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Thursday 30th^h November 2023

November Newsletter

*'To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given... and his name will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God... Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6).*

Dear Parents and carers,

Bearing in mind all that is going on around the world at the moment and difficulties closer to home with the cost of living crisis, as I write this November newsletter, it seems only fitting that it should begin with a prayer as we lead into the first week of Advent.

Advent Prayer for Peace

Emmanuel,
Humanity waits in darkness longing for your light.
In the centre of darkness, rekindle our hope.
As we wait for peace in the midst of war, be with us.
As we pray for families to be reunited, be with us.
As we pray for enemies to be reconciled, be with us.
As we pray for lands to be restored, be with us.
As we pray for long-term security, be with us.
As we pray for kindness and community, be with us.
Restore and set right our relationships.
Replace the darkness in our hearts with your light and joy.
Let your word set alight the hope the world needs to bring to life your love and justice. Amen.



Staffing News

This Christmas we will be saying 'Goodbye' to **Mrs White**, our **Beech** class teacher. She has decided to take early retirement to enjoy all the wonderful things she loves to do; skiing, cycling, running, dog walking and travelling. Mrs White has been a treasured member of our St Bernadette's family for a very long time and she will be greatly missed by her colleagues, the children and their families. I'm sure that you will send every good wish to her as she embarks on a new and exciting chapter of her life. Mrs White has promised to visit often and I'm sure we will get to see her in the future.

Joining us as Beech class teacher in January will be Ms Fondja; she is a very experienced teacher and I am sure you will welcome her warmly into our school family. Mrs White and Ms Fondja will meet together before the end of term to ensure a smooth transition for the children.

Mr Baird, who has been teaching Willow class since Miss Burke's departure, will be remaining part of the St Bernadette's family until the end of July. I'm sure you will continue to make him feel welcome.

Governing Body

I am pleased to announce that Mr Luis Pinho has been voted in as the new parent governor. I would like to thank both candidates for putting themselves forward to serve our school community. There is currently a vacancy for a Local Authority Governor at our school. If you are interested in taking up such a role please contact Governor Services North on 01524 581185 or via email governors.north@lancashire.gov.uk. Thank you for voting!

Remembrance Service & Poppy Appeal



We were once again led by our Prayer Leaders in a moving and respectful Remembrance service. Every class made their own wreath. For each class wreath, every child made their own leaf handprint and wrote a prayer in memory of a loved one. These wreaths were taken down to church and became part of the Peace display. 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 £262.35 in aid of the poppy appeal. We have it on good authority that this once again is a very generous amount. Thank you to all of you.

Pupil Parliament



Our members of the Lancaster and Morecambe Pupil Parliament went out to their first workshop. They spent the day learning about protected characteristics and learnt in detail about disability and the impact it can have when others are discriminated against due to their disability.

Having had lots of fun along the way, they have come back to school with a very strong message to share with the rest of the school. Watch this space for news of their assembly!



Odd Socks Day – Antibullying



We celebrated 'Odd Socks Day' for anti-bullying awareness and talked about how we are all different and all special. We are privileged at St Bernadette's to have such a diverse school family and celebrate this at every opportunity.



London Trip



Elm class enjoyed a very exciting trip to visit The Houses of Parliament in Westminster. Along the way we walked along the South Bank, saw the London Eye, walked along The Mall to see Buckingham Palace where we were treated to marching by two of the King's Guards. We travelled on the tube and train. The children were amazing and despite delays both on our outward and



return journeys were impeccably behaved. It was wonderful to see the joy on their faces as they were greeted by Big Ben upon our arrival. Although the children assured us all that the best part of their day was lunch at McDonald's! Thank you to Mrs Buchan for detailed planning. Thank you to all the staff who came along and to the parents who dropped off and collected from Lancaster train station. I'm sure the children will treasure the memories they made for a long time to come.



Rock Kidz – Yasba!



The Rock Kidz were back and wow did we have fun rocking out to a very important message. 'You Are Awesome So Be Awesome! The RK theme this year linked to our celebration of difference for Antibullying week and was great for building self-esteem and having fun together. We enjoyed a full



day of concerts and dance battles. We even saw the rise of a new star, Mr Banana Moustache! Thank you for your wonderful efforts in dressing the children the face painting; glitter and wigs were amazing! The staff had lots of fun too. The Rock Kidz will be back next year with a brand new theme!



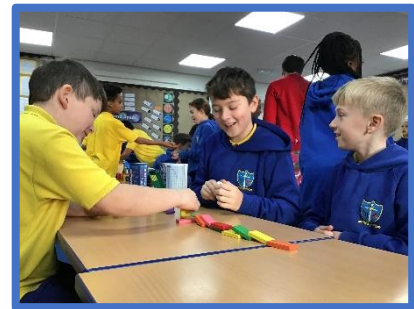
Science Road Show & Pulley's and Levers workshop



Lancaster University have visited Key Stage Two this term and brought their learning in science to life with a Roadshow focussing on our solar system and Space. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful



team on our doorstep and are forever grateful for the partnership we have with the university. The children in Year 5 also enjoyed an interactive levers and pulleys workshop which again gave them real life understanding of these scientific concepts.



Fire Safety

Elm and Sycamore classes had a visit from the fire brigade to talk about fire safety. Year 2 enjoyed dressing up in firefighter clothing and asking lots of questions.



Sports News

It has been a super busy month of sport for the children with competitions new and familiar, friendly matches and clubs. Thank you to Mrs Wood, Mr Karim, Miss Taylor and the parents who come along for making the sports events so enjoyable for our children.

As the winter is here and the weather colder, we ask that the children wear their school tracksuits for PE lesson. Leggings are not permitted.

Girls Football tournament Moorside

Mr Karim and Miss Taylor to the Years 5 and 6 girls to Moorside for friendly matches. Mr Karim shares 'The girls were fantastic. The A team beat Moorside B team by 4-0 and drew 1-1 with Moorside A team. The B team were fantastic too. They suffered a defeat to Moorside A team but then bounced straight back with a 4-1



win against Moorside B team. For lots of the girls, it was their first time playing in a football game against another school and playing in a football team. We are super proud of you as were the parents and carers who came along to watch, what great support they were too! Well done to all the girls involved you were brilliant.'

Athletics Competitions



The Year 6 athletics team went along to represent our school at Our Lady's Catholic College and came away with the silver medal. They were great ambassadors for our school and were a fabulous team.

Year 4 also sent a team to represent our school, they too were superb and carried on our legacy of triumph in the competition. After winning this event for the past eight years and

being the only school named on the trophy, the Y4 team returned undefeated once again! The children took part in a variety of field and track events, performing exceptionally throughout. Well done to all the children involved!



Soul Bowl

Mrs Wood shares 'KS2 children took part in a ten-pin bowling competition, which was a first for our school. It was a wonderful afternoon competing against other local schools and the children came away with amazing medals and huge smiles on their faces after a very fun afternoon. Well done to all involved.'



Football club

Mr Karim shares 'This half term on Tuesday evenings after school the children in Years 3 and 4 have had the opportunity to attend a Football club run by Mr Karim and Ms Taylor. They have had fantastic time learning new skills and taking part in mini matches. On the last week of the club, the children took part in a mini World Cup



competition and after some great performances from all the children involved, the winners were Spain . Well done to everyone who participated.'



Advent Preparations

The Prayer Leaders will begin next week leading lunchtime prayer sessions throughout the season to pray for peace in our world. Father David will be in school to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the children who have made their First Holy Communion.

Throughout advent we will be collecting **food donations**. We will make these donations up into Christmas Hampers to distribute to those in need in our own community.

For the first time we will be **collecting toy gifts** for those in need. For some families they may have to choose between food, heat or a present under the tree this year and we would not wish to see any child without a present at Christmas. We will be collecting new toys and gifts for children of primary school age in the office. If you are able and wish to donate, please drop off these items to Mrs Maudsley in the office. These gifts will be wrapped and given to children in our own community.



Dates for your diary

Apple Class Wow Days! Mrs Bramhall will be in touch to invite you on specific days to come into Apple class and share your child's learning from the Autumn Term. We hope many of you will come as the children are so proud of themselves.

	Date
Friday 1st December	Victorian Christmas Trip to Judges Lodgings
Wednesday 6th November @ 3:30pm – 5:15pm	FOSB Movie Night
Monday 11 th December	Aladdin Pantomime
Tuesday 12 th December	Father David – Reconciliation for children
Thursday 14th December @ 2pm & 6:30pm	Christmas Nativity
Friday 15 th December	Final Assembly – All are welcome
Monday 18 th December	Christmas Party Day – children can wear their own clothes.
Monday 18th November @ 6:30pm	FOSB Christmas Carol event
Tuesday 19th December @ 2pm	Christmas jumper & Christmas Dinner Day Advent Service & Carols in church at 2pm
Wednesday 20 th December	School closes at 2pm
Monday 8 th January 2024	School opens for the spring Term

God bless,
Mrs Shoulder