home their termly report. We, as always, are very proud of all the children and of how hard they are working alongside their teachers. This termly report informs you of how well your child is doing when working towards age-related standards in Religious Education, Reading, Writing and Mathematics. If you have any questions, please raise them with your child's teacher via email and they will be happy to help.

Alongside your termly report, you will receive an attendance report. The colour of the report you have been given either red (90% or less), Orange (95% or less) or green for (95%+). Orange or red indicate that there must be a marked improvement in attendance. Your child's attendance has a direct impact on how well they learn and achieve in school. Attendance is closely monitored in school and poor attendance will be followed up by the Senior Leadership Team. Please make every endeavour to ensure your child maintains a high level of attendance. Holidays during term time are strongly discouraged, any term time holiday may well incur a fine.

We held our termly 'Hot chocolate club' for the best and most improved whole class attendance. This term Apple class had the highest attendance and Willow had the most improved attendance; well done to those classes. We also held our first 'Lunch Club' of the year. This award is in recognition of the children who always go above and beyond in helping, learning and living out our Gospel values. They are nominated by staff who have noticed their 'always' attitude. Well done to the Autumn Lunch club members.



## The Friends of St Bernadette's

Thank you to you all for your kind chocolate donations which, as always, have gone down a storm with the children and raised a total of £535. We hope those of you who attended our 'Carols and Mulled Wine Evening' enjoyed the night as much as we did.

Thanks to the school choir, the musicians who performed, to Mr Cookson for sharing his expertise with us all and to Mrs Johns in the kitchen for preparing the mulled wine and warming those delicious mince pies!

This event raised £211. Our 'Movie Night' was a great success and enjoyed by all and raised a total of £505. All of these events have helped raise much needed funds for our school. All monies raised goes directly to enhancing the St Bernadette's experience for all of the children. This would not be possible without our volunteers and your support.

Our special visitor was gratefully received and the children were each given a small gift provided by the FOSB. Thank you Father Christmas for visiting our wonderful school.

We look forward to lots of exciting events in the new year so please watch this space for more events. We are always trying to recruit new volunteers or anybody who could spare their time just for events etc, if you would like to get involved then please send an email to: [fosbchair@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:fosbchair@st-bernadettes.lancs.sch.uk) Thank you once again and we wish you all a wonderful festive period and joyous New Year.

*Miss Taylor*

Chair of St Bernadette's Friends

## Parking

Thank you to those who have emailed or came into school to share your support and raise concerns around the current situation. Whilst there is no immediate 'easy fix' to the current situation and with over 1000 children being dropped off and collected from the three schools on Bowerham road, please be assured that we are trying to work together to make the situation safer. I would encourage you to, that where it is possible, to 'park and stride' by parking a short distance away and walking to school. If you are parking on the church car park, please be mindful of the safety of pedestrians when exiting onto the pavement and to be mindful of the need for space on the pavement for prams, buggies and wheelchair users when parking on the road.

I have raised concerns with Mr Shone at Moorside who will also communicate to his parents of the need for caution.

## Christmas services and Mass times at St Bernadette's

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** 23/24 December – Vigil Mass @ 6:30pm and Sunday Mass @11am.

**Christmas Eve** 4pm Crib Service & 8pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

**Christmas day** 11am Christmas Mass

## Dates for your diary

Date	Function
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School Opens
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evenings in person

On behalf of everyone, I'd like to say a huge thank you for the generous and thoughtful gifts and cards you have sent in, they are greatly appreciated.

Finally, from all of us at St Bernadette's, we wish you all a very happy and 'Holy Christmas' and look forward to seeing you in 2024. School re-opens on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

God bless,  
Mrs Shoulder