



# ST. BERNADETTE'S

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

18th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come towards the end of another very busy school year, this is the final newsletter for this academic year. A reminder that the academy will close for the summer holidays at home time tomorrow, Friday 19th July. The table below shows term dates for the next academic year.

| ADVENT TERM DATES for Academic Year 2024-2025    |   |
|--|---|
| Monday 2nd September 2024                        | Training Day – academy closed to all pupils         |
| Tuesday 3rd September 2024                       | Training Day – academy closed to all pupils         |
| Wednesday 4th September 2024                     | Academy opens for all pupils                        |
| Friday 18th October 2024                         | At home time, academy closes for half-term          |
| Monday 28th October 2024                         | Academy opens for all pupils                        |
| Friday 20th December 2024                        | At home time, academy closes for Christmas holidays |
| LENT TERM DATES for Academic Year 2024-2025      |   |
| Monday 6th January 2025                          | Academy opens for all pupils                        |
| Thursday 13th February 2025                      | At home time, academy closes for half-term          |
| Friday 14th February 2025                        | Training Day – academy closed to all pupils         |
| Monday 24th February 2025                        | Academy opens for all pupils                        |
| Friday 4th April 2025                            | At home time, academy closes for Easter holidays    |
| PENTECOST TERM DATES for Academic Year 2024-2025 |   |
| Wednesday 23rd April 2025                        | Academy opens for all pupils                        |
| Monday 5th May 2025                              | May Day Bank Holiday – academy closed               |
| Friday 23rd May 2025                             | At home time, academy closes for half-term          |
| Monday 2nd June 2025                             | Academy opens for all pupils                        |
| Friday 18th July 2025                            | At home time, academy closes for Summer holidays    |

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

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## Toy Day

Tomorrow is a toy day where children are allowed to bring into school a small selection of their toys to play with. Please do not send in any electronic toys or anything that is too valuable as the academy will not be held responsible for any toys that become damaged or lost.

## Strawberry Tea

I would like to thank parents for your wonderful support recently at our Strawberry Tea event. We greatly value our community events and it was lovely to see so many families enjoying time together. Through your generosity, we raised £2303.80 following deductions, which is a tremendous effort, and these funds will be reserved for a project we are hoping to deliver at the academy, but which will require additional fundraising going forward. We will write to parents about this next year with further details.

I would like to thank Mrs. Wilson for her leading role in organising the event, as well as the staff in general, our Year 6 pupils who ran their own stalls, and also those parents who volunteered to help as well. Finally, thank you to all parents who donated goods to help make the event such a great success – your help and support is very much appreciated.

## Sports Day

Again, a big thank you to all of our parents for such a great turnout on Sports Day. We were blessed with beautiful weather and it was another lovely community event. Thank you also to all of the parents who stepped forward to take part in the parents' races – well done to all.

My thanks go to Mr. Rigby and Mrs. Lynch for their hard work in organising the event, and to all the staff who worked hard to prepare the children for their races and who carried out various roles on the day. Finally, well done to the children who always give of their best in all of their events, for the way they cheer each other on, and display such a good sporting attitude. They can all be very proud of their efforts.

## Staffing changes

- ❖ A number of staff are leaving their posts this year: Mrs. C. Watson, who has worked at the school for many years, most recently supporting pupils with special educational needs and disabilities; and Mr. I. Wright (Class Teacher) who has taught children in Early Years. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both of them for their dedicated service towards our children. They will be greatly missed and leave with our love and best wishes.
- ❖ Mrs. N. Baldwin has now returned following her maternity leave and we are delighted to welcome her back.
- ❖ I am also delighted to announce that Mrs. A. McDonagh has been appointed as teaching assistant with responsibility for supporting pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, and we also welcome a new teaching assistant to the school in September, Mrs. K. Sutton, who will be working within Early Years.

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## Classes for 2024-2025

All children recently enjoyed a morning with their new class teacher. The class structure for next year is as follows:

|          |           |                                |
|----------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Class 1  | Nursery   | Mrs. H. Wilson                 |
| Class 2  | Reception | Miss H. Fenwick                |
| Class 3  | Reception | Miss L. Smith / Mrs. N. Lynch  |
| Class 4  | Year 1    | Miss M. Hanly                  |
| Class 5  | Year 1/2  | Miss M. Cooper                 |
| Class 6  | Year 2    | Mrs. E. McIlvaney              |
| Class 7  | Year 3    | Miss K. Huxford                |
| Class 8  | Year 3/4  | Mr. W. Moran                   |
| Class 9  | Year 4    | Miss E. Sutton                 |
| Class 10 | Year 5    | Miss J. Edwards                |
| Class 11 | Year 5/6  | Mrs. C. Sawczuk                |
| Class 12 | Year 6    | Mr. A. Strong / Mrs. J. Strong |

## ParentPay

A polite reminder regarding ParentPay – please can any monies owed be paid in full as soon as possible. We would greatly appreciate your support with this matter.

## General reminders about the uniform

A reminder that children must return to school in September wearing the main academy 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.
- ❖ No pupil is permitted to wear jewellery of any kind. This is for health and safety reasons and must be adhered to.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Any parent seeking to purchase a blazer for their child, please remember that this optional item must be pre-ordered in good time from Shah's.

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## Building Works

As previously announced, a new early years outdoor learning area will be constructed this summer. The side car park for staff will be relocated to the top of the playground, meaning that these cars will no longer cross the pedestrian walkway, thereby improving safety. The original plan was to construct a purpose-built car park with lighting, partly on the grass bank at the top of the playground, and partly on the playground, and which would have taken up far less of the playground than what is going to be the case.

Unfortunately, following the award of funding for both projects over 2 years ago, at a time when we were transitioning to the new Trust, we have then experienced a very long delay to the realisation of these projects which has been completely beyond the control of the school. This has resulted in the Trust informing us that our original vision for the car park is now no longer affordable. It is my hope that one day we may be able to achieve the original plan.

Despite losing a sizeable section of the playground, there will still be plenty of space for the children to play and we will continue to allow access for cars on to the playground at home time for parents of children in Early Years and Key Stage One.

## Year 6 Leavers

We wish our Year 6 pupils all the best as they leave this week and move on to secondary education in September. They have been a super group of pupils and they leave with our love and best wishes. For any parents whose association with the school also comes to an end this year, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your support of the school over the years and we wish you and your children all the best for the future.

I would like to wish all our children and families and all the staff a well-deserved break over the summer, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 4th September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. M. Strong,  
Headteacher