



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

28th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below a table outlining the remaining dates for each Term this academic year.

ADVENT TERM DATES for Academic Year 2023–2024	
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

Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world

ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding your children is our highest priority. A reminder that the following staff hold key safeguarding roles at the academy:

Mr. M. Strong **Designated Safeguarding Leader (DSL)**
Miss L. Smith **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leader (DDSL)**
Mr. A. Strong **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leader (DDSL)**
Mrs. B. James **Early Help Leader and Mental Health Team**

To discuss or report any safeguarding concerns, please speak with either myself in the first instance, or one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leaders. If for any reason the DSL or DDSLs are not available, you may also report a concern to any member of staff, as all staff have received safeguarding training, and they will ensure this information is passed to the Designated Safeguarding Leaders.

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.

Special Educational Needs

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

Book Fair

A big thank you to parents for your fantastic support with this year's Book Fair which resulted in £1408.46 commission for the academy. This money will be directly reinvested into new books for the children's classroom library corners and our main library.

Poppy Appeal

Our recent Poppy Appeal raised funds for the Royal British Legion. Thank you for your very generous support of this cause.

Children in Need

Our Children in Need non-uniform day raised £257.16, and again we are grateful for the support of our families.

Samaritan's Purse – Shoebox Appeal

A final big thank you to all of those families who sent in a shoebox full of gifts which will now be donated to disadvantaged children around the world this Christmas. The academy received 56 shoeboxes in total – this is a fantastic testimony to the kindness and generosity of our families, and is very much appreciated.

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Christmas Events

As we enter the first week of Advent this Sunday, as a Catholic school we begin to look forward in earnest to the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the beautiful time of the year that is Christmas. As always, the next month will be a very busy one here at St. Bernadette's as we try to make this Advent season and the build-up to Christmas very special for our children. Please read on for details of all our forthcoming Christmas Events.

Advent Mass

A Mass to celebrate the start of the Advent Season will be offered at the academy next Monday, 4th December at 9.30 a.m. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair will be held at the academy on Friday 8th December, from 3.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. As always, children will be able to visit Santa's Grotto, and there will be a number of stalls that we are asking for your generosity in sending in donations to support these. In particular, we would welcome donations of bottles, books, toys, cakes, and items for the tombola.

The Christmas Fair is not only a popular social gathering for families at this time of year, but it is also an essential fundraiser with all proceeds going towards our academy and benefitting your children's education. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 8th December and we hope that you will have a very enjoyable afternoon. All extended family and friends are most welcome to come along too!

A reminder that our website contains details of key 'Diary Dates' for parents across the full academic year.

Parking and entrance arrangements for the Christmas Fair

For those wishing to attend the Christmas Fair, the playground will be open for parking from 2.40 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. The playground gates will then be locked until 3.45 p.m. This will ensure the safety of everyone moving around during this time.

If you are not coming to the fair, please do not park on the playground on this day.

At home time, parents of all Early Years and Key Stage 1 children can collect their children in the normal way at classroom fire doors.

Parents of Key Stage 2 children who are attending the fair are also welcome to come on site and collect their children from the relevant corridor exit point. Those Year 6 pupils who are running stalls will be allowed to remain in the building so it will not be necessary for these particular children to be collected by their parents.

Entry to the Christmas Fair will be through either the Hall fire doors or playground fire doors. If anybody requires wheelchair access, entrance to the fair can be facilitated through either the front entrance or the playground fire doors.

We would ask all families to make their way around the building to queue at one of these two entry points, but not to attempt to come through the building itself. Please be aware that doors will not open until 3.15 p.m. to allow staff enough time to supervise children leaving the building and to make final preparations on their stalls.

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Christmas Fair Raffle Tickets

Thank you for all of the raffle tickets sold so far. To have a chance to win one of the prizes on offer please ensure that the academy has received your ticket-stubs. If anybody wishes to purchase further tickets, these can be obtained from the Academy Office, or at the fair itself. Many thanks as always for your continued and much-valued support.

Christmas Concerts

As announced earlier this year, Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be performing their Nativity Concert on Tuesday 12th December, Wednesday 13th December, and Thursday 14th December. All concerts will commence at 1.45 p.m. Tickets are available to buy from the Academy Office at a cost of £1.50 per ticket and you will have the option to purchase a programme on the door for 50p.

Parking and entrance arrangements for the Christmas Concerts

For those wishing to attend the Christmas Concerts, the playground will be open for parking on all three days from 1.25 p.m. – 1.45 p.m. The playground gates will then be locked until the end of the concert.

If you are not coming to the Christmas Concerts, please do not park on the playground on these three days.

Entry to the Christmas Concerts will be through the Hall fire doors from 1.30 p.m. If anybody requires wheelchair access, entrance to the concert will be facilitated through the front entrance. If possible, please let the academy know in advance so that we can assist you by reserving a seating place for you.

Photographs and recorded images at academy events

In accordance with the Trust's Data Protection Policy, parents and carers are allowed to take photographs and recorded images (videos) at academy events, such as the Christmas Concerts and Sports Day. We kindly ask that such images are retained for **personal use only** and are not shared on any public platforms in order to respect the privacy of other families and their children.

We would also politely ask parents to keep photography and recordings to a minimum during indoor performance events in order to allow your children to perform to their very best and without distraction, and out of respect for other members of the audience. Thank you for your cooperation.

Carol Singing

On Friday 15th December, the Academy Choir and After-School Music Group, led by Mrs. Strong, will be visiting Sycamore Lodge Residential Care Home to sing Christmas Carols to the residents, something which we hope will bring them much joy.

Elf Run

The academy will again be supporting Lindsey Lodge Hospice this year by holding a sponsored Elf Run on the morning of Wednesday 20th December. A separate letter will be issued shortly with further information.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Lunch will take place in the academy on Wednesday 20th December for all pupils. An email has been issued with regard to this to give parents of children on packed lunches the option to choose a Christmas Lunch for their child.

We will also hold Christmas Jumper Day on 20th December. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, please DO NOT feel that you have to purchase one. Your child is welcome to come in any jumper of their choice. A voluntary £1 donation is kindly requested on this day in support of the 'Save the Children' charity.

In the afternoon the children will then be treated to a musical performance in the Hall led by Mrs. Strong, the Academy Choir, and the After-School Music Group.

Christmas Movie

Towards the end of term each phase of the academy will enjoy a Christmas Movie at school with their friends, along with some popcorn, snacks, and a drink.

Christmas Carol Concert

Pupils and staff will take part in a Christmas Carol Concert led by our Chaplaincy Team on the final afternoon of term.

Christmas Mass Times

The academy will aim to issue a further letter before the end of term providing parents and carers with the Christmas Mass Times (subject to them being published in time by St. Bernadette's Catholic Church).

Yours sincerely



Mr. M. Strong
Headteacher