

# St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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## End of Year Letter ~ Summer 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the academic year comes to an end, I am incredibly proud of everything our children have achieved since September. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your continued support—it makes a real difference. Your children make St Bernadette's such a special place and it has been a joy to watch them grow and shine throughout the year.

Last week, our Year 6 children gave outstanding performances of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies!*, showcasing fantastic acting, singing and teamwork. Their enthusiasm, humour and confidence wowed audiences. This week, we also celebrated our Year 6 children at their Leavers' Mass, and we are immensely proud of all they have achieved, in particular our Key Stage 2 SATs results have exceeded national figures—a fantastic achievement that reflects the hard work, resilience and determination of every child in Year 6. Thank you to Mrs Farrell, the Year 6 team and every member of staff who has supported and inspired our children throughout their journey at St Bernadette's.

| Key Stage 2 SATs Results (Cohort 30) | Reading Avg Scaled Score | Reading At Standard | Reading Greater Depth | Maths Avg Scaled Score | Maths At standard | Maths Greater Depth | Writing (TA) At standard | Writing (TA) Greater Depth | GPS Avg Scaled Score | GPS At Standard | GPS Greater Depth | RWM Combine At standard | RWM Combine Greater Depth | Science |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Test 2026                            | 107.53                   | 96.67%              | 30%                   | 108.97                 | 96.67%            | 46.67%              | 90%                      | 20%                        | 110.87               | 93.33%          | 56.67%            | 86.66%                  | 13.33%                    | 93%     |
| National                             | 106                      | 75%                 | 31%                   | 105                    | 75%               | 27%                 | 73%                      | 13%                        | 105                  | 74%             | 30%               | 63%                     | 9%                        | 82%     |

As we say goodbye to Year 6, we also look forward to welcoming our new Reception children and celebrating the next chapter in our school family. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Brocklehurst, who joins us in September as our new Reception Teacher and Early Years Lead. She is looking forward to welcoming many of our Nursery children into Reception as they begin the next exciting stage of their learning journey. Our Nursery Graduation was a wonderful reminder of how much our youngest children have grown, and we wish every child the very best as they move on to their next adventure.

*Growing Together in Faith, Love & Learning*

## **Staffing Update**

I would just like to thank all the staff and governors for their hard work and commitment to make St. Bernadette's the best possible experience for the children. All our staff are dedicated to ensuring each and every child is able to flourish, however we are all ready for some rest and relaxation now after another very busy year!

We are saying goodbye to two valued members of our St Bernadette's family. We wish Mrs Simmonite every success as she begins an exciting new chapter in headship and thank her for her dedicated leadership as our seconded Deputy Headteacher and Early Years Leader. We also thank Miss Whalley, who is leaving to prioritise her family, for her commitment to Year 2 and her support in Breakfast Club and the Butterfly Room. We are grateful for everything they have given to St Bernadette's and wish them both every happiness and success in the future.

## **Arbor**

From September 2026, all bookings and payments for extra-curricular clubs, school trips and educational visits will be managed through Arbor. Please keep an eye out for communications and ensure you are signed up so you can book and pay for activities easily.

## **Free School Meals**

The Government has introduced changes to Free School Meals from September 2026. As a result, **ALL** families must complete a new application so that eligibility can be checked for the 2026–2027 school year, even if your child currently receives Free School Meals.

We are asking every family to complete the online form: [Apply for Free School Meals](#)

Once this has been done, checks can continue to be carried out on your behalf without the need to reapply.

**\*\*\* Please note that if no application is made, your child will not receive Free School Meals from September 2026, even if they are currently entitled. \*\*\***

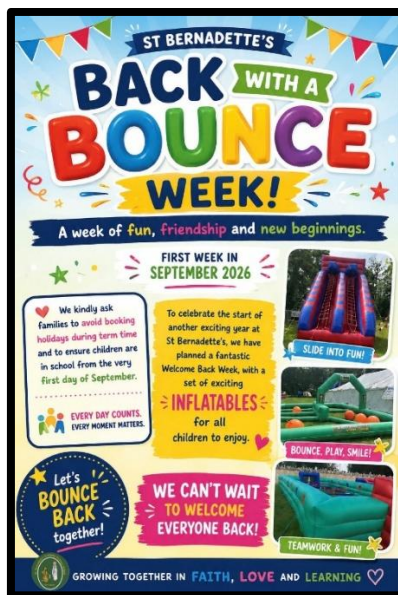
The application only takes a few minutes to complete and requires your name, date of birth and National Insurance number. If you need any help accessing or completing the form, please contact the school office and we will complete it with you. We encourage families to complete the application as soon as possible so that eligibility can be confirmed in good time for the new academic year.

## **Attendance**

As a school, we are proud to have ended the year with an attendance rate of just below 96%, which is above the national average. This is amazing news and we thank our parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly and do not miss valuable learning time.

**We would like to take this opportunity to remind families that holidays should not be taken during term time and any requests for leave must be made by completing an absence request form, available by making an appointment with Mrs Crowder.**

To celebrate the start of another exciting year at St Bernadette's, we have planned a fantastic 'Back with a Bounce' Week, with a set of exciting inflatables for all children to enjoy. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for a fun-filled start to the year and thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority.



## Uniform

As we reach the end of the year and parents will be buying new uniform, I would like to take the opportunity to revisit the uniform expectations. Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps children to feel pride in our school.

Our PE kit uniform includes plain black joggers, shorts or leggings and a plain black hoodie. No sports logos or branded clothes at all please. Some children are currently wearing a range of sports clothing on their PE day, which is not in line with our school uniform. Many thanks for your help with this.

## Summer Building Work

Over the summer holidays, building work improvements will take place across the school and in Key Stage 1 classes. We look forward to welcoming the children back to these new learning environments in September!

Many of these improvements are only possible thanks to the generosity of our families through the Archdiocese School Levy. At the start of each school year, we ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 per family. This summer project is a great example of how your support directly benefits our children and school. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## PE Days

Please see below for the PE days for the autumn term. Children are asked to wear their PE kits on swimming days. **The children will not be doing PE on the first day back (Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September), so they can all wear full school uniform.**

| Year Group | PE Days                                                                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reception  | Friday                                                                 |
| Year 1     | Tuesday and Wednesday                                                  |
| Year 2     | Tuesday and Friday                                                     |
| Year 3     | Monday and Thursday                                                    |
| Year 4     | Monday and Friday                                                      |
| Year 5     | Wednesday and Thursday                                                 |
| Year 6     | Wednesday and swimming on a Tuesday (start September 8 <sup>th</sup> ) |

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming you back on **Wednesday 2nd September** (*Reception new starters will begin their staggered starts on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and all Nursery children return on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September*) when we open for the start of the Autumn term. A list of key dates for next year is below to help with any organisation.

Yours Faithfully,

H Crowder

Mrs. Helen Crowder

Headteacher

**Provisional Key Dates ~ Autumn Term 2026 (more information to follow)**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – KS1 and KS2 children return to school for Autumn Term**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Nursery children return**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Reception staggered starts begins**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening at 6:00pm (*staff from St. Peter’s will be attending Year 6*)**

**w.c. 7<sup>th</sup> September – Musical instrument lesson start**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 swimming starts**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 attend St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am Mass**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Stay and Play Nature Hub returns 9:30am – 11:00am**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September – FOSB meeting**

**w.c. 14<sup>th</sup> September – Extra-Curricular clubs start**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Year 5 attend St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am Mass**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Year 5 Residential Information Evening at 5:00pm**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Year 4 attend St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am Mass**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Reception Tea Party afternoon – *parents and carers invited***

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 Rosary Class Worship 9:10am – *parents and carers invited***

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Year 3 attend St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am Mass**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September – New Reception Class Welcome Worship 9:15am - *parents and carers invited***

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 St Peter’s Open Evening**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Year 5 Residential to Anderton Centre**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4 First Holy Communion first session 6:00pm St Bernadette’s Church – *parents and carers invited***

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Year 2 attend St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am Mass**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Community Breakfast 8:00am – 9:30am – everyone welcome**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Year 6 Residential Information Evening at 5:00pm**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Year 1 attend St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am Mass**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – St Bernadette’s Catholic Primary School Open Day**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Number Day / Timetable Rockstars Day**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Reception attends St Bernadette’s Church 9:15am Mass**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Reception and Year 1 Balance-Bike-Ability**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Nursery Parents’ Evening from 1:00pm**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Reception – Year 6 Parents’ Evening from 1:00pm**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Year 2 Harvest Celebration 9:10am - *parents and carers invited***

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - School closes at 3.20pm for half term**



**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - School re-opens for 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Autumn Term**  
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Residential to Robinwood**  
**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Provisional date for flu vaccinations – Round 1 of 2**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Remembrance Reflection 9:10am - *parents and carers invited***  
**w.c. 9<sup>th</sup> November – ‘Growing Together in.....’ parent workshops with children in school time**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Colour Day!**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – School Photo Day**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November - Provisional date for flu vaccinations – Round 2 of 2 catch up**  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2 trip to Fireground Museum, Rochdale**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Year 3 Advent Reflection 9:10am - *parents and carers invited***  
**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Year 4 Christmas Lights Assembly 9:10am - *parents and carers invited***  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Year 5 Advent Reflection 9:10am - *parents and carers invited***  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 9:15am and Year 2 9:45am music performance**  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Year 6 Advent Reflection 9:10am - *parents and carers invited***  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Reception and Year 1 Nativity 2:00pm and 6:00pm**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 Christingle 9:10am**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Nursery Nativity 2:00pm**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – School party day**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Carols Around the Christmas Tree 2:45pm (doors open 2:30pm)**  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Finish for Christmas 2:00pm (no after school club)**

**Next STAGE Performing Arts**

**YOUNG ACTORS INTENSIVE**  
2-DAY SUMMER SCHOOL FOR AGES 6-11  
CREATE. PERFORM. SHINE.  
A fun, exciting and inspiring actor training experience for young performers!

**NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**  
JUST BRING YOUR IMAGINATION!

**CHOOSE YOUR VENUE**

|                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, WESTHOUGHTON</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> &amp; FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST</b></p> <p>09:30 – 15:30</p> | <p><b>ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHEVINGTON</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> &amp; FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST</b></p> <p>09:30 – 15:30</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**DAY 1**  
CHARACTER, MOVEMENT & IMPROVISATION

- Create original characters
- Movement & physical theatre
- Improvisation & spontaneity
- Devised scenes & teamwork
- Confidence, creativity & fun!

**DAY 2**  
SCREEN ACTING & ACTING FOR CAMERA

- Acting for the camera
- Emotional reactions & listening
- Focus, truth & natural performance
- Rehearse & film mini scenes
- Watch your scenes come to life!

**CHILDREN WILL DEVELOP:**

- Confidence & self-belief
- Communication & teamwork
- Creativity & imagination
- Performance skills
- New friendships
- Lots of fun!

**LEARN! PLAY! PERFORM! SHINE!**

**TWO FULL DAYS**  
Packed with creativity, learning and fun!

**AGES 6-11**  
Boys and girls welcome

**SAFE, SUPPORTIVE & INSPIRING**  
A positive environment where every child can shine

**PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT & FILMING**  
Using industry-standard cameras from DLA

**MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME!**

**INVESTMENT £65 PER CHILD**  
**SIBLINGS £55 PER CHILD**

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**BE BOLD. BE BRAVE. BE YOU. ♥**

**Growing Together in Faith, Love & Learning**