



St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School

*Learning to grow in knowledge, faith and love through
friendship with Jesus and Mary*

Welcome Booklet for new Reception and Nursery Children





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Welcome to St. Bernadette Early Years Foundation Stage



We provide a vibrant and stimulating environment where children are supported by and educated by highly skilled, dedicated and caring staff. We acknowledge that children learn in different ways and as such we provide a variety of teaching methods to make learning exciting for our children. Extra help is given to pupils who may be experiencing difficulties and more demanding targets are set to extend the more able children. We aim to develop positive attitudes to learning and children receive praise and encouragement at every opportunity



Welcome from Heads



A warm welcome to St Bernadette Catholic primary School where we provide children of nursery and primary school ages a rich and varied education.

We aim for every child to discover their God given gifts and to strive for excellence in all that they do. All our children are taught to live out the values of Jesus Christ and to treat each other with honesty, integrity, compassion and respect. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum; we recognise that every child is unique and created in the image of God.

We are very proud of the family atmosphere that pervades all aspects of school life. We have excellent parental support which we value enormously and a Governing Body which is proactive and supportive. Our whole school community is committed to providing our children with an exciting and stimulating environment where they can flourish and become confident and independent learners -well equipped to be active citizens in the world today.



Attendance Matters

We encourage excellent attendance and punctuality and each week the class with the highest attendance receives our Attendance Award, published on the home page of our website. Of course, if your child is genuinely ill or has an unavoidable appointment, we understand that they cannot be in school.

Absence from School

If your child is absent, a phone call should be made to school on the each day of absence. Any unexplained absence will be reported to the DfE as an “unauthorised absence”.

Parents wishing to take their child to the doctor, dentist, *etc.* during school time, should send an email at least one day in advance or, at short notice, should telephone the school office. Under no circumstances should a parent attempt to remove a child from the school premises without prior permission.

In the event of parents wishing to withdraw children during term time, a request should be made in writing to the Head teacher at least three weeks in advance. Such absences are strongly discouraged as they can prove to be very disruptive to the child’s education and all such absences are reported to the Attendance Improvement Officer.

Permission will not be given for absences for Year 6 children during SATs week. Any absences over 7 days can incur a fine.

MEET THE EYFS TEAM



Mrs. Osgood
Nursery Teacher

Nursery



Mrs. Campenella
Early Years
Practitioner



Miss. Webb
Reception Teacher
and EYFS Leader

Reception



Mrs. Chisholm
Teaching Assistant

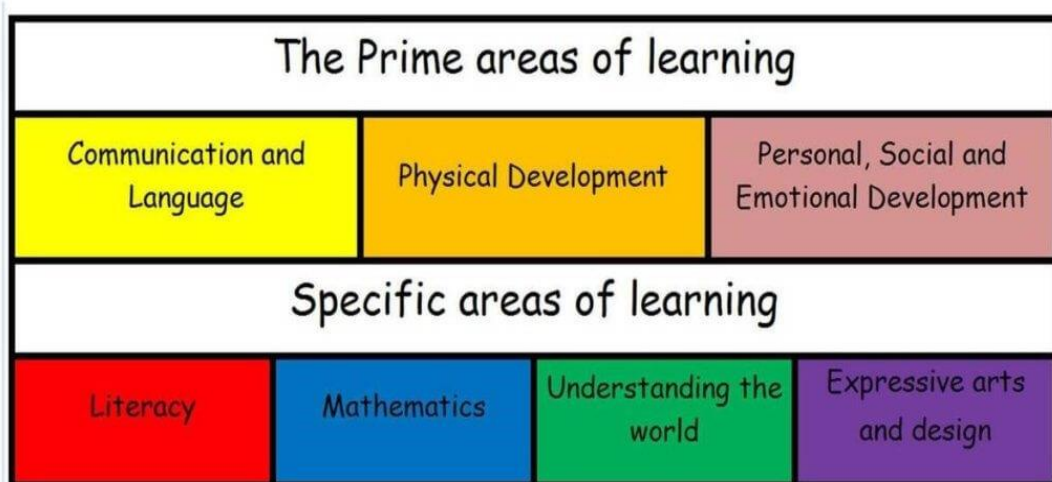
Curriculum

Early years foundation stage

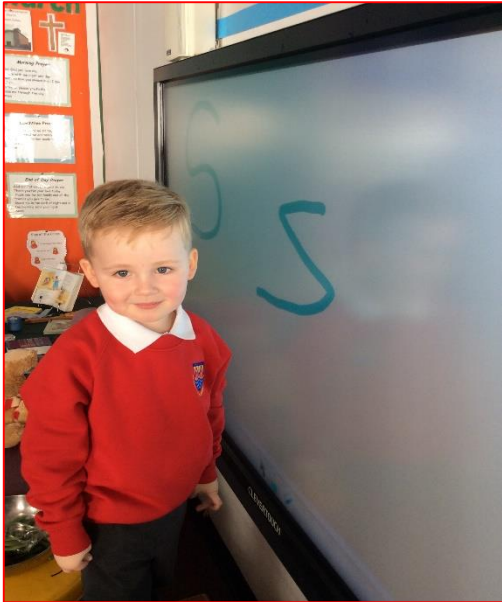
The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old.

All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes. From 2021, there will be some changes although the areas of learning will stay the same.

Early Learning Goals



Curriculum



Letters and Sounds



Gardening



Role-play



Construction

Curriculum



Number Work



Dance



Story Telling



Music

CURRICULUM



Outdoor Art Work



Expressive art and design



Calculation



Writing

CURRICULUM



Religious Education



Communication and Language



Topic



Physical Education



School Dinners

School meals

School meals are provided by Hertfordshire Catering and are cooked on site daily. Alternatively, pupils may bring packed lunches from home - parents are requested to include healthy choices in the lunches and there should be no chocolate or fizzy drinks. The school has a no nuts policy, as there are children in school with life-threatening allergies.

The menu is rotated on a three-weekly basis and comprises a hot meat or fish option, a hot vegetarian option and a sandwich option. The whole menu changes twice a year: the current menu can be downloaded below. To move to school meals or to arrange a trial of school meals, or to change your child's lunch options, please speak to the School Office.

If your child has food allergies or intolerances, the kitchen is unable to serve meals until an individual menu has been agreed with the area manager from Herts Catering Ltd. Please speak to the School Office to set this up.

The current cost of a pupil school meal is £2.30. Invoices are issued half-termly in advance and our preferred means of payment is via the School Gateway - click on the link to the right of this page to go directly to the Gateway login page.

Free School Meals are available for children of families on low incomes. Please click on the link to the right of this page to find out more.

Schools' Fruit and Veg Scheme (SFVS)

Under the SFVS, all children are given a piece of fruit at morning break – the type of fruit varies each day according to the season.

Milk is a vital contributory factor to the growth of good strong bones and teeth and therefore it is important to a growing child. A 189ml carton of milk provides half the daily requirement of calcium of a 6 year old child. (The Dairy Council).

All children at St Bernadette can order milk for morning break. Nursery children and children in Reception who will be four throughout the school term do not pay for school milk; children registered for free school meals are also exempt from payment. Otherwise, there is a termly charge for children who have already had their fifth birthday or pro-rated for children whose birthday falls in the term.

Free Milk

- Free milk is available for all children under the age of five in school, funded by the UK government. Inside the pack, there is a letter explaining this further.
- If you do NOT wish for your child to receive free milk, please visit the website listed on the letter.
- If you are happy for your child to receive free milk, they are automatically registered so you do not need to let us know.
- Once your child turns five, you are able to pay a subsidised rate for your child to continue to receive milk. If you wish for them to continue receiving milk, you must register using the website provided in the letter.





Uniform

All children must wear the full school uniform



Winter Uniform



Summer Uniform

Grey shorts/trousers with socks

Red kilt/grey skirt with socks

Red jumper/cardigan

Red gingham dress for the Summer term and until October half-term

White Shirt

Black sensible shoes (laces) or sandals (no trainers or heeled shoes)

Stockists

[Stevensons in St Albans](#) is the supplier for all school uniform. Winter/Summer Hats, book bags and PE bags and school coats are available from the school office.

Other items are readily available in high street stores.

Footwear should be suitable **low heeled** school shoes or **closed in** sandals. Open toes and sling backs are not allowed for safety reasons. All footwear should have low heels.

For health reasons, trainers are only allowed to be worn for PE and playtimes.



PE Uniform

All children must wear the full school uniform



Red/black plain (no logos) shorts and plain white t-shirt

Drawstring bag

Red sweatshirt with school logo

Black tracksuit bottoms

Trainers or plimsolls for PE



Assemblies, ceremonies and House Points

Cardinal Hume

Cardinal
Murphy
O'Connor

Cardinal
Newman

Cardinal Wolsey

Each child will be put into a house, if they have a sibling in school, they will automatically be allocated to the same house. Children can earn house points for outstanding work and for being kind and a good friend. Once a week, we hold a 'Roll of Honour' assembly where pupils are selected to receive a special certificate for outstanding achievements.

Praying at School



Prayer is a very important part of our curriculum and we teach two RE sessions a week. We say three prayers a day and we join in with whole school worship assemblies. We also attend Mass at Church of Our Lady, St. Mary of Walsingham in London Colney.

Praying at School

Children will learn how to make the sign of the cross. Please see the photographs below to help you.



In the name of the
Father....



and of the son



and of the Holy



Spirit



Amen

Every day, we say three prayers in the class...

- Morning Prayer

“O my God you love me, you are with me night and day,

I want to love you always, in all I do and say, I'll try to please you father, bless me through the day.

Amen.

- Lunch time Prayer

Bless us O Lord as we sit together, bless the food we eat today, bless the hands that made the food, bless us O God.

Amen.

- Home time Prayer

God our Father, I've come to say, thank you for your love today.

Thank you for my family and all the things you give to me.

Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning, send your light.

Amen.



Pupil Premium

At St Bernadette Catholic Primary we are committed to ensuring that each individual pupil receives the very best education allowing them to reach their full potential academically and socially.

Our ethos and learning culture ensures that we have the highest expectations and that we continually strive to ensure that no pupil is left behind.

When deciding how to spend the pupil premium grant it is important that we look at the potential barriers to learning faced by pupil premium pupils in the context of our school. The reasons for underachievement are many and varied and could include; less support at home, leading to reduced appreciation of the value of education; social and emotional difficulties due to complex family situations or attendance and punctuality difficulties. Each child entitled to the pupil premium grant is unique in their situation and our response to their needs must reflect this.

With this in mind, we aim to build the capacity and expertise to enable us to provide a highly personalised programme of support in order to allow each child to reach his/her full potential.

Our key objective in using the pupil premium grant is to narrow the attainment and achievement gap between those entitled to pupil premium and those not. Historically pupils at St. Bernadette achieve and attain well, often at levels higher than those expected nationally. However, there is still a pattern, of pupil premium pupils doing better than other pupil premium pupils nationally but not as well as those who are not entitled to the pupil premium grant. We aim to narrow and even remove this gap.

We will ensure that:

A high profile is given to Disadvantaged Pupils.

All staff are accountable for the progress of Disadvantaged children.

The progress and attainment of all Disadvantaged pupils is carefully tracked and analysed. We also make use of a wide range of educational research in order to decide how best to spend our funding to maximise the opportunities for our pupils.

Our funding priorities for 2018-19 fall into the following areas:

Improved Pupil Feedback: personalised feedback for progress

Teacher Led Intervention: teachers given time to address known barrier.

Collaborative Learning: providing the opportunity for pupils to work in smaller group.

Peer Tutoring and Support: enabling pupils to learn from each other.

Social and Emotional Support: ensuring that children are ready to learn, free from distraction.

Enrichment within and beyond the curriculum: trips, residentials, sport, arts.

Learning and the Curriculum: improving curriculum resources to appeal to the hard to reach.

Support for Parents and Families: holiday activity camps.

Pupil Premium is led by Miss Howard, deputy head teacher.



Tapestry

We use an online learning journal called Tapestry. This is where we gather photos and observations – recording your child's progress in their learning.

We then file the observations and other completed work into a file. This is a working document and it is available to you, your child and any nominated people to look at, at anytime and contribute to.

As this is an online profile we will need your permission to set up your child's account.



Get Ready for Reception

Getting Ready for School

It is nearly time to start school! Here are some things you can practise at home to help you get ready for school.



Self-Care and Independence

- I can wash and dry my hands.
- I can wipe my nose.
- I can put on/fasten my coat and shoes.
- I can use the toilet.
- I am learning to dress/undress – this will help me change for PE.
- I am happy to be away from my parents or carers. I know they will be back soon.



Playing with Others

- I join in games and activities with other people.
- I can share and take turns.

Speaking and Listening

- I can talk about my ideas, needs and feelings.
- I can ask a grown-up for help.
- I can follow simple instructions.

Eating and Drinking

- I can use a spoon, knife and fork.
- I can open my lunch box as well as wrappers and packaging.
- I can drink from a water bottle, carton or open cup.



1 2 3 4 5 Numbers

- I can count a small number of items.
- I like singing number rhymes or songs.
- I am learning to say numbers to ten.
- I can recognise some numbers.

Reading and Writing

- I can recognise/read my name.
- I can hold a pencil to draw.
- I am learning to write my name.
- I enjoy listening to stories and rhymes.



Curriculum

Messy play is an important part of the EYFS and is a sign that lots of learning has taken place! Many of the activities available to the children can involve mess, such as painting, junk modelling and playing in the Mud Kitchen. Aprons are provided at school, however, we ask that you provide your child with a NAMED pair of wellington boots, as these will be required for play in the Mud Kitchen and in puddles during the winter months! These will stay in school for the duration of the year.





Buddies

Each Reception child will be given a Year 6 'Buddy' who they will meet in September. There is time set aside each Friday for buddies to spend time together, this can be playing games, completing activities or taking part in shared reading.

Our buddy scheme has proved to be very popular and can make the Reception children feel welcomed.



Forms to Complete

The forms below have been sent home, can you please send them back to school at your earliest convenience.

The forms to be completed are:

- Tapestry Permission
- Tapestry Login Email Addresses
- Authorised Adults