



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

27th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

ADVENT TERM DATES for Academic Year 2024–2025	
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

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ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Home Time Parking

A polite reminder to all parents who park on the playground at home time to please head to the right as you enter the playground gates and to park in the larger, open section of the playground. The smaller, fenced compound to the left of the gates is for **staff parking only**.

A small number of parents have been parking in the staff car park. We appreciate this is a relatively new layout, but we kindly ask all parents to park as described above. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bikes and Scooters

We strongly advise parents of children who come to school on a bike or scooter to provide their children with a lock to secure their property during the school day. **Please do not leave bikes and scooters at the front of the site** as the main front gates remain open and your property is therefore at risk of theft. It is important to state that no thefts have occurred, but we want to do all that we can to ensure your property is safe.

Bikes and scooters should be left against the grey school fence at the far end of the new walkway, at the rear of the site, and should be secured with a lock. Thank you.

Book Fair

A big thank you to parents for your fantastic support with this year's Book Fair which resulted in £1538.00 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 important cause. The school held a very special prayer service on Remembrance Day, marking the 2-minute silence at 11.00 a.m., with each class laying a wreath of poppies that every child in the class had contributed to making. My thanks to Mr. Moran for his hard work in organising this special event.

Children in Need

Our Children in Need non-uniform day raised £217.94, 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 81 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

This coming Sunday marks the first Sunday of Advent, and 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 take place at the academy next Monday, 2nd 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 6th December, from 3.10 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, as well as any raffle prizes you can provide.

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 6th 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. – 2.55 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 should collect their children from classroom fire doors for all classes.

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 3.10 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.

Key Stage 2 Christmas Concerts

As announced earlier this year, Classes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be performing their Nativity Concert on Tuesday 10th December, Wednesday 11th December, and Thursday 12th December. All concerts will commence at 1.45 p.m. Ticket request slips will be sent home this week. We kindly ask that you send them back with your child as soon as possible as the number of tickets is limited. Please remember to clearly state your child's name and class number, and enclose the correct amount of money in the envelope provided. Ticket prices are £1.50 each. The tickets will then be sent out to you with your child.

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. – 1.40 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.

Early Years Nativity

For parents new to the academy, our 'main' Nativity Concert (as above) runs on a 2-year cycle. One year it is the turn of our younger children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 to perform, and the following year, as is the case this year, it is the turn of the older children in Key Stage 2. Recognising, however, that Early Years is a precious time for parents to have the chance to see their children perform, our Early Years staff are planning a short Nativity production. **The Early Years Team will issue a separate letter to parents with further details later this week.**

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.

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Carol Singing

On Friday 10th December, the Academy Choir and After-School Music Group, led by Mrs. Strong, will be visiting St. Bernadette's Church Parish Centre to sing Christmas Carols at the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Lunch, something which we hope will bring them much joy.

Lindsey Lodge Hospice Pyjama Run

The academy will again be supporting Lindsey Lodge Hospice this Christmas by holding a sponsored Pyjama Run on the morning of Wednesday 18th 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 Thursday 19th December for all pupils. An email has been issued with regards to this, asking parents of children on packed lunches if they would like to place an order for a Christmas Lunch for your child. To do so, please visit ParentPay by 3rd December.

We will also hold Christmas Jumper Day on 19th 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, the After-School Music Group, and instrumentalists.

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 school 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