



# Bernie's Bulletin

Thursday 11th January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year! The children have made a great start to the term and have settled back into school very quickly after the Christmas break. It has been such a pleasure to chat with children in each class about their exciting Christmas holiday experiences.

Our INSET day earlier this week was very productive, as it focused on further developing our geography key knowledge and staff also worked hard together continuing to improve our school learning environment. We are very proud of our new music room which will support the music offer to our children: [Learning Environment | St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School](#) ([saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk](http://saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk))

Further staff training has taken place this week from our Mental Health Support Team (MHST). The session focussed on identifying and supporting both staff and pupil well-being; prioritising the mental health of our community. All these developments have aligned with our school development plan this year.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact school if you feel you need support in any way.

Take care,

Mrs Helen Crowder

✉ [enquiries@admin.saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk)

☎ 01257 401125



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## School Admissions

Applications for primary school places for September 2024 can now be submitted via school admissions ([Primary school admissions \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://Primary school admissions (wigan.gov.uk)) )

The deadline to apply for a primary school place for September 2024 is **15th January 2024.**

If you would like to have a tour of our school, please contact our school office ~ 01257 401125.

## Mass Attendance

As a school, we have very close links with St. Bernadette's Parish. One way we work together is when our children attend the 9:15am Tuesday Mass at St. Bernadette's Church.

We are opening this invitation to you to and family members to attend Mass with your child/children and, to help with this, are the dates below for the remainder of this term.

Having received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time before Christmas, Year 4 children are now preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) later in the year - Saturday 11th May and Saturday 18th May (letters with further details have been sent out). This is a very special time for our Year 4 children as they take this journey together.

**THE WEDNESDAY WORD:** You can enjoy the Wednesday Word as a family by [following the link to this week's edition.](#)

**OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER:** Our parish weekly newsletter can be found on: [Our Lady of the Annunciation and St Bernadette's P - Newsletters \(chessck.co.uk\)](#)

If you would like to attend Mass yourselves, please see below for the current Mass times:

**Saturday Vigil Mass**

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

**Sunday Morning**

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



## **Attendance**

Being in school every day is the best way to ensure children are able to thrive socially, emotionally and academically so we really appreciate your support with this.

To secure excellent attendance, we regularly monitor and review children's attendance at school. As per the policy, parents will shortly be receiving a letter highlighting their child's level of attendance. The purpose of this is to prompt discussion and offer support in terms of removing barriers and improving your child's attendance.



A little reminder that we are unable to authorise holidays in term time, in compliance with national and local authority guidance. Our attendance policy and documentation from the DfE can be found on our school website. [Attendance | St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School \(saintbernadettes.wigan.sch.uk\)](#)

Thank you for your continued support in following our attendance policy.

## **Staffing**

Please help us extend a warm welcome to Mrs Karen Perrin who is our new KS2 teaching assistant and also Lucy O'Brien who will be continuing her teaching assistant training with us whilst working in EYFS and KS1.

We were delighted to see Mrs Ellaby when she visited school this week (we knew she couldn't stay away!). She wanted to pass on her thanks for the beautiful retirement gifts as she was incredibly touched by everyone's thoughtfulness. Being part of St. Bernadette's school community has meant the world to her, and she will miss everyone immensely.

## Enhancements and Enrichments

**Viking Day**—Next week, Year 5 will be taking part in an interactive Viking Day linked to their new history unit. Children can come dressed as a Viking and they will be learning what life was like in Viking times.

**Inclusions Champions**—We have been lucky enough to secure a 6-week block of Inclusion Champion sessions run by the organisation Happy Smiles. The mini projects aim to build the confidence of the KS2 children involved and will guide them to be able to positively influence their peers in understanding and celebrating all of our differences.

## Mini Medics

This half term each of the KS2 classes (Year 6 to Year 3) will be completing their Mini Medics half day first aid course. Learning first aid is an invaluable life-skill. It helps children become more risk aware and equips them with skills to keep themselves safe and help themselves or others if involved in a medical emergency.



## Rock Star / Number Day – Wednesday 17th January 2024

To re-launch 'Times Table Rockstars', we will be having a dressing up day as rockstars in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 to raise the profile of this fantastic app and all the learning that happens when we practise our maths!

[Times Tables Rock Stars – Times Tables Rock Stars \(trockstars.com\)](https://trockstars.com)

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 will also be able to come to school dressed in a way to show off numbers – dominoes, phone, clock, playing cards, dice and take part in special maths activities in their classes. We will be launching a new APP for the younger children called 'Numbots' on this day too.

[NumBots | Motivational maths practice for schools and families.](#)



## Free School Meals

We are very mindful of the increasing cost of living and recognise that financial pressures can be enormously challenging for families. Some children may be entitled to Free School Meals which could alleviate some worries families are facing.

All children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal but some children in Key Stages 1 and 2 are eligible for Free School Meals due to family circumstances and income.

Please ask the school office or use the School APP (Content → Consent Forms) to help you find out if your child qualifies for Free School Meals. **YOU ONLY HAVE TO DO THIS ONCE WHILST YOUR CHILD IS IN OUR SCHOOL.**

## **Break the Rules Day—Friday 2nd February 2024**

This special day is dedicated to supporting one of our children who is bravely facing a challenge, and as a school community, we want to come together to offer our support.

On our 'Break the Rules' Day, children will have the opportunity to bend or break some of our usual school rules in exchange for a small donation. This light-hearted event aims to raise funds to assist the family during this challenging time.

Further details will be sent via a letter and APP message.



### **Important Dates (more information to follow)**

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 6 Mini Medics first aid course**
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 6 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church**
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024—Year 5 Viking Day**
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Number Day / Times Table Rockstar Day!**
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 6 Carers Network Event with St. Peter's**
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 5 Mini Medics first aid course**
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 3 Cake Sale**
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 – Year 5 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church**
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Water Safety Assembly**
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 4 Mini Medics first aid course**
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 4 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church**
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 1 and Year 2 Shevington Library Author Visit**
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 – Year 3 Mini Medics first aid course**
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024—Break the Rules Day**
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Year 3 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church**
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Runshaw College Theatre Event in school.**
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 9:10am – Year 4 Lady of Lourdes Worship (*parents and families invited*)**
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – FOSB Year 2 Cake Sale (end of the day on the playground)**
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024—Nursery Spring Term Parent's Evening**
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Year 2 children attend 9:15am Mass at St. Bernadette's Church (Shrove Tuesday)**
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Ash Wednesday Mass in school**
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Parents' Evening from 1:10pm onwards**
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 9:10am – Year 1 Lenten Reflection (*parents and families invited*)**
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – School closes for half term**
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Children return to school**

