

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

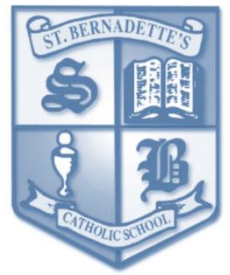
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Newsletter 8  
20 December 2024

At St Bernadette's Catholic School, you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.

## Christmas Closure

School closes today for Christmas and will re-open to children on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. We wish all of our families and very happy and holy Christmas, when it arrives.



**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45

Soon afterwards Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"



## Gospel Reflection

Elizabeth is filled with joy because she knows Jesus is going to be the Son of God and Mary is the chosen mother so their family is going to be the Family of God. Mary is happy because she knows that her cousin Elizabeth will one day go to heaven because she is filled with the Holy Spirit and that she knows God's plan for Mary. Babies need love, guidance and God. No matter where a baby is born, all babies have the right to have equal love and care.

Written by Anngelina and Leniyece.



## Christmas Wishes

The Governors, staff and pupils of St Bernadette's would like to extend a happy and holy Christmas and prosperous new year to all our families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for all your support to the children and staff during the term. Your kind words, gifts and understanding have been very welcomed.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, restful, and holy Christmas and New Year filled with joy and happiness.



## Light a candle to offer a prayer

We keep the following in our prayers this week:

Nancy, who continues to receive treatment in hospital.

The mother of Mason and Cillian who continues with her treatment.

The O'Toole family

The O'Brien family

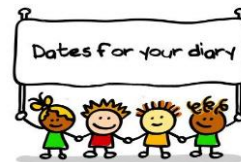
The Father of Miriam in Year 1

The Whyte Family

The Grandfather of Sonny



## Diary Dates



**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

School reopens to children

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

9.00 am - Year 2 SATS Meeting for Parents

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Whole School Mass 9.30am Holy Family Church

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

9.00 am - Year 6 SATS Meeting for Parents

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

Open Afternoon for prospective parents 1.30pm

**Thursday 16 January**

Year 6 Maths Open Week

**Friday 17 January**

Year 5 - Maths Open Morning

**Monday 20 January**

Year 1 - Maths Open Morning

**Tuesday 21 January**

Year 3 - Maths Open Morning

**Thursday 23 January**

Year 2 - Maths Open Morning

**Friday 24 January**

Reception - Maths Open Morning

**Tuesday 28 January**

Year 4 - Maths Open Morning

**Wednesday 29 January**

9.00 am Year 2 - Mass

**Thursday 30 January**

Nursery - Maths Open Morning Green & Red Group

**Friday 31 January**

Nursery - Maths Open Morning Blue & Yellow Group



## Good Bye Miss Hulse

Miss Hulse our SENDCo, will be leaving us at the end of this term.

Miss Hulse has been at St Bernadette's since 2016. She began her time as the Computing Lead and now more recently the SENDCo, working with the children and families of our children who have SEND. She has worked tirelessly to develop the provision within school and liaise with other agencies to ensure all children have more specialist support where required.

Miss Hulse has been a valued member of the teaching staff and Leadership Team and her hard work and commitment has shone through in her time here. She leaves to develop her expertise and to continue to help other children who require extra support, moving on to the Physical Disabilities Team in the Local Authority where she will provide support and guidance for a wide range of schools across Birmingham.

I know you will all join me in wishing her every success as she moves on to the next stage in her career. We thank her for her time, enthusiasm and commitment to the children and families of St Bernadette's. She will be greatly missed.

## Meeting for Prospective Nursery/Reception entry in September 2024

Open session for parents of children who would like to consider St Bernadette's for a Nursery/Reception place in September 2025.

**Friday 10 January 2025 – 1.30pm**

If you know anyone who may be interested, please let them know.

## Safeguarding reminder

Please remember that if you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child, members of the public are able to make an anonymous referral to the safeguarding team within Birmingham City Council. Parents should call 3031888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker. The safeguarding leads in school are Mr Carroll, Miss Finnegan, Miss Hulse and Miss Cowings and they will be happy to support any parents in this process should they be required.

Two lucky children had the opportunity to visit the Midlands Art Centre to watch the show 'Finding Santa'. Two elves were on one very important mission: to bring everyone's letters to Santa on Christmas Eve! The children rated the show 10/10.



### Carol Service – Year 5 & 6

The Y5 & 6 Carol Service took place on Tuesday night at Holy Family church. It was fantastic to see the church so full with friends, family, past pupils and past members of staff.



The service was exceptional. The choir, the soloists and the readers sang and read beautifully. There were around 150 children from Year 5 & 6 who took part and really made an outstanding contribution to the life of the school. It was a very special night.

We would like to thank all parents for bringing their children along to take part and give something back to the school community. It was amazing to see.

A big thank you also goes to the band of Jacky, Nick and Jonathan who support the school regularly at our Carol Services and Year 6 Productions and all the teachers who helped prepare the children so well.

### Girls Uniform

Just a reminder that if girls are wearing trousers to school they need to be **grey straight leg trousers**. All uniform information is available on the school website in the **Parents tab** and go to **Prospectus**.



### Celebrating Saanvi's Success in BBC 500 Words!

We are delighted to announce that *Ella and the Secret Animal Language* by Saanvi (Year 3) has progressed to the next stage of the prestigious **BBC 500 Words** competition! This incredible achievement places Saanvi among the top 5,000 entries from tens of thousands submitted nationwide.

The BBC 500 Words is the UK's largest story writing competition for children aged 5-11, and reaching this stage is a testament to Saanvi's creativity and hard work. The next round of judging will be conducted by the Reading Agency, and we eagerly await the announcement of the shortlisted stories in January. Congratulations, Saanvi—you should be very proud!



### NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to seven healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate,

for common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Common condition	Patient eligibility
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst) as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

## Maths Open Mornings

We are delighted to invite parents and carers into school for a Maths Open Morning from 8:50 am to 10:00 am on the following dates:

Year 6: Thursday 16th January

Year 5: Friday 17th January

Year 1: Monday 20th January

Year 3: Tuesday 21st January

Year 2: Thursday 23rd January

Reception: Friday 24th January

Year 4: Tuesday 28th January

Nursery: Thursday 30th January (Green and Red Groups)

Nursery: Friday 31st January (Blue and Yellow Groups).

Nursery parents and carers to go to Nursery via the Nursery entrance at 9am.

This is an exciting opportunity to:

Watch a live maths session in your child's class.

Learn about the methods and strategies we use in school.

Work 1:1 with your child during the session.

We hope you can join us for this interactive and engaging session to see your child's learning in action. Please reply by on ParentPay Friday 10th January.

SCHOOL FUND ACADEMIC  
YEAR 2024-2025



Parents are requested to make a donation of £10.00 per child or £10.00 per family to our school fund. Log onto

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

This payment will help to subsidise the cost of some of the activities that take place throughout the school year to enhance the curriculum ie workshops and theme days, and ensure our children continue to have the broadest possible experiences in school.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

Congratulations  
to Amelia in Y4 for  
achieving her gold badge  
last week. Amelia can  
quickly recall all of her  
times-tables up to 12 x 12.  
What a super star!



'Bring It On Brum!' is running FREE activity clubs in Birmingham for young people aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. There are a huge range of activities available including sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music. Programmes vary depending on the type and location of each local club and each holiday club will give your child a nutritious meal too! Please read the 'Bring It On Brum!' letter which was emailed to parents and carers of children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals this week. If you believe you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, but didn't receive a letter via email, please contact Miss O'Neill in the school office.

[www.bringitonbrum.co.uk](http://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk)



## Incident Weather

If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that school needs to close, please listen to the local radio stations. The school texting service, school website and the school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am, then you can assume that school will be open as normal. If a blanket closure is announced by Birmingham City Council then we will close. Please note, school will complete a risk assessment of the site while making this decision, it is up to you as parents to risk assess your journey to school to ensure the children arrive safely.

### Nursery Places

Following the Christmas break, we will be considering our Nursery applications. If you are a parent of a child who was born between September 2021 and August 2022 and would like your child to start in our Nursery in September 2025, please complete the form at the school office.

### Reception Admissions

If you have a child who is due to start Reception in September 2025, please remember that you must complete your application by 15<sup>th</sup> January at 11.59am. This should be completed online and a supplementary application form should be completed for St Bernadette's School if you have listed us as one of your choices. Parents are unlikely to get their first choice school if they submit a late application. Parents should list three different primary schools on their form.

### Termly reports

Staff will be completing their termly reports for pupils prior to the Christmas break. These reports will reflect the results that children have attained in their formal assessments this term. The report also includes information about your child's attendance, the effort they make in lessons and in their homework and their general attitude towards school life. Reports will be emailed to parents by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January.



12 Days Wild is our festive nature challenge, encouraging you to do one wild thing a day from the 25<sup>th</sup> December to the 5<sup>th</sup> January each year. In those quiet days between Christmas and New Year, winter wildlife is just waiting to be explored! Your wild acts could be little things to help nature – like recycling your Christmas tree or feeding the birds – or ways to connect to the natural world, like taking in the calm of stargazing.

Anyone can sign up to the challenge on our website here: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild> and you will have access to a digital pack to get started.



This week, KS2 students participated in two exciting sporting events, showcasing their teamwork and determination.

At Paget Primary School, our tag rugby team took part in a friendly tournament. The players displayed excellent skills and cooperation, giving their all in every match. Their hard work and enthusiasm were evident, and they represented our school brilliantly. A big well done to everyone who participated!

Meanwhile, our Year 5 and 6 football team competed in a challenging tournament at the Sedgemere. After some tough matches, the team advanced to the quarter-finals, where they faced a strong opponent and were narrowly defeated 1-0. Despite the result, the players demonstrated outstanding effort, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Our goalkeeper, Archie, was the player of the night—he was amazing!

Mr. Markham-Jones would like to thank all the children, Miss Baker for driving the minibus and braving the cold, and the parents who attended and supported. We're incredibly proud of our teams and look forward to more sporting successes in the future! Thank you Mr Markham-Jones.

Holy Family Parish  
is wishing you and your family a

*Merry Christmas &  
a bountiful New Year!*



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**Holy Family RC Parish**  
763 Coventry Road, Small Heath  
Birmingham, B10 0HT



### Christmas Mass Schedule

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	10:00am	Parish Mass
	6:00pm	Christmas Carol Concert
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30am	Parish Mass
	5:00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30am	Christmas Day Mass
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30am	Feast of St. Stephen (Altar Server's Mass)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30am	Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am	Feast of Holy Innocents
	4:00pm	Feast of Holy Family (Vigil Mass)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30am	Feast of the Holy Family (Parish Feast Day)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am	6 <sup>th</sup> day within the Octave of Christmas
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	10:30am	7 <sup>th</sup> day within the Octave of Christmas
	4:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Holy Rosary (End of the Year Thanksgiving)
	5:00pm	Vigil Mass
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	10:30am	New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Thank you to the generosity of the parents and staff at St Bernadette's who so willingly gave presents for St Chad's Sanctuary. St Chad's is a place of welcome and hospitality for **Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

These presents will be given to children and families who use the Sanctuary. Thank you for being so generous and thinking of others at this very special time.



### Christmas Baubles Competition

Congratulations and a huge well done to everyone who created their own Christmas Bauble for our tree. They all looked amazing. It was certainly a tough job to pick all the winners. Congratulations to everyone who took part and to the first, second and third places in each year band who each received some chocolate as their prizes. Well done everyone.



## School of Sanctuary Update

Miss Abdi

In 2015 I moved to Bristol from Somalia on a spouse visa. My husband was living here so I came to join him. We were living in a rented home and my husband had good job. Shortly after I gave birth to my daughter we were happily family.

I moved away to Birmingham with my daughter after a few years and we stayed with my aunt. I was advised to go to a homeless centre to get somewhere to stay. I was given temporary accommodation. I lived there for a few months until I got my permanent home. I did not have any bad experiences while I was settling in England.

I started going to college to learn English language but this was not too much of a struggle because I was doing my degree back home. While here, I studied health and social care level 3. After that I signed up with an agency and I started working. I worked in different schools as a Special Needs teaching assistant. This brought me to St. Bernadette's in 2022. I worked in different year bands with a lot of different children. I also did some 1:1 and group work here. I am settled here now and enjoy supporting the children in their learning.

One of the most special times in my life was when I went back home to visit my family, two years ago. It was lovely time to see my family again.

The Refugee  
We waded through the desert  
as our hope slowly fades  
feeling like it's endless  
to where we might call home.

We must leave for safety,  
Carrying our dreams in our hearts,  
leaving our friends,  
to where we might call home.

The sun is bright  
but not as warm,  
matching our feelings on our way  
to where we might call home.

We finally find a town of joy,  
a town of happiness, a town of  
peace,  
a town of comfort and safety  
a place we can call home.

By Neil Year 4 (December 2024)

## School of Sanctuary Update

The Refugee  
We walk on the damp roads,  
The sky we do not recognise,  
The darker it gets the harder it is,  
but we still push through.

The sun shines like a diamond,  
but it feels so different,  
not like it was at home,  
but we still push through.

New faces everywhere,  
it's so different  
memories all over our heads,  
but we still push through.

No food at all,  
with one picture in our head  
a tiny bit of sleep each night,  
but we still push through.

We've walked all along,  
and finally we find a home,  
we can sleep all night long  
we can think about our dreams  
By Jake Year 4  
(December 2024)

PHOTOCARDS.AI

The Refugee  
We walk on the damp roads,  
The sky we do not recognise,  
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with one picture in our head  
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We've walked all along,  
and finally we find a home,

It's so different By  
Jan Year 4 (December 2024)

PHOTOCARDS.AI



## Pantomime Stars

We are excited to share that two of our very talented pupils, **Tayah** and **Amily**, will be performing in the *Robin Hood* pantomime at **Sutton Coldfield Town Hall** during the Christmas break. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication, and we wish them the best of luck!

We encourage you to support them if you can by attending one of the shows. Tickets are still available for the following performances:

- Saturday 21st – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday 24th – 9:30 AM
- Thursday 26th – 12:30 PM
- Sunday 29th – 12:30 PM
- Tuesday 31st – 3:30 PM

We hope you can join us in supporting Tayah and Amily in what promises to be a fantastic show!

<https://www.suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com/events/family-pantomime/robin-hood-2024>



### St Bernadette's School Choir

The school choir were invited to spread some Christmas Cheer to some Residential Homes on Wednesday of this week. Some of the choir visited Bell Lane Care Home where there are three residents who have specific needs that require full time care. It was amazing to see the residents enjoying the singing and it certainly brought smiles to the faces of them and the staff. They were then joined by the full choir at Westhall Court in Sheldon which is an assisted living residential home for the elderly. The children were amazing and the residents loved listening to and joining in with the Christmas songs the choir were performing. They represented the school exceptionally and certainly spread the Christmas Spirit. Thanks to Miss Hill, our choir director who leads the choir expertly every Tuesday after school.

## Blessing of the Nativity Crib

On Wednesday afternoon Fr Fretch came into school to bless the Nativity Crib scenes some of the children had made at home with their families. They were all incredible and many of them had been made using recycled materials in keeping with our 'Live Simply' message. Thank you to all of the children and families for the time and effort you put into making them. It has been a joy to see them on display around school and we hope you enjoy having them in your homes over the Christmas season.



# Merry Christmas

This can be a difficult time of year and Pause is here to listen at our different hubs across Birmingham.

Visit our website or scan the QR code for our festive drop in times and information on how to register.

[forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause](https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause)

**Pause.**



## NURSERY AND RECEPTION CLASS OF SEPTEMBER 2025



I Love my School

St Bernadette's is a place where the children are offered stability and enrichment to learn effectively and develop into well rounded, responsible and respectful young people.



Please visit our school website and Twitter page to learn more about St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School and Nursery and see all the fantastic learning opportunities that are available.

[www.stberns.co.uk](http://www.stberns.co.uk)

[www.twitter.com/StbernsPrimary](https://www.twitter.com/StbernsPrimary)

### OPEN MEETINGS

8TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT 10.00 AM

10 DECEMBER 2024 AT 10.00 AM

10 JANUARY 2025 AT 1.30 PM

Please scan the barcode to  
register your interest

Teachers are great and they're  
always happy to help.

## ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

For more information please contact the school office on  
[admissions@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@stberns.bham.sch.uk) or telephone 0121 783 7232

Admission policy applies.



# EAST BIRMINGHAM FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE



## **AT: ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

VICTORIA ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM, B27 7XY (Use Shirley Road entrance B27 7XU)

**STARTING: TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	Group 1: School Years Reception & Year 1.....5.00pm-6.00pm
	Group 2: School Years 2 & 3.....6.00pm-7.00pm
	Group 3: School Years 4, 5 & 6.....7.00pm-8.00pm

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last **24 years**, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting in January 2025. The course will run for approximately 12 weeks and the programme is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 12.

### about our Course

- The unique practice techniques are specifically designed to work with children of all abilities, ranging from the absolute beginner to the more advanced player.
- The course is run by **F.A qualified coaches**, who are **DBS** checked, and hold an advanced premier skills qualification, they are currently working with children, enabling them to learn essential football techniques, building **CONFIDENCE**, improving **FITNESS** and providing the most important ingredient **FUN!**
- Children will be supervised at all times, although parents are welcome to stay and watch.
- Each child will be provided with a football for individual practice and their progress will be recorded each week.
- It is an **indoor** course held in the sports hall, therefore children should wear trainers
- **Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Leicester City player Geoff Horsfield** quotes, "I've coached on these courses with the team and they are fantastic in the way they deliver their coaching sessions!"
- **Ex England World Cup star and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson** quotes, "I have presented trophies to the children on these courses and it's great to see the smiles on their faces and sense of achievement!"

### Presentation of trophies and award

- On the final week of the course we hold a presentation, whereby **EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED TROPHY.**
- Children also have a chance to win many other special individual awards and trophies for various skills, including 'premier league' and 'penalty shoot out' competitions.
- Parents and friends are most welcome to attend the presentation and watch the children being presented with their awards, as this encourages a fantastic atmosphere.

The cost of the course is £8 per week; payment is made every 4 weeks with the first payment of £32 due on week 1. **Please Note: With a high response expected and limited places available, bookings will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.** *Mark Frith (course co-ordinator)* [www.soccercoachinguk.co.uk](http://www.soccercoachinguk.co.uk)

**TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT:  
ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY + CHILD'S NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3)  
and receive confirmation by text to:  
07827 322780**