



St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Growing Together in Faith, Love & Learning

Headteacher:- Mrs H. Crowder

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End of Year Letter ~ Summer 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the academic year comes to a close, I am enormously proud of all our children who have achieved so much since September. I speak on behalf of all the staff when I say that we are very grateful for your support. It makes such a difference, thank you. Your children are amazing young people and make St. Bernadette's such a special place. It has been a pleasure to see them shine so brightly throughout the year.

Year 6 children delivered outstanding performances of their production, The Lion King, this week. The standard of speaking, acting, singing (including some soloists) and dancing was very high and the class worked brilliantly as a team to put this production together. Children performed with great enthusiasm and a sense of fun. The one-liners were greatly appreciated by the audiences and a good time was had by all. Well done to everyone involved, especially Mrs Canavan and Mrs Coyle who directed such a tremendous show.

We also had a special Leavers' Mass to celebrate our Year 6 children. As a cohort, they have been excellent role models to the rest of the school and we will miss them in September. I know that the local high schools are very fortunate to be gaining such terrific pupils. Congratulations children – you have been amazing and we are very proud of you!

At the same time as saying goodbye to Year 6, we also look forward to welcoming our new Reception starters and we are able to celebrate the cycle of growth within our school community. Yesterday the Nursery children were so grown up in their graduation celebration. Miss Chivers and all the Nursery staff were so proud, as they have witnessed each child's unique personality and strengths blossom during their time with them. Good luck to all our children.

Staffing update

I would just like to thank all the staff and governors for their hard work and continuous effort to make St. Bernadette's the best possible experience for the children. All our staff are dedicated to ensuring each and every child is able to flourish, however we are all ready for some rest and relaxation now after a very busy year.

We have said farewell to Mrs Ganley today as, after 21 years, she is retiring. I would like to thank her for all her knowledge, experience and dedication, especially in helping to deliver our Modern Foreign Language curriculum. Enjoy your retirement and put your feet up! Good luck to Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Wells who are also off on their new adventures. We wish you all the best and thank you for your hard work and commitment to St. Bernadette's.

We are excited to welcome two new teachers to school. Mrs Parr will be teaching Year 5 and Miss Bailey will be teaching Year 2 in September. Both have had a wealth of teaching experience and loved meeting their new classes on our Moving Up Days earlier this week.

Have you always wanted to work in a primary school? Many of our staff start as volunteers and then move on to full time jobs in school. We pride ourselves in nurturing our whole school community. If you would love to have this opportunity, please contact the school office for further information or to come into school for a chat. We currently need some additional staff for lunchtimes so please get in touch if you are interested.

Achievements

KS2	Reading		Writing		Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling		Maths		Combined Score of Reading, Writing and Maths	
	<i>school</i>	<i>national</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>national</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>national</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>national</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>national</i>
expected	83%	73%	72%	71%	83%	72%	83%	73%	69%	59%
greater depth	34.5%	29%	21%	13%	34.5%	30%	17%	24%	10%	8%

Our school improvement focus has been around Reading this year and these results show the hard work and dedication put into this area. Please see the flyer below if you'd like to continue your love of reading over the holidays and complete the summer reading challenge.

Friends of St. Bernadette's (FOSB)

All the children have been extremely lucky this year to have so many wonderful activities organised by FOSB. Thank you to all the parents and family members for their hard work. The Summer Fair was a huge success and a great afternoon of fun, raising a total of £466 (with donations from preloved uniform sales) which will go towards furnishing our new school library. The new room is now plastered and ready to be designed by our children in September.

Building Work

We have been busy in school taking down the displays and moving furniture around for our building work that will take place over the summer. The Year 3 and 4 classrooms are being completely renovated with new walls and carpet. The art area outside these classrooms is also being developed and we look forward to seeing these transformations in September!

Ofsted

As many of you know, we welcomed Ofsted through our doors last week. The children really were a true credit to our fabulous school. They spoke confidently and with love about St. Bernadette's and the inspectors were really impressed with their ability to talk about their learning and their positive attitudes. The outcomes from the report will be publicised after summer. We have to keep the outcome confidential until the official report has been released, however, a copy of the full report will then be sent to parents/ carers when we have received it.

Attendance

The focus on attendance is a high priority for the DFE and I am so proud of our improvement this year. Our attendance rate for 2022-2023 has been 96% which is above national and local averages. Concerns are raised when attendance drops below 90% - this is called persistent absenteeism. Our rates of persistent absenteeism have improved from 12% at the end of last year, to an amazing 5%! Well done to everyone, I look forward to building on this achievement as we go into next year.

Masses

All classes have enjoyed lots of opportunities to visit our Church and spend time with Fr Joseph this year and these occasions are very special for children and staff. Thank you to Fr Joseph for making these visits possible. If any parent who is not a Catholic would like to find out more about the Church, that St Bernadette's school is such a special part of, please contact Gerry at St. Marie's Presbytery on 01257 423291.

Parents whose children will be preparing for their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion after the summer may find this particularly helpful. If you would like to attend Mass during the week or at the weekend, please see below for the current times:

Saturday Vigil Mass St. Bernadette's - Saturday 4:45pm / St. Marie's – Saturday 6:15pm

Sunday Morning St. Bernadette's - Sunday 9:30am / St. Marie's - Sunday 11:00am

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and enjoy spending time with friends and family. I have attached a list of key dates for next year to help with any organisation. Not wanting to wish away the summer, but I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Tuesday 5th September** (*Reception new starters will begin their staggered starts on Wednesday 6th*).

Yours Faithfully,

H Crowder

Mrs. Helen Crowder
Headteacher



Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready,
Set,
Read!

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

Fill your summer holidays with fun
by taking part in the
Summer Reading Challenge!

Collect your free starter pack
from your local library.
Starts 8th July.

Follow @wiganlibraries on Facebook,
Instagram and Twitter to find out more

SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE

Wigan
Council

Key Dates 2023-2024 (more information to follow)

We will contact you before September with class PE days

Tuesday 5th September 2023 – Children return to school for Autumn Term

Wednesday 6th September 2023 - Reception staggered starts begin

w.c. 11th September 2023 – Extra-Curricular Clubs start

Wednesday 13th September 2023 – ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening at 6:00pm

Tuesday 12th September 2023 – Year 6 swimming starts

Wednesday 13th September 2023 – Stay and Play returns

Wednesday 20th September 2023 – Year 6 KS2 SATs Information Evening at 6:00pm (*staff from St. Peter’s will be attending*)

Tuesday 3rd October 2023 – Reception Tea Party – *parents and carers invited*

Wednesday 4th October 2023 - Provisional date for flu vaccinations

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October – Reception and Year 1 Bikeability

Friday 20th October 2023 - School closes at 3.20pm for half term

Monday 30th October 2023 - School re-opens for 2nd half of Autumn Term