

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

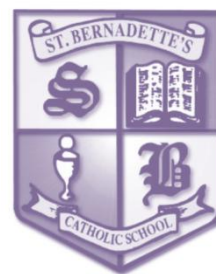
Hob Moor Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8QL

Telephone: 0121-783-7232

Website stberns.co.uk

BlueSky: [@stbernsprimary.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.app/profile/stbernsprimary.bsky.social)

e-mail: enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk



Newsletter 8
19 December 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.

School closes today for the Christmas holiday and will re-open to children on Tuesday 6th January. A reminder that Monday, 5th January 2026, is an INSET Day.



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.

Gospel Reflection

The young disciple of Year 3 reflected on this week's gospel.

Mary was chosen by God and the baby she was going to have was a gift from the Holy Spirit. This shows us that God can do amazing things even when people don't understand them at first. Joseph was kind, loving and brave. Even though he was worried and confused, he listened to God and trusted Him. This teaches us that doing the right thing sometimes means being brave and trusting God.



The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹⁸The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

²⁰While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. ^[a]Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel." ^[b]This name means "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary.

Light a candle to offer a prayer

We light a candle and offer our prayers for members of our school community and their loved ones:

Mrs Heffernan
The Haywood family
The Hussain-Biddlefamily
Octavia (past pupil)
Joe Junior



Assistant Headteacher Message

What a busy two weeks it has been! I can't quite believe that we are already at the end of our first term. There have been so many lovely things happening in school as we have built up to Christmas from Santa Dashes and book shops to discos. The children have had so much fun and it has been a joy to see.

It has also been really heart-warming to see the generosity shown through the fundraising and collections that our children and families have been involved in. Thank you for your kindness and support.

A real highlight of the last two weeks for me was attending the beautiful Carol Service. What a wonderful evening it was! The children truly blew me away with their fantastic singing and confidence. It was such a special way to come together as a school community.

As we come to the end of the term, I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas. We hope you enjoy a restful, joyful break with your families and loved ones.

Whole school mass

On Tuesday 6th January there will be a whole school mass to celebrate the epiphany. The mass will take place at Holy Family church at 9:30am and families are invited. It also marks the end of the Year of the Jubilee.



Diary Dates

Monday 5th January 2026

Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils

Tuesday 6th January

School open for all pupils

Epiphany – The closing of the Jubilee Doors

Thursday 8th January

Reception Maths Open Morning – 9am

Friday 9th January

Y6 Maths Open Morning – 9am

Year 6 SATs meeting – 9.30am

Monday 12th January

Reception Maths Open Morning – 9am

Tuesday 13th January

Year 2 Maths Open Morning – 9am

Wednesday 14th January

Year 3 Maths Open Morning – 9am

Young Voices Choir performing at the NEC

Thursday 15 January

Joy in January Day

Friday 16th January

Year 5 Maths Open Morning – 9am

Monday 19 January

Nursery Red and Green Group Maths Open Morning – 9am

Tuesday 20th January

Nursery Blue and Yellow Group Maths Open Morning – 9am

Wednesday 21st January

Year 2 Mass – 9am in school parents' welcome

Thursday 22 January

Year 4 Maths Open Morning – 9am

Wednesday 28th January

School Council-Parliament

Friday 30th January

Year 3 Stay and Pray – 9am

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 0121 303 1888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker.

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 in January.

Prayer Gardeners Club

We had a lovely time in the Prayer Gardeners Club on Thursday 12th December. We started with a prayerful moment to say thank you for the lovely children we are lucky to have in the club. We asked God to look after our children and help us get prepared for Christmas. Then we made these beautiful stars. Miss Corkery had cut the branches of her Hazel tree and we made 2 triangles out of a branch. The girls wrapped wool around the triangles. Miss Corkery used the hot glue gun to secure some little cones on the ends. And Ta Da! we have a delightful decoration for our homes. The girls showed perseverance and resilience while doing this and they all loved the relaxing nature of the activity. Well done girls!



Carol Service – Year 5 & 6

The Year 5 and 6 Carol Service took place on Wednesday evening at Holy Family Church. It was lovely to see the church so full, with friends, family, past pupils and former members of staff in attendance.

The service was outstanding. The choir, soloists and readers performed beautifully, and lots of children from Years 5 and 6 took part, making a truly impressive contribution to the life of the school. It was a very special evening for everyone involved.

We would like to thank all parents for their continued support and for bringing their children along to take part and give something back to the school community. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout.

A big thank you also goes to Year 6 productions, as well as to all the staff who helped

prepare the children so well.



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 15th 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.

Spare Classroom Furniture Available

We currently have a number of spare classroom tables and a small number of drawer units available to donate. If any parents or carers are interested either for personal use or on behalf of a community group please get in touch with the school office for further details.

Please note that items will not be disassembled and must be collected directly from school; unfortunately, we are unable to offer delivery.

Holy Family Parish
is wishing you and your family a
Merry Christmas
& a beautiful New Year!



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



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- Dec. 24 Wednesday**
 10.30 am - PARISH MASS
 5.00 pm - CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS
- Dec 25 Thursday**
 10.30 am - CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
- Dec 26 Friday**
 10.30 am - FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN (*Altar Server's Mass*)
- Dec 27 Saturday**
 10.30 am - FEAST OF ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST
 4.00 pm - FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY (*Vigil Mass*)
- Dec 28 Sunday**
 10.30 am - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (*Parish Feast Day*)
- Dec 29 Monday**
 9.30 am - FEAST OF ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR
- Dec 30 Tuesday**
 10.30 am - 6TH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS
- Dec 31 Wednesday**
 10.30 am - 7TH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS
 3.00 pm - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, CONFESSION & HOLY ROSARY
 (*End of the Year Thanksgiving*)
 4.00 pm - VIGIL MASS
- January 1 Thursday**
 10.30 am - NEW YEAR'S DAY. SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



MACMILLAN
 CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2025

This certificate is presented to
St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School
 and friends.

This year you fundraised **£241.00**

Congratulations on your fundraising.
 Your kind support is helping to change
 the lives of people affected by cancer.

Thank you.

Hannah

Hannah & the Coffee Morning Team

The Children's Book Project

This week, every child in school had the opportunity to visit our very own bookshop, where they could browse, choose, and take home books to enjoy and keep. Thanks to the generous donation of books, this experience allowed children to discover stories that excited them and to build their own home libraries.

We would like to say a huge thank you to The Children's Book Project for their incredible support and generosity in making this possible. Their donated books helped ensure that every child went home with something to read, enjoy, and treasure.



Meet our Parent Support Worker, Miss Finn

My job role is busy and varied, no two days are ever the same, however my key focus is to ensure that pupils feel safe and supported. This may include checking in with pupils, liaising with families and external agencies. Offering Early Help Support to families who need additional support. I monitor school attendance and ensure that early interventions are offered and any barriers to school attendance are addressed at an early stage.

I was previously employed as an Adult Social Worker; however, I wanted a career change. I am a caring person and get pleasure from supporting pupils and their families.

- Early Help
- Compass
- School Nurse
- Rainbows – Bereavement support
- Attendance support



You can contact me through the main school office number.

Please feel free to contact me in relation to any concerns you may have regarding your child's wellbeing, attendance or engagement with school. This may be during times of difficulty or when a family is feeling that they need additional support. I can also signpost you to our SEND coordinator.

Examples are:

- Changes in behaviour or mood
- School attendance difficulties
- Friendship worries and anxiety
- Family changes such as bereavement, illness or separation
- Support with routines and boundaries
- Signposting you to external agencies

I will aim to respond to your query within 24 hours of receiving a message from you, I am based in Rohan house, so meetings with me tend to take place there.

Please know that you do not need to wait until things feel like a crisis. Schools offer support at many levels. The earlier a problem is identified and shared then the easier it is to put support in place. Never feel afraid to ask for help and advice.

Narthex
Journey To Change
CIO 1100358

Call Narthex Sparkhill Foodbank and speak to a member of our team
0121 227 0103

Self Referral for a Foodbank Voucher

Answer a few questions for eligibility assessment and approval

Receive a voucher if you are eligible

Sparkhill foodbank

QR code for self-referral

Narthex
Journey To Change
CIO 1100358

Sparkhill foodbank

Sparkhill Foodbank - Balsall Heath
Balsall Heath Church Centre 100 Mary Street Balsall Heath
Birmingham B12 9LA
OPENING TIMES: Monday 13:00 - 15:00

Sparkhill Foodbank - Tyseley
Unit 20, Rivex Business Park, Hag Hall Road
Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2AG
OPENING TIMES: Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00

Sparkhill Foodbank - St John's Church, Sparkhill
Birmingham B11 4RG
OPENING TIMES: Wednesday 10:30 - 12:30

Sparkhill Foodbank - Stechford
All Saints Church, Albert Road Stechford
Birmingham B33 8UA
OPENING TIMES: Friday 13:00 - 15:00

Sparkhill Foodbank - Hall Green
Church of the Ascension, Church Hill
School Road, Hall Green Birmingham B28 9DX
OPENING TIMES: Friday 14:30 - 17:00

Phone line will be open every
Tuesday and Wednesday between 9.30-12.30
Contact us on 0121 227 0103

Math Open Mornings

We are delighted to invite parents and carers into school for a Maths Open Morning from 9am to 10:00am on the following dates:



Thursday 8th January - Year 1
Friday 9th January - Year 6
Monday 12th January - Reception
Tuesday 13th January - Year 2
Wednesday 14th January - Year 3
Thursday 15th January - Year 4
Friday 16th January - Year 5
Monday 19th January - Red and green Group
Tuesday 20th January - Blue and Yellow Group

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

This is an exciting opportunity to watch a live math session in your child's class. Learn about the methods and strategies we use in school and 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 January.

Beauty and the Beast Pantomime at Sutton Town Hall during December.



Saturday 20th December 6.30pm

Tuesday 23rd December 12.30pm

Wednesday 24th December 4.30pm

Sunday 28th December 12.30pm

Wednesday 31st December 12.30pm

We are incredibly proud of **Isla (Year 6)**, **Tayah (Year 5)** and **Amily**, who will be taking to the stage in a pantomime production of *Beauty and the Beast* at **Sutton Coldfield Town Hall** throughout **December** — a fantastic achievement and an exciting opportunity for them all!

If parents would like to see this wonderful production and support our talented pupils, performances run across December at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall. Further details and tickets can be found via the venue's website.

If families are in receipt of free school meals, you are able to buy discounted tickets for them and their families. The dates above are the times when the girls will be performing. It would be lovely if any families could go and support and watch what I am sure will be a fantastic show.

We wish Isla, Tayah and Amily the very best of luck — we know they will be amazing!



Dear Parents and Families,

Our annual bauble competition has once again filled St Bernadette's with joy! Thank you so much for your wonderful contributions. Each and every one of the children's decorations were beautifully created and together they made our Christmas tree special.

We are so grateful for the time, effort and festive spirit you brought to this tradition. Your decorations didn't just brighten our tree; they brightened our whole school community. We hope you enjoyed the tree during the nativity performances and Christmas Craft afternoon!

The head boy, head girl and their deputies had the very special job of choosing the winners and runners-up. With so many fantastic entries, they found it almost impossible to decide. However, a huge congratulations to our winners and runners up and to everyone for taking part.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas filled with peace, love and happiness. 🎄 ✨

With thanks, Mr Wayne



Thank you to all who donated to School Council's collection for The Trussell Trust. Councillors did a fantastic job of encouraging peers and organizing collections. The food bank were incredibly appreciative of our donation and extend their thanks.

Fundraising at Heartlands Hospital



On the 8th December, 40 members of our school choir had the wonderful opportunity to take part in a fundraising event at Heartlands Hospital. We delighted patients and staff with a festive repertoire of Christmas songs and it was heartwarming to see so many people joining in. This joyful occasion not only lifted spirits across the hospital but also helped raise vital funds for the UHB Charity, which Year 4 has chosen to support this term.

Heartlands Hospital Charity

Children's Star Appeal

Sponsor a star for a year and help support our youngest patients.

Our hospitals treat over 120,000 children each year. Being in hospital can be an extremely scary and overwhelming experience for our youngest patients. By sponsoring a star and supporting the hospital charity, you can help make their time in hospital less stressful and as comfortable as possible.

Your donation could go towards...

- Toys and sensory activities
- Refurbishments and wall art for our Children's Departments
- Outdoor play areas

How sponsoring a star works...

- Make a donation to the hospital charity of £250 or more.
- Choose what name you would like on your star.
- Your star will be displayed on the wall for 1 year.
- We will send you your star as a keepsake at the end of the sponsorship year.

For more information about sponsoring a star, please scan the QR code

Contact us: hospitalcharity.org
charities@uhb.nhs.uk ☎ 0121 371 4852

Follow us: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) @UHBCarity

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATORY COMMISSION

Year 4 would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations. With the hamper raffle and the Santa Dash together, we raised £652.50. Our very first Santa Dash at St Bernadette's was a big hit! The children had a fantastic time walking, skipping, dancing, and running around the playground, all while enjoying the festive Christmas songs - thank you to Mr Abbott for providing the music.

Shining Light Award

| CLASS | NAME | REASON | CLASS | NAME | REASON |
|-----------------|---------------|---|---|-------------|--|
| Nursery (Blue) | Musa | For lovely singing in our Christmas play. | Nursery (Yellow) | Eva | For beautiful singing and dancing in our play |
| Nursery (Green) | Mara | For beautiful singing and dancing in our Christmas play | Nursery (Red) | Cohen | For showing kindness to others when they need it |
| RCB | Amaan | For sensible behaviour always | 4AMJ | Maheen | For trying her best in every English lesson. |
| | Rufayda | For her beautiful singing voice | | Basco | For his fantastic maths assessment. |
| REL | Lexie | For making the right choices on the playground at the beginning of the week. You can do it every day Lexie – we believe in you! | 4FM | Oscar | For his wonderful contributions in English lessons. |
| | Ahmed | For trying so hard to blend his sounds – well done Ahmed. | | Imaan | For being a kind and caring friend. |
| RLC | Eliana | For always being helpful and putting a big smile on Miss Coley's face! | 4KL | Harris | For consistently showing kindness to others. |
| | Avaya | For being so helpful and always caring towards her friends. | | Tyler | For singing so enthusiastically at Heartlands hospital with the choir. |
| ICOT | Lucas | For working incredibly hard in all lessons | 5CG | Declan | For contributing with amazing ideas in English. |
| | Tia-Ave Maria | For being a super role model | | Amelia-Rose | Reading so well during the Carol Concert rehearsals. |
| IOB | Anayah F | For always using her manners and trying her best! | 5ET | Daniel | For utilizing his initiative in all aspects of school life. |
| | Izayah | For his excellent effort in the Christmas play! | | Millie | For brightening everyone's day. |
| 2EOB | Tsion | For always being so kind and positive in everything you do! | 5MF | Haniya | For always being a pleasure to teach |
| | Alexandru | For being an excellent role model to others. | | Alfie | For brilliant improvements in independent writing |
| 2RW | Amelia | For always being super helpful | 6CB | Harley | For being a wonderful carter during his Confirmation ceremony last week. |
| | Hassan | For always being polite and respectful | | Noah C | For reading beautifully in his Confirmation ceremony last week. |
| 2SH | Aleena | For being such a wonderful friend and always trying her hardest in all lessons | 6CC | Leia | For speaking so confidently to Bishop David last week and displaying fantastic RE subject knowledge. |
| | Karthikeyan | For being an incredibly respectful, kind and helpful member of our class. | | Francie-Joe | For taking part so beautifully and reverently in his Confirmation ceremony with Year 6 last week. |
| 3DA | Keegan | For always being polite and kind! | 6ZB | Muizz | For being such a phenomenal role model. |
| | Jonathan | For making a real effort in all of his lessons! | | Zakarriya | For being such a thoughtful and kind young man, |
| 3DH | Xyrah | For being such a good role model and settling in well at out school. | <h2>Shining Light Award</h2> <p><i>'You are the light of the world.'</i> Matthew 5:14</p> | | |
| | Amaar | For working hard and getting on with all tasks sensibly | | | |
| 3EG | Norah | For her participation in Mass. | | | |
| | Arjun | For his participation in Mass. | | | |



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 6TH JANUARY 2026

Tuesdays: 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 **25 years**, we are allowing up the football coaching programme for the season starting in January 2026. 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 fully 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 may wear trainers and sportswear.
- **Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Fulham 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 £9 per week; payment is made every 4 weeks, with the first payment of £36 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**

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

Communication and Autism Team

Parent Carer Advice Sessions

We would like to invite you to a 25 minute one-to-one advice session with a member of the Communication and Autism Team

For parent carers of children / young people on our CAT caseload, with a diagnosis of autism or who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

Sessions are limited but further sessions will be available at a later date if you are not able to book this time.

Date: Tuesday January 6th 2026

Book via the following link:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-online-advice-sessions-6th-january-2026/>

Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link will be sent to you prior to the session.



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For parent carers of children / young people on our CAT caseload, with a diagnosis of autism or who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

Sessions are limited but further sessions will be available at a later date if you are not able to book this time.

Date: Thursday January 8th 2026

Book via the following link:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-online-one-to-one-advice-sessions-8th-january-2026/>

Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link will be sent to you prior to the session.

