



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A MEMBER OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

20th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. The new academic year is now underway and it is lovely to have all of the children back and to see them happy amongst their friends and working hard. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the community of St. Bernadette's to all of our new pupils and their families who are joining us for the first time this year.

Please find below a table with the term dates for this academic year.

ADVENT TERM DATES for Academic Year 2023-2024	
Friday 20th October 2023	At home time, academy closes for half-term
Monday 30th October 2023	Academy opens for all pupils
Thursday 21st December 2023	At home time, academy closes for Christmas holidays
LENT TERM DATES for Academic Year 2023-2024	
Monday 8th January 2024	Academy opens for all pupils
Thursday 8th February 2024	At home time, academy closes for half-term
Friday 9th February 2024	Training Day – academy closed to all pupils
Monday 19th February 2024	Academy opens for all pupils
Thursday 28th March 2024	At home time, academy closes for Easter holidays
PENTECOST TERM DATES for Academic Year 2023-2024	
Monday 15th April 2024	Academy opens for all pupils
Monday 6th May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday – academy closed
Friday 24th May 2024	At home time, academy closes for half-term
Monday 3rd June 2024	Academy opens for all pupils
Friday 19th July 2024	At home time, academy closes for Summer holidays

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ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Dates of other key events for this academic year

Please find below a table showing dates for some of the key events this academic year. Further information relating to each event will be released nearer to the time.

Dates of other Key Events during the ADVENT TERM		
Monday 16th October 2023	Parents' Evening	3.30–7.00 p.m.
Friday 8th December 2023	Christmas Fair	3.15 p.m.
Tuesday 12th December 2023	Christmas Concert (Classes 1–6)	1.45 p.m.
Wednesday 13th December 2023	Christmas Concert (Classes 1–6)	1.45 p.m.
Thursday 14th December 2023	Christmas Concert (Classes 1–6)	1.45 p.m.
Dates of other Key Events during the LENT TERM		
Monday 25th March 2024	Parents' Evening	3.30–7.00 p.m.
Dates of other Key Events during the PENTECOST TERM		
Friday 28th June 2024	Strawberry Tea	12.00 p.m.
Friday 5th July 2024	Sports Day (Classes 1–6)	9.15 a.m.
	Sports Day (Classes 7–12)	1.00 p.m.
Friday 12th July 2024	Reserve Date for Sports Day (if bad weather causes a postponement on the first date)	

Safeguarding

Safeguarding your children is our highest priority. Please be aware that the following staff hold key safeguarding roles:

Mr. M. Strong – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss L. Smith – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr. A. Strong – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs. B. James – Early Help Lead

To discuss or report any safeguarding concerns, please speak with either myself in the first instance, or one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. You may also report concerns to any member of staff, as all staff have received safeguarding training, and they will then report this information to the Designated Safeguarding Leads. We assure you that all matters will be dealt with sensitively, however, depending on the information provided, it may be necessary for us to share this information with other Safeguarding Agencies.

Please see our website for further information with regard to Safeguarding, including links to helpful resources for parents and pupils.

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Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

A reminder that Mrs. C. Sawczuk is the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Leader. If there are any matters you wish to discuss, please contact Mrs. Sawczuk. Again, further information can be found on our website.

Foundation Governor Appeal

The academy is very keen to appoint new Foundation Governors, and would be grateful if parents could give serious consideration to this important role. If you think it is something you could undertake, or simply want to find out more about the role, please get in touch with myself or our Chair of Governors, Mrs. J. Moran – we would be delighted to hear from you. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for more information, and which can also be found on our website under the tab for Governors.

Uniform

Thank you to all of the parents who have fully adhered to the academy's uniform policy. Your children have come back to school looking very smart. A reminder that children should be wearing the main academy uniform this term, and not the summer uniform. Please see the charts on our website for the precise requirements for children at different age phases of the academy.

- In addition to the main clothing items, please remember that all pupils must have a pair of plain black plimsolls for indoor use only – this is a compulsory part of the uniform.
- A pair of plain, smart black school shoes for outdoor use is also compulsory – trainers will not be accepted.
- Please ensure that all items of uniform, including footwear, are clearly labelled. With large numbers of pupils wearing identical items, labelling is essential to enable staff to return mislaid items of uniform back to their owners.

Jewellery

A reminder that children are not allowed to wear jewellery on site for reasons of health and safety. All children take part in sport, including contact sports, and classrooms, corridors, and the playground are busy places, all of which creates the potential for accidents if jewellery is worn. It is for this reason that we have a policy of no jewellery and this must be adhered to for the safety of all.

If, however, a child has had their ears pierced recently and needs to keep the earrings in for just a little longer, parents must cover their child's ears with plasters each day until the earrings can be removed at the earliest opportunity.

Water Bottles

A reminder that we encourage all pupils to bring a bottle of water to school each day. Drinking water throughout the day not only keeps children hydrated but also assists with concentration and ultimately learning. Please ensure that bottles are transparent and contain water only. Other types of drink will not be accepted, unless there is an exceptional reason provided by the parent and evidence may be requested by the academy. Please contact the Academy Office should you need to discuss this matter.

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Site Rules

A reminder to all parents of the following rules which help to keep our site a safe place for all:

- No **dogs** are allowed on the academy site at any time
- **Smoking** and **vaping** are not allowed on the site at any time
- **Bicycles** and **scooters**, including **motorised scooters**, must not be ridden anywhere on site; we also ask that anyone who uses a motorised scooter on Anne's Crescent takes great care when children and parents are entering and leaving the site due to the large number of people in that vicinity.

The academy is grateful for your support and cooperation in helping to keep everyone safe.

Dropping Off and Collecting Children

A reminder that only parents of children in **Classes 1–6** should accompany their children on site in a morning, and in the same way come on to the site at home time to collect their children.

Parents of children in **Classes 7–12** are asked to take their children only as far as the school gates in a morning, and to wait on Anne's Crescent at home time. This is to help ease congestion on site and we thank you for your cooperation.

Parking on Anne's Crescent

We realise that most parents park safely and legally but this is a polite reminder that when parking on Anne's Crescent and the surrounding roads, **please do not obstruct the driveways of residents**. It is illegal to park across any driveway.

Council Wardens periodically patrol and check that rules are being adhered to and will implement a fine payable to the council if cars are parked illegally. We understand that Anne's Crescent becomes congested but please remain considerate to our local residents.

On-site Parking

A polite reminder that on-site parking at the front of the academy is for disabled drivers only. No other cars are allowed on-site in a morning. The front vehicular gates are closed at 8.40 a.m. to allow pedestrians to cross the driveway safely.

At home time, parents of children in **Classes 1–6 only** are encouraged to park on the playground to help ease congestion on Anne's Crescent. Gates will open from 2.45 p.m. and will close at 3.00 p.m. In the interest of safety, we kindly ask that parents switch off their car engines when parked and for vehicles to remain stationary until the gates are reopened at 3.20 p.m. when all pedestrians have left the site.

One-way system

For the benefit of parents new to the academy and as a general reminder, in order to help the flow of traffic on Anne's Crescent in a morning and at home time, we ask all parents driving vehicles to maintain a voluntary one-way system around the crescent. Cars should enter from the Queensway side of Anne's Crescent, and exit the road at the other side.

Doing this significantly aids the flow of traffic, and we are grateful to parents for your ongoing cooperation with this.

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Breakfast Club

A reminder that the Breakfast Club is open each day from 7.40 a.m. and available to all year groups, including Nursery, and provides a variety of breakfast options and up to one hour's childcare before the commencement of the school day for a cost of £2.50 per day. No booking is required. Your child will also take part in Wake and Shake for that day – a fun session of physical activity – which research suggests has a positive effect on pupils' learning.

After-School Clubs

After-school clubs have commenced this week, and will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. A letter has been issued and includes details of the clubs on offer this term and the age groups that are able to attend them. There is a pupil limit to each club, and places will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The clubs are run by staff who volunteer and I am very grateful to those staff who provide this service for you and your children. I would encourage you to strongly consider making use of these clubs as they provide some wonderful extensions of the curriculum and a chance for your children to make some new friends along the way.

Change to Class Assemblies

Class assemblies have now switched to Monday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. A class assembly takes place each fortnight in the Academy Hall and entrance for parents will be via the Hall fire doors. When the time is approaching for your child's class assembly, you will receive an invite from your child's class teacher in good time.

We do not publish a full list of class assemblies in advance as sometimes it becomes necessary for these dates to change for a variety of reasons and circumstances.

Site Improvements

During the summer break our three Key Stage 1 classrooms have been refurbished and the hall has been redecorated and its floor renewed. A few aspects of the work will need to be completed during October half-term, but we are pleased to have once again secured projects which continue to improve the facilities for our children and staff.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. M. Strong,
Headteacher

Help shape our school, apply to be a Foundation Governor



ST. BERNADETTE'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



What is a Foundation Governor?

Appointed by our local Bishop, you'll work as part of a diverse team, ensuring children get the best Catholic education at our school.

You'll do this by challenging and supporting school leaders as well as promoting, developing and protecting the Catholic ethos of our school.

To apply*, you need to be:

- 18 years +
- a practising Catholic
- keen to develop and use your skills and experiences
- willing to undertake free training to help you in the role.

** Our trust embraces inclusivity and particularly welcomes applications from diverse cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds from within our school community*

For more information and to apply, visit: bit.ly/nottmfg



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OF LOURDES**

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

