



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

18th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. The new academic year is now well 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 2025–2026 | |
|--|---|
| Friday 24th October 2025 | At home time, academy closes for half-term |
| Monday 3rd November 2025 | Academy opens for all pupils |
| Friday 19th December 2025 | At home time, academy closes for Christmas holidays |
| LENT TERM DATES for Academic Year 2025–2026 | |
| Monday 5th January 2026 | Academy opens for all pupils |
| Thursday 12th February 2026 | At home time, academy closes for half-term |
| Friday 13th February 2026 | Training Day – academy closed to all pupils |
| Monday 23rd February 2026 | Academy opens for all pupils |
| Thursday 2nd April 2026 | At home time, academy closes for Easter holidays |
| PENTECOST TERM DATES for Academic Year 2025–2026 | |
| Tuesday 21st April 2026 | Academy opens for all pupils |
| Monday 4th May 2026 | May Day Bank Holiday – academy closed |
| Friday 22nd May 2026 | At home time, academy closes for half-term |
| Monday 1st June 2026 | Academy opens for all pupils |
| Friday 17th July 2026 | At home time, academy closes for Summer holidays |

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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.

| DIARY DATES of Key Events during the ADVENT TERM | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| Monday 20th October 2025 | Parents' Evening | 3.30–7.00 p.m. |
| Friday 5th December 2025 | Christmas Fair | 3.10 p.m. |
| Tuesday 9th December 2025 | Christmas Concert (Classes 1–6) | 1.45 p.m. |
| Wednesday 10th December 2025 | Christmas Concert (Classes 1–6) | 1.45 p.m. |
| Thursday 11th December 2025 | Christmas Concert (Classes 1–6) | 1.45 p.m. |
| DIARY DATES of Key Events during the LENT TERM | | |
| Monday 30th March 2026 | Parents' Evening | 3.30–7.00 p.m. |
| DIARY DATES of Key Events during the PENTECOST TERM | | |
| Friday 26th June 2026 | Strawberry Tea | 12.30 p.m. |
| Friday 3rd July 2026 | Sports Day (Classes 1–6) | 9.00 a.m. |
| | Sports Day (Classes 7–12) | 1.00 p.m. |
| Friday 10th July 2026 | 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:

Miss L. Smith – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr. M. Strong – 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 Miss Smith 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 related 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.

Parent Governor Vacancy

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. A. Rybaczewska-Rollin for her dedicated service to the Local Governing Body as she vacates her post of Parent Governor.

As a result, the academy now has one vacant Parent Governor post available and a letter will be issued shortly with details about this. Please give serious consideration as to whether this is a role you might be willing to undertake and register your interest if so when the letter is released.

Foundation Governor Appeal

The academy is also very keen to appoint new Foundation Governors. A poster is attached to the end of this letter and has been placed on our website. Again, please give serious consideration to this post and if you think this is a role you could undertake, or simply want to find out more, please get in touch with myself or our Chair of Governors, Mrs. J. Moran – we would be delighted to hear from you.

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.

PE Kit Update

Prior to the summer I wrote to parents indicating that this year we would be switching to an online order system for most of the PE Kit. Those plans are now on hold and I would like to provide an update of the current position.

Of the 4 garments that make up our PE Kit, 3 of these are produced by a company called Price and Buckland (these are the short sleeve top, shorts, and tracksuit trousers). We last placed a stock order around 2-3 years ago and that has lasted well in most sizes until very recently, but stock at Shah's is now starting to run low. This will mean that some parents have been unable to purchase some or all of these 3 items.

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The reason for the delay in placing a new stock order is due to new Government legislation coming into effect in September 2026 regarding school uniforms.

This legislation will likely have implications for our PE Kit due to a limit being placed on the number of branded items a school can have as part of its compulsory uniform. The Government is due to publish guidance for schools shortly. Following this, the school will make a decision on how we proceed with our uniform and let parents know in due course. Until this time, the school will not be placing an order for new stock of our PE Kit.

As previously communicated, if parents have been unable to obtain any item of the PE Kit, you should send your child/ren with suitable sports clothing of their choice for PE lessons this academic year.

A reminder that all children in Years 1-6 should have the long sleeved warm PE top. This 4th garment is produced by Shah's themselves and is available for purchase from them. PE takes place in most weathers including during winter, so please ensure your children have this garment for when the cold weather arrives.

Finally, regardless of what decisions we take in relation to our uniform next year, I would like to reassure all parents who have managed to purchase the PE Kit that these items can continue to be worn from September 2026 onwards for as long as the children can get use from them.

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.

Wraparound Care

A reminder that the academy operates a full Wraparound Care service both before and after school from Nursery through to Year 6. Please see the Wraparound Care tab of our website for details, including how to make a booking.

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 e-scooters**, must not be ridden anywhere on site; we also ask that anyone who uses a motorised e-scooter takes extra care on Anne's Crescent close to the school gates when children and parents are entering and leaving the site due to the large number of people in that area.

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 on Anne's Crescent, but this is a polite reminder, **please do not obstruct the driveways of residents and please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school gates** – these are placed there by the council to make it safer for your children to cross the road.

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 8.30 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 are opened at 2.40 p.m. and closed at 2.55 p.m. In the interest of safety, we kindly ask that parents switch off their car engines when parked and to remain stationary until the gates are reopened at 3.10 p.m. when all pedestrians have left the site.

One way system

For the benefit of parents new to the academy, we ask all parents in vehicles to maintain a voluntary one-way system around Anne's Crescent both in a morning and at home time. Cars should enter from the Queensway side of Anne's Crescent, and exit the crescent at the other side. This system significantly aids traffic flow, and we are grateful to parents for your ongoing cooperation with this.

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Class Assemblies

A reminder that Class assemblies take place each fortnight on Monday afternoons 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 dates to change due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances and we do not want to inconvenience parents, some of whom may book time off work to attend.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. M. Strong,
Headteacher

Help shape our school, apply to be a Foundation Governor



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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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