

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Hob Moor Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8QL  
Telephone: 0121-783-7232  
Website [stberns.co.uk](http://stberns.co.uk)  
BlueSky: [@stbernsprimary.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/stbernsprimary.bsky.social)  
e-mail: [enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk)



Newsletter 16  
16 May 2025

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.

## Reminder

Please remember that school closes for half term on Friday 23 May at 2.00pm and reopens to children on Monday 2 June. We hope the staff, children and their families have a restful break.

## Habemus Papam: We have a Pope!

It was wonderful to hear that white smoke was billowing from the Sistine Chapel chimney last Thursday evening! We welcome our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV - the first American Pope! Archbishop Bernard has issued the following beautiful statement:



Pope Leo XIV,  
the 267th pontiff

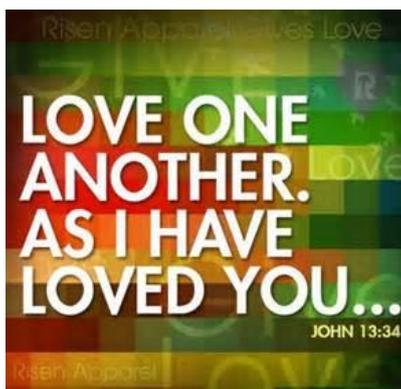
"I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world. As the first Pope from the United States of America he also remembered the people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as bishop until 2023"

## This week's Gospel (John 13: 31-35)

When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man receives his glory. And God receives glory through him. <sup>32</sup> If God receives glory through him, <sup>[a]</sup> then God will give glory to the Son through himself. And God will give him glory quickly."

<sup>33</sup> Jesus said, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me. And what I told the Jews, I tell you now: Where I am going you cannot come."

<sup>34</sup> "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you. <sup>35</sup> All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."



## Chloe has written our Gospel Reflection this week

Jesus is asking us to love each other as he loves us. He is instructing us to show love to everyone that we meet. As we are working towards achieving the School of Sanctuary Award this year, we remember that we should welcome those who are seeking sanctuary in our country supporting them in our community and through our charitable deeds.



### Meeting for New Nursery Parents

We look forward to meeting the parents of our new nursery children who will commence Nursery in September. A meeting will be held in school on **Tuesday 3rd June at 2.00pm** which will provide an opportunity for parents to meet with Mrs Jones, the Early Years Lead and Miss Finnegan the newly appointed Head Teacher. At this meeting, parents will be notified of their child's starting date in September and will be provided with some advice about how they can prepare their children for a start in the Nursery school. We look forward to seeing you then.

### Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for:

The mother of Mason and Cillian

The father of Miriam

Mrs. Heeley and family

The father of Sarim

Mr Wayne

Ayah in Year 4

The Mother of Chloe Y6



### Appointment of Assistant Head Teacher

The Governing Body interviewed last week and appointed two Assistant Heads, who will begin their role in September 2025. Mrs Hill, who is currently our R.E lead in school was one of the appointments made and the second was Mrs Di Pierri who is currently working at Colmore Infant School. We look forward to the contributions that both staff will make to our school and congratulate them both on their appointment.

### Nursery Closure

Nursery parents must remember to make alternative child care arrangements for their children on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July** as the Nursery will be closed on that day. Those children who will begin Nursery in September 2025, will visit their new setting with parents on 2nd July. The main school will remain open on this day.

### 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 and Miss Cowings and they will be happy to support any parents in this process should they be required.

## Diary Dates



**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

SATs begin in Year 2

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Year 6 Behaviour assembly 2.30pm

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Rosary with Sursum Corda

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Year 6 children visit the mosque

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Year 3 out at ecopark

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Colourful semantics training session for parents 9am

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

First Holy Communion meeting for children in Year 3 and parents 5.00pm

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Year 5 Behaviour assembly 2.30pm

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Year 1 Stay and Pray 8.50am

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Vocations day in school

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

school closes for Half term

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

School opens for all children and Year 2

SatS continue

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Meeting for parents of children beginning Nursery in September 2025 2.00pm

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Compass in for parents 2.15-3.15pm online safety

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Feast of Pentecost mass at Holy Family

Church 10.30am

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Phonics testing week in Year 1 and resits in Year 2

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 4RW out at Wroxeter.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

Feast of St Anthony of Padua class saint for 6ZB.

### Well done Mr Markham Jones

A huge congratulations to Mr Markham Jones who completed the Birmingham half marathon last weekend. Mr Markham Jones is raising money for cancer research and to date he and his wife have raised almost £4000 which is an incredible achievement. If any parents would like to make a donation the following link could be used.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/bromsgrove-school-2025>

### PE Kits

Every child should have a PE kit in school which they are required to change into for their twice weekly games sessions. This should include a pair of pumps, a pair of shorts and white tee shirt. We have a number of children who do not have a kit and as such are unable to complete their PE lessons. Please ensure your child has a full kit and has their name on every item in their bag.



### June the Month of the Sacred Heart

June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus within the Catholic Church. This tradition dates back to the 17th century when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French nun, had visions of Jesus Christ revealing His Sacred Heart to her. The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents the love and compassion that Jesus has for humanity. The heart is a symbol of love and devotion, representing the very essence of Jesus Christ. The month of June is also a time for Catholics to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and how they can apply them to their daily lives. Jesus taught us to love one another and to show compassion to those in need.



**Well done  
Year 6**

**SATS  
are over!**

### Congratulations to Year 6

Well done to each and every one of our Year 6 children who completed their national SATs this week. Many of our children have worked incredibly hard this year in preparation for these important assessments, some attending tuition after school to ensure they achieve the best possible grade. Thanks to our Year 6 staff and Mr Carroll for their hard work leading up to this time. The children will be notified of their results in their end of year report in July.



### Phonics Screening Check Week Beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June

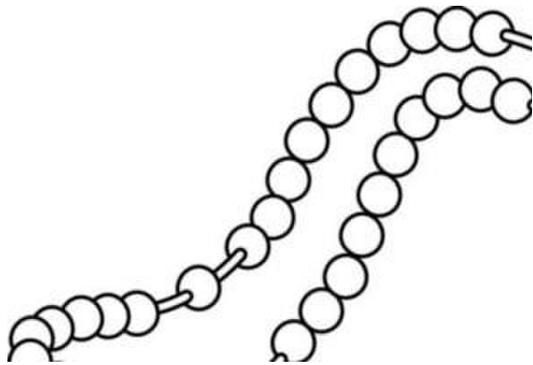
All children in Year 1 will be tested on their phonic knowledge during the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June. The children will be presented with 40 words that they will be expected to read using their phonic knowledge. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. The check consists of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words that pupils will be required to read aloud. Pupils in Year 2 who did not meet the expected standard last year will also be retested during this week. Parents will be notified of the outcome of the test in their child's end of year report.



**Stay  
and  
Pray**

### Year 1 Stay and Pray

Please note that the Year 1 Stay and Pray session, to which parents are invited, will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 8.50am. We would love to see you there.



### Sursum Corda Cluster Rosary

We will join our Sursum Corda cluster schools online on Wednesday 20th May to pray the Rosary together in the month of May.

The nine schools across our cluster join together in the months of October and May to say this special prayer, which is led by a group of children from across the schools. Traditionally, as Catholics, we devote the month of May to Mary and October is considered to be the month of the Rosary. Follow us on Blue Sky to see more details.

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.

### Hub Highlights

We had fantastic participation across the Hub for **World Earth Day**, with children showing great enthusiasm and engagement. It was wonderful to see them thinking deeply about the ways they can help protect our planet, from reducing waste to caring for the natural world around them.

A special thank you to **Miss Curran**, who has thoughtfully adapted our gymnastics lessons to include visual prompts. These have made a real difference, enabling children to access each station with greater independence and confidence.

We'd also like to give a big thank you to **Mrs White**, who has worked incredibly hard to clear out the Hub classroom in preparation for lots of lovely new resources. We can't wait to see the space transformed!

### Preloved Holy Communion Dresses

We have a small number of preloved Holy Communion dresses that families are more than welcome to borrow. You are welcome to come and view them, please speak to a year 3 member of staff.

First Holy Communion Meeting –  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May



**First Holy Communion Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Any parent who has a child making their First Holy Communion this year, must attend our final sacramental meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. **The meeting will begin at 5.00pm** and the final arrangements for the day will be discussed at this meeting. All children receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time in June, should also attend this meeting. We look forward to seeing both children and parents at the meeting.



### Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

Congratulations to these children who have recently achieved their Gold Stars which means they know and can quickly recall all of their times-tables up to 12 x 12

Lavinia	Y4
Aariz	Y4



### After School Clubs

We have after school clubs every night throughout the week and our children are very lucky to be able to attend a number of different clubs throughout the school week.

**Clubs finish at 4.15pm and children should be collected promptly at this collected promptly at this time.**

Whilst I appreciate parents occasionally maybe running late, it is unacceptable to expect staff in school to look after your child week after week. Children who are regularly collected late after a club, will not be allowed to attend clubs in the future.

## Year 4 Residential

We had 30 children from Year 4 attending a residential trip this week and they had an amazing time. A huge thank you to Mr Wayne for organising the trip and to Mr Markham Jones and Mr Baker for supporting the children over the three days. Take a look at the photographs on Blue Sky to see the activities that they participated in. Well done to all involved.



## Parent Questionnaire

Sincere thanks to all parents who took the time to complete our annual parent questionnaire at the end of last term. The feedback from this questionnaire has been analysed and was shared with all parents last week. We really appreciated the wonderful comments that were made and valued your suggestions for improvements. Please remember that all diary dates for the year can be found on the school website, in your child's diary and on our fortnightly newsletter.

St Chads Sanctuary  
Wish list:

We would love donations of Men's  
Clothing :

Jeans/Joggers  
T-shirts  
Jumpers/Hoodies  
Coats  
Socks  
Underwear(new)  
Trainers

Backpack for adults  
Longlife Milk  
Carrier Bags(all types)

all donations to be in by  
Thursday 20th March

All donations  
placed by KS1  
Doors  
Daily

## Water Bottles and Sun Safety



As the weather has improved in recent weeks, it is important that all children have regular access to water, keeping them hydrated throughout the day. We have a number of children in KS2 who do not have a water bottle in school and rely on school to provide them with a disposable cup. Every child in KS2 should have a bottle, which can be reused every day. Please ensure you provide your child with a bottle so they can drink water throughout the day. It is a good idea for children to wear a sun hat to school to protect them when they are outside at playtimes. Please also ensure that you apply sun screen to your children before sending them to school each day. Children **are not permitted to wear sunglasses** in school.



### Vocations Day

On Friday 23rd May we will be celebrating our annual Vocations Day in school. During this day we take time to think about who God is calling each of us to be and how we can live out our vocation. This year, to link to the Jubilee Year of Hope, we will be working around the theme of 'People of Hope'. Each year group will focus on a people and organisations who bring hope to others and live out their vocation of what God is calling them to do with their lives. During the day, we will also be welcoming visitors into school to share with the children their vocation. We hope to welcome visitors from organisations such as Mary's Meals, the Blue Cross, Guide Dogs UK and St Chad's Sanctuary. Many thanks to these people for giving up their time to speak with our children.



### Year 5 Charity!

We're proud to share that our amazing Year 5 pupils are taking action to support Kidney Research UK through a special charity fundraiser.

To raise money, Year 5 will be selling Tip Tops for 50p during break time throughout the first week back – starting Monday 2nd June – your child will be told the day nearer the time. All the money raised will go to help fund important research and support people living with kidney disease.

As a big "thank you" for their efforts, Year 5 will enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of games and activities on Thursday 5th June! On this day, they can wear their own clothes and bring in £1 to join the fun which will also go towards the charity.

Thank you for supporting our Year 5s as they show kindness, teamwork, and a big heart for others!



### May Procession

The children in Year 3 who are making their First Holy Communion this year, had their May procession at Holy Family Church on 13<sup>th</sup> May and were joined by children in Year 4. We were incredibly proud of them and ask that you keep these children in your prayers.

## School of Sanctuary Update

*'I was a stranger and you made me welcome.'*

*Matt 25:35*



### Working towards School of Sanctuary

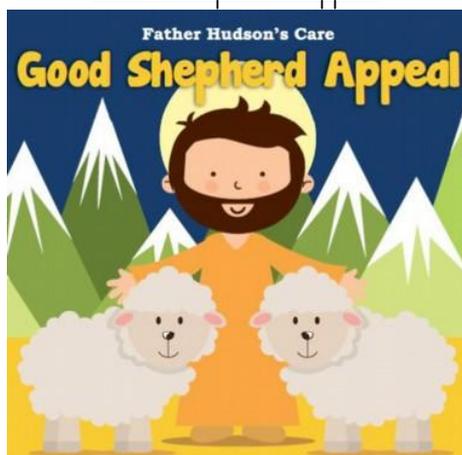
Last week all staff in school went on retreat with a group called Stories of Hope and Home. They support asylum seekers and refugees who are currently based in our country. The group had three speakers who had experienced a journey over to England and they spoke to staff about the challenges they faced both prior to making the journey and since their arrival in the UK. We were all moved by their stories.

Below is a poem that a small group prepared together in their meetings. It tells of great suffering but also great hope and love.

### The Making of a Warrior

Time and circumstances  
Turn the soul of a dreamy nurtured child  
Into a resilient warrior.  
From a surprised little girl,  
She turned into a person,  
soberly assessing life's priorities,  
and choosing for herself the difficult path to self-affirmation,  
  
She was naïve and dreamy,  
Her future was bright.  
But life is cruel.  
Later, she understood.  
  
She looks towards the night sky  
And hopes her father and mother have a place in heaven.  
Life went on.  
Happiness,  
Sadness,  
Hunger,  
Resentment.  
But she believed  
One day things would be better again,  
As they were in her childhood days.  
  
She must move to a safer place.  
She cried inside her heart.  
The problems didn't end when she reached new shores.  
She finds she must continue fighting.  
But she is resolute.  
  
The time is now  
She keeps her faith.  
Betrayal, suffering, grief the battles are endless.  
They tried to turn her into a monster  
But she didn't let them break her.  
She'd rather be the warrior girl.  
  
She is far away from her hometown.  
But after all her experiences,  
She is still here,  
She is still alive.  
The rules may be theirs but the game will be hers  
The victory will be hers.  
  
She will fight until the very end.  
It is inevitable.

## Good Shepherd Appeal



### The Good Shepherd Mass

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, a group of children from Year 2 celebrated mass in St Chad's Cathedral, joining with a number of other schools from across the Archdiocese. At this mass, we presented a cheque for Father Hudson's Good Shepherd Appeal which was the charity we supported throughout Lent. A huge thank you for your generosity once again as we raised £1667.69. Year 2 raised an amazing £1081.86 on their Sponsored walk and a further £251.76 from their hamper £251.02 was made in donations from across the school and £93.05 was raised with the Easter Egg Raffle. Thanks to all children who made a contribution and to the staff who donated Easter eggs.

### Colourful Semantics

On the 21st May at 9am, our school Speech and Language Therapist will be delivering a session for parents on Colourful Semantics, we previously ran a session in March and feedback from parents was exceptional, hence us adding an additional session.

Colourful Semantics is an approach that helps children structure their sentences by using colour-coded cues for different parts of a sentence (e.g., *who* is doing something, *what* they are doing, *where* it is happening). This method can support pupils in forming more detailed and confident responses when speaking and writing. To help you learn more about this approach and explore ways to support your child at home, we would like to invite you to a small group session with our Speech and Language Therapist. This session will provide practical strategies and resources that can make a real difference in your child's progress.

This session **will last around one hour; please indicate on Parent Pay whether or not you will be attending.** In the session, you will:

- Learn more about Colourful Semantics – what it is and how it may help your child
- Learn how to use this approach at home
- Learn how we use it at school
- Receive a basic pack to take home
- Have an opportunity to ask any questions to a qualified Speech and Language Therapist.

We believe that by working together, we can help your child make the most of their learning opportunities.

# Attendance

## Every minute counts

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 days of education are missed.
- A score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year.

Attendance figures can be seen below. Congratulations to ICOT, 2SH and 3CK for the best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done RLC and RCB for the best attendance in the Foundation Stage!

## Attendance update

We continue to track attendance every week and work hard to ensure every child in school demonstrates good attendance and punctuality. If children are to reach their full potential they need to be in school every day, unless they are too unwell to attend. **We will make home visits from time to time, particularly if we have safeguarding concerns or if a child's attendance is causing a concern.** Even if a parent has called the school to give a reason for their child's absence, a home visit may still occur. We aim to offer both support and challenge where needed, but always have the child's best interest at heart.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
90%	RSJ 91%	ICOT 96% 	2SH 96% 	3DA 94%	4RW 95%	5MF 95%	6CB 95%
	RCB 93% 	IML/NL 93%	2EH 94%	3EG 94%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 94%	6LC 95%
	RLC 93% 	IOB 94%	2EOB 95%	3CK 97% 	4KL 96%	5FM 94%	6ZB 94%

Whole School Attendance	94%	Currently, the whole school attendance is 94% which is below the 96% that is expected.
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**Special Certificates** – Each week a child from each class is nominated to receive a special certificate through the post. The pupils who are awarded these certificates have shown that they really understand what it means to live as Jesus taught us, perhaps by being particularly kind or helpful. Well done, to the following children:

CLASS	NAME	REASON	CLASS	NAME	REASON
Nursery (Blue)	Tiarah	For a beautiful butterfly in the syle of Eric Carle.	Nursery (Red)	Piper Rose	For always deepening her thinking during Maths.
Nursery (Green)	Alaiya	For listening to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' so carefully and designing her own butterfly.	Nursery (Yellow)	Darla-D	Being a superstar mathematician! Well done on fantastic pattern work.
RCB	Ibrahim	For excellent work in Maths when learning about 3D shapes.	3EG	Haadi Abbas	For using his manners with adults.
	Thuwaraka	For wonderful independent sentence writing.		Amelia	For using her manners and offering help.
RLC	Tiana	For always being a kind hearted friend.	4AMJ	Arsema	Determination to succeed on the high ropes.
	Nariyah	For always being a kind hearted friend.		Gracie-Mae	For showing bravery during the school residential trip..
RSJ	Ariah	For her amazing effort writing independent sentences with support. Well done!	4KL	James	For always being ready to start learning.
	Arabella	Super progress made with her independent writing. Well done!		Declan	For always displaying lovely manners.
ICOT	Helena	For excellent effort in gymnastics lessons.	4RW	Chenayah	Excellent attitude in science (and all lessons).
	Miyah	For her excellent writing in English.		Poppy Rai	For showing great bravery on the high ropes during the school residential trip
IML/NL	Abel	For asking and answering questions in Science.	5CG	Kacie	For going the extra mile in lessons.
	Safana	For always having an excellent attitude.		Harris	For independence and perseverance in lessons.
IOB	Emily	For always helping others.	5FM	Lily	For trying hard in all she does.
	Miriam	For her excellent effort in Maths!		James	For always have a positive attitude.
2EH	Tre'maine	For working hard in English.	5MF	Abigale	For always being so positive in lessons.
	Kylo	For his great effort in RE lessons.		Sarim	For being such an excellent role model to others.
2EOB	Norah	For being a role model of excellent behaviour always.	6CB	Damian	For having an excellent attitude in school this week.
	Housseyn	For excellent effort in Math's!		Gabriella	For working so hard this week!
2SH	Maryam	For always trying hard in all lessons!	6LC	Zachary	For approaching his SATs with determination and positivity.
	Jonathan	For being a kind and caring friend to all.		Hollie	For making a brilliant start to each school day.
3CK	Malachi	For trying hard in all of his afternoon lessons.	6ZB	Sh'Kyah	For working so hard this week.
	Araya	For always being polite and helpful.		Tilly	For being such a well-mannered, thoughtful young lady.
3DA	Abigail	For her lovely manners.			
	Sebastian	For trying his best in his Topic lessons.			

## Phonics Guidance for EYFS Parents

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 9-9.30AM-Infant Hall  
(Parents/Carers only)

If your child is currently in **Nursery** or **Reception**, they will be taking part in daily phonics lessons, following the Read Write Inc. Scheme.

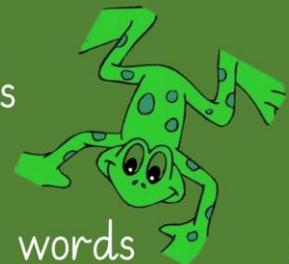
Most of us were taught to read in different ways, leading to some confusion for our children when letter sounds are recited differently at home than they are taught at school.

It is really important that letter sounds are pronounced accurately in order to provide our children with the best possible start to their reading journey.



*Please join me (Mrs Rainey) in a quick phonics session where I will be demonstrating ways in which you can further support your child. I will cover:*

- The correct pronunciation of letter sounds
- Age Related Expectations
- Supporting your child with reading simple words



# The EYFS Father's Day Games!

Nursery and Reception-You are invited to join us for a morning of sports activity fun with your child to celebrate Father's Day on:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 9-10AM



£3 per ticket  
(via ParentPay)

Refreshments  
available to  
purchase



Dad's/Uncle's  
/Grandad's/  
Brother's or  
other grown-  
ups are  
welcome to  
join! (One  
adult per  
child)



All money  
raised will be  
donated to  
our EYFS  
charity:  
**Save the  
Children**





# Ward End Fire Station OPEN DAY

22nd June 2025 11 am – 3 pm

Come and join in the fun!

Cakes

Friends

GROUPS

Fun

Face  
Painting  
&  
DJ

Games  
&  
Demo's

Rides

VR  
headsets



Refreshments

Stalls

Fun  
activities

Safety advice

Community  
stands



Come and meet your local firefighters and see our fire engines!



**WMFS**

West Midlands  
Fire Service



Unity Hub



Ward End Fire Station,  
Washwood Heath Road, B8 2HF

[www.wmfs.net](http://www.wmfs.net) @WestMidsFire