



FROM OUR HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back after the summer holidays. It has been fantastic catching up with the children and seeing how swiftly they have settled into their new classes. In particular we welcome new pupils and their families across the school to our community.

Fr. Anthony celebrated a wonderful start of term Mass last Thursday. The children were exemplary and it was a fitting start to this academic year.

Over the summer holidays all of the children's toilets across the school have been refurbished. These are an incredible improvement on what was previously there. This was made possible due to your contributions to the Diocesan Schools' Building Fund - thank you ever so much. Please can I ask that you all continue to contribute so that we can continue to enhance the buildings and improve the environment for all the children who attend St Bernadette's.

I look forward to seeing you at the start of the day or at any of the events being held this term. Please ensure you keep checking the school diary on the website.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Lynch

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 Mrs Agius run the clubs and there are many activities, games and themed days to enjoy.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be open from 8.00 a.m. and is held in the new room (Old Year 5 Class)

The cost per session is £2.50, 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 – 6.00pm in the new room (Old Year 5 Class) The cost per booking is £10.00, however you can collect your child anytime between 3:20pm and 6:00pm, snacks are served at 4:30pm.

Please book on 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





KS1 Toilets



In KS1 and KS2 the toilets received a whole new refurbishment over the summer.



KS2 Toilets



DIOCESAN BUILDING FUND



Support St Bernadette's - Help Build Their Future and a Better Future for 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 and most recently our new toilet refurbishment.

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.

SENDCo Team

A huge welcome from the SEND Team!

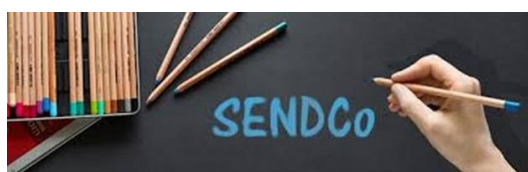
We are so happy to see all the children back, happy and ready to learn!

There are many family-friendly events happening right now all over Hampshire, so please have a look here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/events?keywords=&page=1>

If you have any concerns about your child, please book a meeting with the SENDCo via the school office.

Have a lovely new term!



Curriculum Meetings

On **Wednesday 17th 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 on Thursday 18th September.

Shakespeare Year R	Mrs Matthews and Mrs Dickinson	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm
Seacole Year 1	Mrs Grier and Mrs Lowdon	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm
Anning Year 2	Miss Hyatt	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm
Parks Year 3	Ms McCue	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm
Einstein Year 4	Mrs Cotzee	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm
Armstrong Year 5	Miss Huggins	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm
Mandela Year 6	Miss Parkinson	3:30 pm to 4:00 pm 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm

Year 7 Admissions

For more information go to
www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

Applications are now open

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 31ST OCTOBER 2025

Starting School in September

For more information go to
www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

Applications open for Hampshire residents

on 1 November 2025

**THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
15th January 2026**

Daily Procedures

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 school 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.

Absences

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.

A REMINDER OF PE DAYS

PE DAY

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

Reception, Year 1 and 2 (KS1) Wednesday

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 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.

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 £3.20 per day/£16.00 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 or Mrs Dias.

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.

Friday	12th September 2025	 Charism Character Awards
Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Hughie	For demonstrating compassion, always a kind and helpful friend.
Year 2 Anning Miss Hyatt	Lucian	For demonstrating perseverance this week by not giving up on his writing when it got tricky.
Year 3 Parks Miss McCue	Jessica	For demonstrating compassion by helping her peers and the adults in class and always being supportive and kind. Well done!
Year 4 Einstein Mrs Coatzee	Isabella	For demonstrating compassion by being a helpful and supportive member of Einstein class and showing excellent sharing skills. Well done!
Year 5 Armstrong Miss Huggins	Kuba	For demonstrating compassion by always helping his classmates when they need support.
Year 6 Mandela Miss Parkinson	Kieran	For demonstrating courage when returning to school from the Summer Holidays and having a fantastic attitude towards your learning – an amazing start to Year 6, well done!

Friday	12th September 2025	 Mission Maker Award
Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Erica	For demonstrating the passion to learn in History exploring old and new toys.
Year 2 Anning Miss Hyatt	Aleyssa	For demonstrating the courage to fail when she found it tricky writing lots of her predictions
Year 3 Parks Miss McCue	William	For demonstrating the passion to learn by really engaging in lessons and having lots of extra interesting facts and ideas. Well done!
Year 4 Einstein Mrs Coatzee	Aldo	For demonstrating the passion to learn by really engaging in his lessons and putting his hand up to answer questions. Well done!
Year 5 Armstrong Miss Huggins	Oscar	For demonstrating the passion to learn in class by always taking part in group discussions and being willing to participate in class conversations.
Year 6 Mandela Miss Parkinson	Emily	For demonstrating the passion to learn in all subjects from the very start of Year 6, by sharing prior knowledge and participating brilliantly in all class discussions!

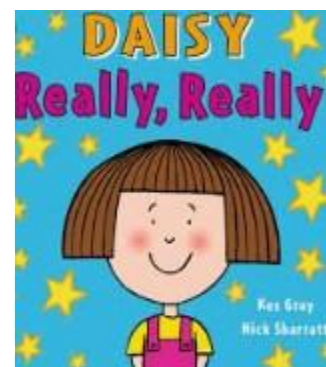
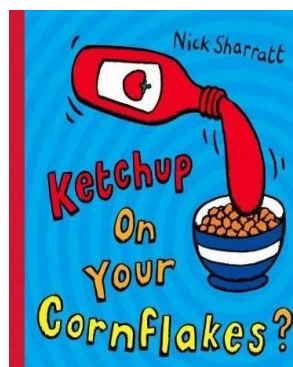
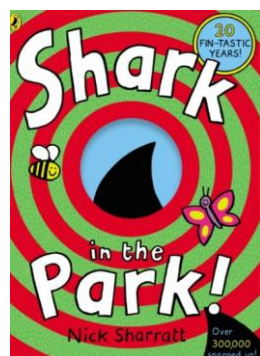
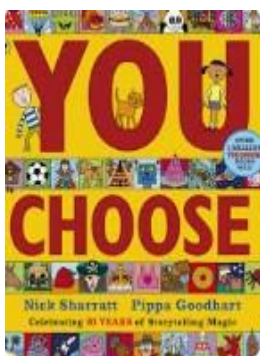
Author of the Month September

Nick Sharratt



Nick Sharratt is a well-loved children's book author and illustrator known for his bright, bold pictures and funny stories! He's famous for working with popular authors like Jacqueline Wilson and Jeremy Strong, but he also writes and illustrates his own books, like the popular "Shark in the Park". He was born in London in 1962 and loves drawing! He's used his love

Books by this author:



To learn more about Nick Sharatt and his books, click on the link below.

<https://www.nicksharratt.com/>