

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Hobmoor Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8QL

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Newsletter 7
10th December 2021

At St Bernadette's we are fully committed to safeguarding our children. We expect all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment.

Important – From Monday it is important that you wear a face mask (unless exempt) when dropping off and collecting your child. Please adhere to the one-way system.

Good bye Mr Lavin

After a career spanning almost 25 years, Mr Lavin, our Deputy Head, will be leaving St Bernadette's at Christmas. As a staff, we are devastated to be losing him, as he has worked tirelessly for many years supporting the staff, children and families of St Bernadette's School. He is an exceptionally talented teacher, who has taught in both key stage 1 and key stage 2 and has been instrumental in developing the curriculum in school over the years. A mentor and friend to so many staff he has always been on hand to offer them practical advice and guidance on how they can get the very best from the children in their care.

Mr Lavin has also been my right hand man for 16 years, after he was appointed as Deputy Head in 2005. His support and loyalty has been unwavering, on both a personal and professional level and for this I thank him sincerely. His role is not an easy one to fulfil but he has never shyed away from the responsibility he holds. Every decision he has ever made has been carefully considered and made in the best interests of the children. He is one of the most hard working, conscientious members of staff I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Catholic Education and St Bernadette's School will miss him greatly.

This is a decision he has not taken lightly, as he has thought long and hard about it for some time. It is the right decision for him at this point in his life and after having some time out from school, he may return in the new academic year. The Governing Body have granted him a sabbatical leave for two terms, in the hope that he may choose to return to school in September. I will of course keep you notified of any decision he makes in the summer term.

We all wish him the very best of luck for the future and thank him for his service to education.

Thank You & Good Luck!

Diary Dates

Monday 13th December

Feast of St Lucy (10B own clothes)

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery) - 9.00am for Yellow Group

Tuesday 14th December

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery) - – 9.00am for Red Group

3.15pm Christmas craft for EYFS

Year 5 & 6 – Carol Service at Holy Family Church 6.00pm - **this is a change of date from**

that previously communicated.

Wednesday 15th December

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery) – 9.00am for Blue Group

Thursday 16th December

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery) – 9.00am for Green Group

Friday 17th December

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery) – 9.00am for Orange group

Tuesday 21st December

9:30am - Whole School Mass (Church)

Christmas party afternoon

Wednesday 22nd December

Finish for Christmas

Toy day

100% attenders own clothes

Feast of St. John the Beloved (for 27th 4RW own clothes)

Funeral of Michelle Doyle (RIP)

The Funeral of Michelle Doyle (mother of Ailbhe), will take place on Friday 17th December at 11.30am at Holy Family Church. Please keep the family in your prayers at this sad and difficult time.

Thought for the Day

Some days are better, some days are worse. Look for the blessing instead of the curse. Be positive, stay strong and get enough rest. You can't do it all, but you can do you best.

Interim Assistant Head Teachers

We are very lucky to have such a talented team of staff at St Bernadette's school and are blessed to be able to appoint two very talented leaders to cover the leadership post for two terms. Miss Finnegan and Mrs Canning will join Miss Connaire and Mr Carroll as Assistant Head teachers from January 2022. Both staff members have been part of our Leadership team for a number of years and both have had a significant impact on raising standards across the school. They are outstanding teachers and natural leaders who have the respect of all staff within school. We wish them the very best of luck in their new roles.

Person of the Fortnight

Every two weeks we will be sharing information about a range of different important figures: scientists, athletes, musicians, etc. to help increase the children's aspirations, general knowledge and cultural capital. This week that person is Evonne Goolagong.

Aged six Evonne read a magazine article about a young girl who made it to centre court at a magical place called Wimbledon. Somehow, she knew she had to get there. Fast forward 15 years and Evonne was the first Indigenous Australian to win Wimbledon, aged 20 years old. Evonne is a pioneer of Indigenous rights and women in tennis.

Advent

The Advent Wreath symbolises our waiting and expectation for Christ to come again. The candles mark the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple whilst the candle used for the third week of Advent is pink. This is used to mark Gaudete Sunday which means rejoice Sunday. The ring of evergreen is symbolic of God's everlasting love which, like a ring, has no beginning and no end. The holly leaves are a reminder of the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion and the berries symbolise his blood. During the season of Advent, we pray for Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees and Expectant Mothers



Read-a-thon

As you are aware this half term we are holding a read-a-thon. We are trying to encourage pupils to read as many books as possible, whilst also hoping to raise money to buy new books for our school library. We ask that you sponsor your child's reading by asking friends and family to pledge a small donation. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics - it's all about reading for fun. Every penny raised will be put towards buying new reading material for our library. We ask that donations are returned to school on or before Monday 13th December.

Attendance

It is essential that children regularly attend school, poor attendance has a serious and long lasting impact on your child. To promote and encourage good attendance we have published this week's attendance figures on the newsletter. Well done to the following classes that had the best attendance in their key stage. EYFS/ KS1 - **RND**. KS2 – **5EB**

Nursery	RND	RSD
83.4%	100%	95.5%
RPD	1EG	1OB
66%	93.9%	95.5%
2SF	2SH	2COT
96.7%	90%	94.1%
3TK	3EH	3EL
98%	98%	96%
4RW	4CB	4CM
94.7%	94%	95.6%
5EB	5LC	5KH
98.1%	94.8%	85.6%
6AMJ	6KL	6ZB
95.6%	86.5%	90.3%

Christmas Holidays

Please remember that the Autumn term does not finish until Wednesday 22nd December, with the children not returning to school until Monday 10th January. These dates may be different from other Birmingham Schools.

Christmas Party Afternoon

The children will have their Christmas Party afternoon in school in Tuesday 21st December. Your child should bring their own plate of party food (clearly labelled with their name). Please note that the children will have lunch as normal on this day so do not require a vast amount of food. Due to a number of children having life threatening allergies, please ensure any food sent in to school does not contain nuts. Also, the children may wear their own party clothes to school on this date.



Inclement 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.

Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Liturgies

With the number of Covid cases high nationally and locally in Birmingham, we have reviewed our risk assessments to ensure that Covid-safety measures will be in place during Christmas liturgies.

These include:

- Additional liturgies will take place so that the number of adults are reduced in the school hall.
- Places will be limited to one person per family.
- The wearing of face masks will be required for all liturgies.
- The areas being used will be well ventilated.
- Hand sanitiser will be available to use.
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Below are details about the liturgies taking place – Please note these may have changed from those originally communicated:

Nursery – Christmas Stay and Play (In Nursery)

Monday 13th December – 9.00am for Yellow Group

Tuesday 14th December – 9.00am for Red Group

Wednesday 15th December – 9.00am for Blue Group

Thursday 16th December – 9.00am for Green Group

Friday 17th December – 9.00am for Orange Group

Reception – Advent Service

Tuesday 14th December 9.30am for class RND and ½ class RSD (Surnames A-H)

Tuesday 14th December 2.15pm for class RPD and ½ class RSD (Surnames I-Z)

Year 3 & 4 – Leading whole school Mass at Holy Family Church

Tuesday 21st December at Holy Family Church at 9.30am

Year 5 & 6 – Carol service at Holy Family Church

Tuesday 14th December at 6.00pm - **this is a change of date from that previously communicated.**

Well done to the children in Year 1 and 2 who presented their Advent service and Nativity play to parents this week. The children spoke and sang beautifully and both year bands reminded us about the importance of preparing for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Year 6 Confirmation

Congratulations and well done to the children in Year 6 who made their Confirmation last week. It was a lovely service led by Bishop David Evans. The children were a credit to their families and the school. We hope that the gift of the Holy Spirit that they received last week will encourage them to develop their faith further and will help them to bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.

Applications for Reception September 2022

Parents who have a child ready to start school in September 2022 can apply for a place for their child via Birmingham City Council's website.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022.

For places at St Bernadette's an additional form will need to be completed (available from the school office) and we will also need to see your child's birth certificate and baptismal certificate. If you have any queries or require assistance, please call the school office on 0121 783 7232.

COVID-19

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in the area and therefore request that **all visitors to the school site wear a face covering to ensure the safety of the staff and pupils in school.**

If your child is feeling unwell and you are unsure as to whether to send them to school, as you may think they have Covid, please refer to the following symptoms:

- a high temperature above 37.8c– this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Please ensure that you **do not send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms.**

Please ensure that as a family, you are testing twice weekly using LFD tests to limit possible transmission by people that may be asymptomatic. LFD test kits can be ordered online from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Other ways to get rapid lateral flow tests

You might be able to:

- collect tests from a pharmacy
- collect tests from a community centre, such as a library
- get a test at a site

Find other ways to get rapid lateral flow device test kits on [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk)

Get help with ordering

If you cannot use the online service, call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines).

Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. 119 provides support in 200 languages.

Parents' Forum

Parents' Forum are a group of Parent representatives, one from each year band, who will meet once a term to review school initiatives and discuss new ideas. If you have any ideas which you would like to be discussed, please mention these to the Forum representative so they can bring them up at the next meeting on Wednesday 15th December at 2.00pm. The Parents' forum representatives are:

Nursery - Iyla's Mum

Reception - Conan's Mum

Year 1 - Halima Hussain's Mum

Year 2 - Cathal's Mum

Year 3 – Olivia's Mum

Year 4 - James's Mum

Year 5 - Zunairah's Mum

Year 6 - Riley Breslin's Mum

Toy Day

Toy day will take place for the children on Wednesday 22nd December. On this date the children may bring in a suitable toy from home to play with. Please be advised that school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to any toys. It is therefore advisable to leave expensive, valuable or electronic toys at home.

Swimming

Next term, swimming will commence on Mondays from 17th January for children in classes 3EH and 5EB. May I take this opportunity to remind parents that boys should have short trunks and girls a one-piece costume for swimming. They should bring their swimming kit and a towel to school each Monday.

Advent Prayer

Come Lord, your wounded world is yearning
for you to come again.

Come Lord, your weary world is crying out
for you to lift us up
out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for the food that will last.

Come Lord, come again,
we need to begin again.

Values and Virtues

Well done to the following pupils who have shown that they have demonstrated the values and virtues of Learned and Wise this half term:

Nursery					
Red	Yellow	Blue	Green	Orange	
Eve	Thea	Reyah	Fahren-Betty	Laiyana	
RND		RSD		RPD	
Aoife		Uche		Mickey	
1EG		1OB			
Ruth		Chloe			
2SF		2SH		2COT	
Aaishah		Pixi		Hansikka	
3TK		3EH		3EL	
Rumaisa		Sonny		Zachary	
4RW		4CB		4CM	
Amiah R		Montaha		AJ	
5EB		5LC		5KH	
Joyce		Montini		Alexander	
6AMJ		6KL		6ZB	
Amelia		Ailbhe		Charlie	

Jess Phillips

Jess Phillips, the labour MP for Yardley, will visit school on 16th December to speak with the school council and discuss her role and the importance of democracy. We look forward to her visit.

Reception trip to the Safari Park

The children in Reception will visit the Safari park to see the animals and Fr Christmas on 16th December. We hope they have an enjoyable visit and that Fr Christmas and his elves are busy preparing the presents for the children on the good list.

Class Saint Feast Days

The children in Class 1OB will celebrate the feast of St Lucy on 13th December and can come to school dressed in their own clothes. In addition, the children in class 4RW are invited to wear their own clothes on 22nd December to celebrate the feast of St John the Beloved which falls during the Christmas break on 27th December.

Golf Star Stamps

All children who have achieved the correct number of Gold Star stamps for reading will be invited to wear their own clothes to school on 20th December. From these children, the winners of the prize draw will also have a trip to a book shop in Kenilworth, where they will be able to select a book as a prize for their efforts in reading.

School Dinner Menus Change

As you have been previously informed, the school dinner menu will be changing from 10th January 2022. We therefore require you to complete the Google form for which the link has been sent. Please only complete this form once for each child that has a school dinner. Therefore, if you have already completed it you do not need to do so again. Thank you for your co-operation with this.



Holy Family Church

Christmas Mass Schedule



DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Friday 24 th December	4:00pm 6:00pm	Christmas Vigil Masses
Saturday 25 th December	10:30am 4:00pm	Christmas Day Mass Feast of the Holy Family Mass
Sunday 26 th December	10:30am	Feast of the Holy Family Mass (Parish Feast Day)
Monday 27 th December	10:00am	Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Tuesday 28 th December		No Mass
Wednesday 29 th December	10:30am	Feast of St. Thomas Becket
Thursday 30 th December	10:30am	6 th day within the octave of Christmas
Friday 31 st December	10:30am	7 th day within the octave of Christmas
Saturday 1 st January	10:30am 4:00pm	New Year, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 2 nd Sunday of Christmas
Sunday 2 nd January	10:30am	2 nd Sunday of Christmas



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)	Olivia	For being a kind and caring friend.	Nursery (Red)	Idris	For always trying his very best
Nursery (Green)	Fatima-Dua	For marvelous cutting.	Nursery (Yellow)	Leela	For asking Santa to make sure her friends and Family are happy this year! You're so kind Leela.
Nursery (Orange)	Lexie-Rae	For splendid singing.	3TK	Riley	For always behaving in a really sensible way in class.
				Lily	For being a wonderful role model for her classmates.
RND	Hugo	For being a great role model to his friends.	4CB	Heran	For being a brilliant role model to her peers at all times.
	Rio	For his amazing reading skills.		Trey	For excellent effort in science.
RPD	Aiza	For drawing a lovely picture in literacy.	4CM	Aayan	For fantastic effort in Topic when making a Viking longhouse.
	Orla	For being a kind friend.		Codie	For fantastic effort in all lessons. She is a wonderful role model to her peers.
RSD	Jaiden	For trying his best with his writing in phonics.	4RW	Mischa	For her fantastic achievements in dance – well done.
	Nancy	For always trying her best in everything she does.		Matt	For always being really helpful.
1EG	Erin	For her lovely Advent prayer written during our RE lesson.	5EB	Thea	For being a real role model to her peers by demonstrating exceptional behaviour.
	Louis	For his thoughtful Advent work during RE.		Harry	For trying really hard and making great progress in maths.
1OB	Mariamawit	For her participation during lessons.	5KH	Sophie-Isabella	For always trying her best, especially in maths lessons.
	Shaydon	For always trying hard during phonics.		Riley	For demonstrating great teamwork during our robotics workshop.
2COT		All of Year 2 for performing so beautifully in their Christmas Nativity. You're all super stars!	5LC	Anthony	For demonstrating excellent teamwork during our robotics workshop.
				Connor	For always exhibiting excellent behaviour and being a role model for his peers.
2SH			6AMJ	Keigan	For an excellent solo audition.
				Ava-May	For improving her independent reading.
2SF			6KL	Krishna	For being so helpful in the classroom and consistently polite.
				Kian	For showing such maturity in recent weeks.
3EH	Milania	For her brilliant efforts in English.	6ZB	Saniya	For a fantastic audition for the Carol Service.
	Maja	For her fabulous effort in Art.		Julia	For being such a fantastic role model for her peers.
3EL	Jiya Mariya	For trying her very best in all her subjects.			
	Keone	For his amazing work mixing watercolours in art.			



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 11TH JANUARY 2022

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.....	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 **20 years**, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting in January 2022. 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 £7.00 per week; payment is made every 4 weeks with the first payment of £28.00 due on week 1. **Please Note:** Places are limited, therefore bookings will be taken 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**



Be Empowered...



Be Empowered Workshop – Early Support Programme for SEND Parent Carers

Booking form for DAYTIME **FACE TO FACE Be Empowered Workshops**

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2022 – On a MONDAY, 10am – 1pm

Starting Mon 10th Jan 2022, then continuing Mon 17th Jan, Mon 24th Jan, Mon 31st, Mon 7th Feb and finishing Monday 14th February 2022.

Please note there is no charge for these workshops.

Venue:

**Dyson Garden Children's Centre, 145 Highfield Road,
Birmingham B8 3QF**

Please complete all sections in BLOCK CAPITALS.

To ensure that we can process your form swiftly please ensure the form is fully completed and the consent overleaf is signed and dated.

Your Details:

Parent Carer Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone (Mobile) Number

Email Address.....

Age of your child(ren) and their individual additional needs

.....

Any special requirements or access requirements:

.....

Name: Signature: Date:

Please read Course Booking Terms and Conditions below. Please email both pages of this booking form including the signed consent by Thurs 16th Oct 2021 to BeEmpowered@birmingham.gov.uk

For any queries about the Be Empowered Workshops please call
Oenca Fontaine, Parent Engagement Consultant on: 07956 929 151

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ALL Birmingham SEND SUPPORT SERVICE COURSES

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions there is a maximum number of people that can attend a training session. Therefore, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

On receiving this booking we will assign available place/s where possible. If bookings are received after the deadline, places may not be available and you may be asked to join a waiting list. Whilst every effort will be made to ensure places and keep the dates and venues as advertised, we reserve the right to amend or cancel courses without notice. We will make every effort to inform you in advance if possible. Birmingham SEND Support Services do not accept any liability whatsoever, if for whatever reason, the course does not take place.

CONFIRMATION

Bookings will be confirmed by telephone and/or email from Monday 1st November. In delivering these workshops we will be working to the current Covid-19 guidelines i.e. **wearing masks, social distancing** and taking **lateral flow tests** before each workshop session. A facilitator will explain in more detail when booking confirmation takes place.

RESERVING A PLACE AND CANCELLATION CONDITIONS

By entering details on the booking form the delegates confirm they have read, understood and accepted the terms and conditions and are able to attend on the dates specified.

Please contact us as soon as possible if you need to cancel so the place can be offered to someone else.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Birmingham SEND Support services are committed to equal opportunities in training and professional development and we positively welcome course delegates irrespective of their gender, race, disability, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, sexuality, marital status, responsibility for dependents, religion, trade union activity and age. We will not accept any form of discrimination at any time during the event.

CONSENT

CONSENT – TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY ALL PARENTS / CARERS / PROFESSIONALS

I agree to Birmingham City Council (BCC) SEND Support Services processing personal details and contact information and I understand that both paper and electronic records may be kept as a result of my attendance on the 'Be Empowered' Workshops and that any records will be kept securely and destroyed safely in accordance with BCC Document Retention and Deletion Schedule.

I understand that information (for example my name, address, phone number, email address) will only be shared with course facilitators as a result of attending the 'Be Empowered' Workshops. This will be done in accordance with Birmingham City Council's Information Sharing Protocols. This will only be information that is relevant and necessary, shared with people who need that information and, when there is a specific need for that information to be shared at that time.

By signing this form I give explicit consent for BCC SEND Support Services to communicate with me including by secure email.

I understand that as part of the General Data Protection Regulations I have a right to request a copy of the information BCC holds about me. For more information, I can contact BCC's Data Protection Officer at the Corporate Information Management Team, PO Box 16366 Birmingham email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

I understand that I can access the BCC Privacy Notice at www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20154/foi_and_data_protection/384/privacy_statement/1

Name (please print):

Signed:

Date:



Be Empowered Workshop – Early Support Programme for SEND Parent Carers

We warmly invite you to join in a series of daytime in-person workshops that have been written and led by trainers who are parent/carers of a child with additional needs themselves.

These workshops are for parent/carers of children and young people of any age, with any additional need, with or without a diagnosis. They are an attempt to support parent/carers through times of change and at whatever stage of the journey participants may find themselves.

THE NEXT IN-PERSON BE EMPOWERED WORKSHOP OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR.

MONDAY'S 10th JANUARY to 14th FEBRUARY, FROM 10AM – 1PM

JAN – FEB 2022 – On a MONDAY, 10am – 1pm

Starting Mon 10th Jan 2022, then continuing Mon 10th Jan, Mon 24th, Mon 31st, Mon 7th Feb and finishing Mon 14th Feb

**At Dyson Gardens Children's Centre, 145 Highfield Road,
Birmingham B8 3QF**

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

Please apply by completing and signing the attached booking form and consent and email to: BeEmpowered@birmingham.gov.uk

For any enquiries about the next Be Empowered Workshop please call
Oenca Fontaine (Parent Engagement Consultant)

Tel: [07956 929 151](tel:07956929151) – these contact details may change once admin comes on board...

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING BOOKINGS IS THURSDAY 16th DECEMBER 2021!





Communication and Autism Team (CAT) – Parent Information

Who are the Communication and Autism Team?

- The Communication and Autism Team (CAT for short) is part of Access to Education who are a group of services supporting children and young people with additional needs in schools in Birmingham.
- Every mainstream school and academy has a Communication and Autism Team professional assigned to the setting.

How does the Communication and Autism Team support schools?

- We work together with schools to build their knowledge, understanding and skills to support children/young people with autism or significant social communication differences.
- We support schools through the delivery of a package of training including Autism Education Trust Training; and through a School Partnership Plan based upon the Autism Education Trust Autism Standards. <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>
- We work with schools to ensure improved outcomes for autistic children and young people throughout their school.

How does the Communication and Autism Team support individual children/young people?

- We work in partnership with the school to embed good autism practice within the school community.
- We may look at your child's access to their classroom environment; their relationships with teachers and peers; their communication skills; their access to the curriculum; and sensory differences.
- We may observe and/or work one to one with pupils in school. The work we do is dependent upon the child/young person needs.
- We may use tools that we have developed such as our "All About Me" tool and our "Anxiety Tool" to gather your child/young person's view of their experience in school.
- We suggest strategies and model ways of working with children/young people to support them within their classrooms. Sometimes these do not work straight away so we will monitor with schools to help support your child/young person.
- We support the child/young person to have their say about their school experience.

How is my child registered with CAT?

- We support children and young people with a diagnosis of autism and those on the pathway towards a potential diagnosis of autism. We also support children with significant communication and interaction differences.
- The SENCo within the school or setting will ask you if you are happy for your child to be registered with our team.
- Your child will only be known to our service following receipt of your signed consent.

How do I contact my child's Communication and Autism Team professional?

- Email CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk with your child's name and school.
- A message will be sent to your CAT professional who will contact you as soon as they are able to.



Do the Communication and Autism Team give support to parents?

CAT PAC (Parent Awareness Course):

- We have developed a 6-week course for parents/carers called CAT PAC to support understanding around autism as well as giving parents/carers a chance to talk with others.
- The course looks at different aspects of autism such as: communication and interaction; sensory differences; eating, sleeping and toileting differences; and supporting anxiety and emotional distress.
- CAT PAC courses are delivered each term and invitations are sent to SENCOs to pass onto you if you are interested in attending a course.
- Courses are delivered remotely via Microsoft Teams or face to face at a school.
- CAT also run coffee mornings within schools and across the city for parents to meet up and discuss experiences.

Webinars:

- We deliver webinars and sessions around specific issues in addition to the CAT PAC. Information will be sent via your school SENCO and can be found on the Local Offer website:
<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk>
- Previous webinars which you can watch and listen to can be found via this link:
<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/webinars/>

Will I meet my Communication and Autism Team professional?

- Sometimes you will meet your Communication and Autism Team professional in school.
- You are the expert on your child, and it is important that we work together to support your child/young person to reach their goals.
- Sometimes contact will be via email, phone call or Microsoft Teams. We will try to keep in touch with you.

Communication and Autism Team

Access To Education

Education and Skills Directorate

Birmingham City Council

Office: PO Box 17843, Birmingham, B2 2JR

Birmingham Local Offer: www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

Access to Education: <http://acesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk>

Birmingham Local Offer: www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

To contact CAT: CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

Please note: Provision and support may change due to COVID restrictions.
