



From Our Head Teacher

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome you all back after the summer holidays. A special welcome is extended to all of our new children and families, we hope that you feel at home at St Bernadette's. Fr Anthony helped us celebrate the start of the school year with mass last week. This was a joyful occasion centring us in the love and support of Jesus as we begin the academic year.

It has been a very busy summer with new ceilings and lighting installed across the EYFS and KS1 classrooms and corridor. We aim to improve the ceilings and lighting in other parts of the school but will continue to need your help. These improvements are a direct result of your contributions to the diocesan building. If you do not already donate, please consider doing so by visiting the school website [School Building Fund](#)

An area in Farnborough will receive up to £20 million over ten years, from the Government. St Bernadette's sits within this area. This is called a Pride in Place programme, the aim of the programme is:

- To build stronger communities*
- To create thriving places*
- To empower people to take back control*

Community engagement is key to delivering the Pride in Place programme and residents need to be involved in every step. As part of the programme, Rushmoor Borough Council is supporting the Neighbourhood Board to deliver the aims, and gather information about the area, so the right decisions are made. Please use this link to make your thoughts and views known. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RBCPIP2026>

We rely heavily on the support that the Friends of St Bernadette's gives to the school. The small group of committed volunteers help run a number of events that directly contribute to the experiences that we can offer the children. Please consider offering your time and energy as many hands make light work.

I look forward to seeing you at the curriculum meetings that are being held this Wednesday.

With my very best wishes,

Mr Lynch



SENDCo Team

Mrs Tyas is our new school SEN Co-Ordinator and if you have any concerns about your child, please book a meeting with her via email on sendco@st-bernadettes.hants.sch.uk

Please also see the link below for the CAMHS website which has lots of information:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/drop-in-sessions-aug26/>

We are looking forward to having a wonderful new term!

Breakfast and After School Club

The Breakfast Club and After School Club are open from Monday to Friday term time only. Mrs Dias, Mrs Bennet and Miss Rai run the clubs and there are many activities, games and themed days to enjoy.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club opens from 8:00 am.

The cost per session is £3.50, all payments need to be done via Arbor. You do not need to book for Breakfast Club.

After School Club

After School Club will operate from 3:20pm to 6:00pm. The cost per booking is £10.50, however you can collect your child anytime between 3:20pm and 6:00pm, snacks are served at 4:30pm

Please book Arbor in advance, the cut off for booking is 48 hours. If you cancel within 24 hours you will incur the cost. We are still able to take Ad Hoc bookings.

Please note late collection fees are £5.00 plus £5.00 per 5 minutes after 6:00pm.



DIOCESAN BUILDING FUND



Support St Bernadette's – Help Build Their Future for a Better Future of our School

The Building Fund plays a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the school facilities at St Bernadette's. Your support is key to keeping our school a safe and inspiring place for all students.

As a voluntary-aided Catholic school, we rely on contributions from parents to meet 10% of building costs. Contributions from parents help fund important projects like classroom upgrades and keeping our school facilities in the best condition for current and future students.

In the past St Bernadette's have benefited from a number of projects which have been funded through the Diocesan Building fund scheme. These have included: Essential roof repairs and installation of new windows, toilet refurbishment and new lighting.

We ask parents for a donation of just £45 per child for the school year or £15 per term, an affordable way to support vital improvements to your child's school environment. Please make your payment via Arbor or at the school office. Every contribution counts and we simply can't do it without you.

Gift Aid: If you are a tax payer, please do also sign the gift aid form, this is available from our school website or the school office. This allows us to claim an extra 25p for every £1.00 donated.

Curriculum Meetings

On **Wednesday 16th September** we will be holding our curriculum meetings, please see times below. Each class teacher will present key information about their year group, curriculum and assessments. All years will present this information twice so you can choose which meeting to attend. This is also a good opportunity to see your child's classroom. If you are unable to make the meetings, the power points will be available to view on the school website by Friday 18th September.

Class	Teachers	Times
Year R Shakespeare Class	Mrs Matthews and Mrs Dickinson	3:30pm to 4:00pm 4:15pm to 4:45pm
Year 1 Seacole Class	Mrs Grier and Mrs Lowdon	3:30pm to 4:00pm 4:15pm to 4:45pm
Year 2 Anning Class	Miss Ryan	3:30pm to 4:00pm 4:15pm to 4:45pm
Year 3 Parks Class	Ms McCue	3:30pm to 4:00pm 4:15pm to 4:45pm
Year 4 Einstein Class	Mrs Coetzee	3:30pm to 4:00pm 4:15pm to 4:45pm
Year 5 Armstrong Class	Miss Huggins	3:30pm to 4:00pm 4:15pm to 4:45pm
Year 6 Mandela Class	Mrs Pearce	3:30pm to 4:00pm 4:15pm to 4:45pm

School Procedures

Daily

The School gates open each morning at 8:40 am to allow you 10 minutes to drop off. Please do not leave your child at the gate as they will be unsupervised and are still your responsibility.

It is extremely important that the children are in class by 8:50 am, ensuring that they do not miss a vital part of the school day. We would ask for your help in encouraging your child to come into their class independently and take responsibility for their own belongings. If you do need to enter the school building in the morning please do so via the school office, before or after you have dropped your child at their classroom.

For afternoon collection the gates will open at 3:20 pm, if your child is not collected by 3:30 pm they will be taken to after school club and you will incur a charge.

School Security

If you need to come into school, please report to the school office. This is for the safety of our pupils, staff and visitors.

Walking Home/Collections

If you have arranged for your child to be collected by someone other than yourself at the end of the school day, please inform the school office at the earliest possible time via telephone and email, so that teachers may be informed.

For Year 6 children, if you have arranged at the end of the school day to meet them in a place other than their classroom door, for example the school gate, please make sure this is put in writing and sent via email to adminoffice@st-bernadettes.hants.sch.uk and we will let the class teacher know this arrangement. This also applies if your child has your permission to walk or cycle home alone at the end of the day, please make sure this is put in writing.

Absence

If Your child is absent from school through illness, it is vital that you contact the school before 9:30am and leave a message on the dedicated absence line. After 9:30am, we will contact you to ascertain a reason for the absence.

Wherever possible please try and arrange medical or dental appointments after school or during holiday periods. If such an appointment is unavoidable during school time, please email your request to the school office adminoffice@st-bernadettes.hants.sch.uk who will forward the information to the class teacher.

Lateness/Punctuality

It is important to be on time at the start of the morning and afternoon school sessions. The start of school/lessons are used to give out instructions or organise work. If your child is late they can miss work, time with their class teacher getting vital information, cause disruption to the lesson for others, and can be embarrassing leading to possible further absence.

- The school day begins at 8.50 am and all pupils are expected to be in school at the time.
- All lateness is recorded daily. This information will be required by the courts, should a prosecution for non-attendance or lateness be necessary
- Arrival between 8:50am and 9:10 am will be marked with a late code 'L' and after the close of registration at 9:10am there will be a mark of unauthorised absence code 'U' in line with county and Department for Education (DfE) guidance. This mark shows them to be on site, but is legally recorded as an absence.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure their children attend school. Term dates are provided well in advance; please make a note of them and do not book holidays or travel during term time

Leave of Absence

Any application for absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances such as bereavement or family trauma. Cheaper flights, family celebrations and routine visits to see family members are not exceptional circumstances.

Any application for leave of absence must be made using the leave of absence form which is available from the school office.

We are obliged to issue Penalty Notices for all unauthorised absences of 5 days or more. The penalty is currently £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days of the issue of the notice or £160 if paid within 22-28 days. Penalty notices will be enforced by Hampshire County Council through the courts so please avoid booking holidays in term time. Only genuinely exceptional circumstances which cannot have been foreseen or avoided will be authorised.

Medication

All medication should be handed into the school office, accompanied by a medical form.

Medication needs to be in its original packaging and prescribed by a GP with the child's name clearly visible. Please **DO NOT** send any medication into the class with your child.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please check our website for up to date uniform and PE Kit information:

<https://www.st-bernadettes.hants.sch.uk/uniform-1/>

Hair: School is a working environment, therefore we wish to discourage elaborate hair styles, colours and the over use of hair gel is not allowed. Please ensure that long hair is tied back and any hair bands are of the soft variety in school colours. If you have allowed your child to follow a hair related fashion craze over the summer, please ensure their hair is returned to a smart appearance for school.

Jewellery: For health and safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn in school. The exceptions are watches and small, plain stud earrings. No decorative earrings are to be worn. All earrings and watches must be removed for PE and games by the child or taped over before coming to school. Staff are not permitted to remove earrings. It is wise to encourage your child to get into the habit of not wearing watches or earrings on PE days.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches: Phones are only allowed to be brought in by Year 6 if your child is walking/cycling home alone, they must be switched off and handed into the school office by your child in the morning. Please make sure this arrangement is put in writing. Smart Watches are not allowed in school.

A REMINDER OF PE DAYS

PE Day

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 (KS2) Tuesday Reception,

Year 1 and 2 (KS1) Wednesday

PE Day

Children are to wear their PE kit into school (except Year R) on the day they have PE. School jumpers and cardigans can also be worn. Please can we ask that PE kit is non branded

School Meals/ Dinner Money

Edwards and Ward provides a nutritionally balanced healthy meal. These are set meals and choice is limited to the main meal, a vegetarian option plus a third option on alternate days of Tomato Pasta and Jacket Potato

Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a school meal, free of charge. Once the children go into Key Stage 2, dinners are no longer free unless you are entitled to Free School Meals. Please order dinners on Arbor.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Dinner is £3.30 per day/£16.50 per week. We are unable to extend credit for any school dinners. Should dinner money become outstanding for payment, you will be requested to provide packed lunches for your child. To avoid mutual embarrassment please do not let this situation arise. Please order dinners on Arbor.

Free School Meals

You can now check online if you are entitled to Free School Meals and make an application. If you think you may qualify for Free School Meals please go to; <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/> The school is able to access additional funding if you are successful in your application. Please check your entitlement even if you are taking advantage of the government's free Key Stage 1 meal provision. For more information please feel free to call the school office and speak with Mrs Dale.

Edwards and Ward Special Diet Link

If your child has a special dietary requirement due to a diagnosed allergy, intolerance or medical condition please let the school office know, and register your child's details on the link below for Edwards and Ward special diets: <https://edwardsandward.co.uk/special-diets/>



Cool Milk

FREE for children under the age of five,

FREE to children receiving or entitled to statutory free school meals Subsidised for all other children in primary education

Go online and quickly register your child for school milk at
www.coolmilk.com

Milk orders need to be done before Tuesdays at 5pm milk will then be provided from the following week.

	4 th September 2026	Charism Character Awards
Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Freddie	For demonstrating perseverance drawing his brain in our Happy Mind lesson
Year 2 Anning Miss Ryan	Hughie	For demonstrating compassion toward his peers, supporting them by sharing tools – to get the in the green zone!
Year 3 Ms McCue	Albie	For demonstrating perseverance. You have tried so hard this week and have made excellent choices. Well done!
Year 4 Mrs Coetzee	Daisy	For demonstrating compassion and being a good friend to others.
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Kolbi	For demonstrating courage during our class speeches. He spoke beautifully. Well done!
Year 6 Mrs Pearce	Oscar	For demonstrating perseverance every day this week and for tackling every activity with a positive attitude.

	4 th September 2026	Mission Maker Award
Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Aeres	For demonstrating the passion to learn, working hard writing about her summer holidays.
Year 2 Anning Miss Ryan	Gwendolen	For demonstrating the passion to learn by listening to and following the leaders in school
Year 3 Ms McCue	Caoimhe	For demonstrating the passion to learn. You have made great choices this week and really engaged in our lessons. Well done
Year 4 Mrs Coetzee	William	For demonstrating the passion to learn every day!
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Oliver	For demonstrating the passion to learn. He has worked really hard this week and did not give up when things were challenging.
Year 6 Mrs Pearce	Daniel	For demonstrating the passion to learn and not giving up when it may have been tricky.

	11th September 2026	Charism Character Awards
Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Cosmo	For demonstrating preservice when writing his footprint in RE
Year 2 Anning Miss Ryan	Logan	For demonstrating perseverance even when he struggled to see that his fantastic fails would lead into super successes!
Year 3 Ms McCue	Leo	For demonstrating perseverance. You have worked so hard this week and have engaged positively in all of your learning. Great job!
Year 4 Mrs Coetzee	Jason	For demonstrating perseverance. You have worked so hard this week.
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Emmanuel	For demonstrating courage this week. After a class conversation about being brave and putting your hand up you have worked super hard to engage in lessons.
Year 6 Mrs Pearce	Chiedza	For demonstrating perseverance when working through maths problems along with working hard in all subjects.

	11th September 2026	Mission Maker Award
Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Sumaiya	For demonstrating the strength to love always a kind and helpful friend.
Year 2 Anning Miss Ryan	Reeyan	For demonstrating the passion to learn in all subjects!
Year 3 Ms McCue	John	For demonstrating the passion to learn. You are always focused and hard working. Well done!
Year 4 Mrs Coetzee	Scarlett	For demonstrating the passion to learn. You were focused, calm and ready to learn this week
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Eva	For demonstrating the passion to learn in English. You did a brilliant job at upgrading our simple sentences. Well done!
Year 6 Mrs Pearce	Nuwair	For demonstrating the passion to learn. You wrote a fantastic speech, using all the techniques and delivered it confidently.