



St. Bernadette's Primary School
a Catholic Voluntary Academy,
part of St Hilda's Catholic Academy Trust
Cookgate, Nunthorpe
Middlesbrough, TS7 0PZ
Tel: 01642 310198



E mail: st.bernadettes@mcschools.org.uk
Head Teacher: Mr P Conway Deputy Head Teacher: Miss S Brady
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

We have been delighted to welcome you and your children back to school this week. It has been unusual to have a full first week back at school but the children have hit the ground running!

Everyone is fit, healthy and well rested after a lovely summer holiday. After their staggered start, we will be welcoming all 30 children in our Reception class by Monday.

Thank you for your patience as we await the completion of our new secure office area. We remain hopeful that normal service will resume by Monday 18th September. In the meantime Mrs Day and Mrs Simpson will use the staff room as their temporary office area and Mrs McAvoy will be on hand to manually open the Reception door before and after school.

Staff News

Mrs. Andrews has returned following her maternity leave. She will be teaching in Nursery 3 days a week. As you will be aware, Miss Brady has now begun her new role as Deputy Head Teacher. Miss Dandy and Mrs Harris continue to cover in the absence of our two current maternity leaves: Mrs Whitfield and Mrs Mannion.

Attendance and holiday requests

Our attendance figure for 2016-17 was 96.5%. Our school target is 96.7%. Every school day is precious and pupil leave in term time will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. We thank you in advance for your commitment to your child's education. Mrs Simpson and I track attendance across the year and we call upon the help of an attendance officer should there be an indication of persistent absence or lateness for individual children. For any holiday requests, a form must be used. This is available from the school office, and must be completed and supported by evidence e.g. letters from employers, work rotas, wedding invitations etc. prior to the event. This is for every absence including long weekends or single days. The back of the form outlines the policy on penalty notices.

Uniform

Standard of uniform is, as ever, exceptionally high, thank you - the children look 'as smart as carrots!' Our uniform shows that we are part of St Bernadette's Primary School community, and we have the highest expectations from our students with regards to school uniform. Please can we maintain this high standard and encourage all children to wear their uniform smartly. Please could we ask that particular attention is given to the following:

- All uniform is clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Shirts/blouses to be tucked in.
- Pupils with long hair must be tied back.
- Skirts should be of an appropriate and modest length.
- Haircuts to be appropriate (no tramlines, patterns or sculpting).
- Ties to be worn with shirts.

Mellors School Lunches

As we informed you in July our school dinner services are now provided by Mellors. St Bernadette's has always had an excellent reputation for providing high quality school lunches for the children and our staff. Mrs Martin, our School Cook, continues in her role and the menus are available on the school website and around the school. School will of course still cater for specific dietary requirements that are backed up by an official diagnosis, if you want to discuss this further please contact the school office. **Please can we remind you that the school needs 2 weeks' written notice if your child changes from school dinners to packed lunch or vice versa.**

Earrings

Only small stud earrings are suitable for school. This is to prevent accidents as children are very active at playtimes. Earrings must be removed for PE. Children who have recently had their ears pierced will be given tape to cover their ears before PE lessons. Staff cannot be held responsible for lost earrings.

PE Kits

It is important that our children are ready and equipped for their weekly PE sessions and we have school PE kits for that purpose. Plimsolls should be provided for indoor PE sessions and trainers and appropriate warm clothing for outdoors. We are looking into introducing some new outdoor hoodies for children to wear during the winter months.

Key Stage 2 Schools In / Maths Club

In the good weather children are allowed on the playground from 8.30am. The playground is supervised by a member of teaching staff. Year 3-6 children who attend Maths Club or Schools Out are allowed onto the playground at 8.30am. If you want your child to remain in Maths Club or Schools In until registration at 8.40am please can you advise a member of staff.

Schools Out

Schools Out are seeking donations of unneeded good quality scooters and foot push vehicles for their outdoor provision. If anyone has any goods that would be of use please can you drop them in at the school office.

Booster Seats

If anyone has any booster seats that their children have grown out of we would be grateful if you could donate them to school. Children are occasionally transported to events in cars, and the younger children in particular require the use of a booster seat by law.

Dinner Money

School dinners remain at a cost of £1.90 per day (£9.50 per week). Dinners must be paid for in advance, preferably by ParentPay. If you have forgotten your log in details, or don't have one please see the office staff.

PTA

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the PTA will be held on Monday 18th September at 7.30pm in school. We actively encourage new members and remind you all that you all members of our Parent Teacher association and your support and ideas would be really appreciated. Even if you cannot attend the meeting, we always need more support with organisation of events, please volunteer whenever you can to ensure the vital funds that are raised continue.

The PTA are organising a Welcome weekend on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th September. More details will be provided following the AGM.

Education Mass

Every year Bishop Terry celebrates Mass for our community of schools in St. Mary's Cathedral. This year the Education Mass will take place on Thursday 21st September at 7pm in St. Mary's Cathedral and Bishop Terry extends a welcome to all children and parents.

Parent Teacher Consultations

In November we will hold our Parent / Teacher meetings. Following feedback, we will offer both joint meetings involving your child/parent/teacher or a parent /teacher meeting only. These will take place during the week beginning 6th November; further details will follow in future newsletters.

Extended Schools Activities

As part of a review of extended schools activities, we are seeking ways to improve and extend our provision of extra-curricular activities for KS1/KS2 children. School staff currently offer a range of extended schools clubs and activities (for example, multi-sports, prayer group, cookery club, archery club, card club, etc.) both during lunchtimes and after school. We are looking at ways to complement our already packed programme and would like to know if any parents, carers, grandparents or other friends of the school have a suitable level of skill or relevant qualification and would like to offer their services to run or support an extra-curricular activity. We will consider all suggestions – it would be nice to have any people come forward who can do needlework or woodwork as well as sporting support.

If you think that this is something you would like to get involved in, please contact Mr Bourner, Year 4 class teacher, or the school office.

School Calendar and events

Please find attached the school calendar showing some of major events for the coming year. There are some events which we have not been able to finalise yet. When other events are scheduled during the year, you will receive more detailed information through our monthly newsletters, our website and our eschools messaging services.

Those parents new to school will be issued with a unique code and instructions on how to register to eschools and how to use our Learning Platform. Curriculum and religious education newsletters will be sent out towards the end of September. As a result please can you ensure the school office have your up to date email addresses.

Any families who do not have an email address are able to request paper copies of the newsletters etc.

Trinity Open Evening

As you will be aware, as part of St Hilda's Academy Trust, we work in close partnership with our feeder Catholic Secondary School. We actively encourage all Year 5 and Year 6 parents to visit Trinity College for their Open evening on Wednesday 4th October, 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Thank you

On a personal note, may I say a huge thank you for all the good wishes this week. It is much appreciated and I look forward to working closely with you all in supporting our wonderful children. We are fortunate to have your fantastic support and be assured, as a staff, of our commitment to making your children happy and successful. Finally, I am sure the children will all be tired this weekend, so rest well and recharge your batteries this weekend!

Yours sincerely

Mr. P. Conway
Head Teacher