

## St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School

*Live the Gospel and when necessary use words*



# Bernadette's Blog

## Mrs Fallon writes...

I'm not sure we ever felt this day would arrive but we have finally made it to the end of our first term in school post lockdown and what a term it has been!

However, it is important I take this opportunity to thank the children for their great effort and achievements but 'thank you' just doesn't seem enough. The staff are so incredibly proud of each and every one of them for the way in way they have embraced our new school life. Their exemplary behaviour, commitment to learning and generally brilliant attitude has meant the term has been very smooth for all of us and for that we are extremely grateful. I feel that the ethos of our school and happiness of the children has been captured beautifully in this year's Christmas performance and I must extend a very special thanks to the staff and in particular Mrs Milner for her insight and energy to plan and organise such a beautiful keepsake for the children, parents and staff.

As always, I would like to extend a very special thank you and huge well done to all of the children in Early Years. We have been astounded at how well they have returned and settled into school. Even though we are all in separate bubbles, the confidence and huge personalities of our youngest children are certainly shining through..... this was particularly evident in their recent Nativity performance. The children are rarely in the hall and yet they donned their costumes, learnt their dances, their lines and shone in front of the camera with a confidence that we are excited to see blossom over their years with us at St. Bernadette's. Well done Nursery and Reception, you are all superstars!

Spiritually, we have been preparing for Christmas through our bubble liturgies and our Advent mission — Advent Angels; Heralds of Hope and what an absolute privilege for all of the staff to watch how the children have risen brilliantly to the challenge once again.

Every year, we are astounded by their thoughtfulness, generosity and big hearts which again have touched the hearts of many as the pupils of St. Bernadette's demonstrate how to put their faith into action. Another group of pupils putting their faith into action this term were the pupils in Year 5 who made their First Holy Communion. A special thanks to Fr John and his dedicated team for ensuring this special occasion could still be marked for pupils in such challenging circumstances.

This term has been particularly challenging for us all but as a school, we feel blessed by the level of support we have received from parents and for that I would like to extend a very warm thanks from all of the staff to you. We appreciate this has been a difficult term for you too and there have been lots of changes to adapt to but your patience, support, kind words and messages really do have a huge impact on staff. So, thank you!

Finally, the end of term, though filled with joy, is also touched with sadness for us. Mrs Cairns, who you will have all met along the way via any communication you have had with the school office will be leaving us to take up a new role as Super Gran for her beautiful Grandson - a role which we know she will excel at! Mrs Cairns is one of those Pritt Stick type of people - she keeps us all together so it will certainly be difficult for us to adapt to life without her! But, we wish her every best wish for her new chapter.

So, on behalf of the Governors and all of the staff, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. I hope you all manage to rest, recover and spend some time with your loved ones!

# Advent Angels

## "Advent Angels - Heralds of Hope"

Our 2020 Advent Project has been a great success!

Seen here are just a few of the posts we have had this week on our Facebook page.

Special thanks must go out to

Mrs T. Walker and

Mrs S. Armstrong for all the help they have given creating the items sent home during this Advent time.

This week the children have been busy putting their Christmas

on film for all their mums and dads and grandparents to enjoy.

Thanks to all the staff, especially Mrs Milner for yet again stepping up and making it happen in these Covid times.

More thanks go to Abby who

choreographed the dances, Richard and Sophie from Von Fox Promotions who did a great job filming us and Mrs Rudd for coming into school to help with the music.

Together with our fantastic pupils you made some Christmas magic!

Thank you Ann for getting in touch - we share your pride in Jamie. Please pass on our condolences to Sheila and let her know we will say a prayer for her in school this week. 💜💜💜

"Thank You St Bernadette's, Jamie McGhie's Angel this week is going to his Great Aunt Sheila who lost her Husband in September and is struggling to come to terms with it, this will lift her spirits I'm sure. x"



Just wanted to say thank you so much to the staff and children of St Bernadette's, I was absolutely thrilled and so grateful to receive a very special gift today!

Advent Angels were given to Fr John, Rosie, Tracey and me by one of our parish families this morning. A huge thank you to Sophie and the rest of the Summers/McKenzie gang! ❤️

Another lovely message that I'm sure resonates with so many of you. The efforts Dance Teachers, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Football, Rugby and Swimming Clubs and the like went to over lockdown to keep their communities together was fantastic. We hope and pray that 2021 brings normality for all of these things that we know our children love so much. Thank you Freya and Miss Jill. 💜💜💜

"Freya gave her Advent Angel to her dance teacher Miss Jill for all the encouragement she has given her dancers throughout the year with online classes and challenges. Also as a symbol of Hope as the dance school would normally be working hard in panto, with this weekend being opening weekend, but sadly not this year but hopefully next xx"

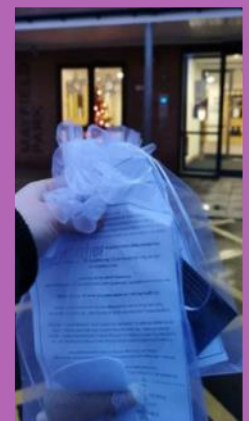


Matthew gave his angel to his Nanna who is always there for our family. Here it is beside Nanna and Grandpa's nativity scene which is over 80 years old it is very special to our family.

Another special message from a special young man. Our hopes and prayers are with you for your road to recovery. 💜💜💜

"Oilly gave me his angel tonight to give me hope. After a rough few weeks Oilly is hoping that i can now be on the road to recovery and have a better year next year. The angel has really lifted my spirits."

📺 Showing the true spirit of our Advent Projects. We may never know the final destination of these angels but we know that there message of Hope will not be diminished. Thank you so much Maya and Kacper, in today's circumstances we couldn't think of a more appropriate place to leave your angels! 💜💜💜 "We haven't got any family here to leave the angels with but we've decided to leave them at local Care home for someone to find. I'm sure there will be someone who will appreciate the message from Kacper and Maya 🥺🥺"





# Christmas Counts



## The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,  
A long, long time ago,  
Begins the story of a baby,  
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,  
And Mary was His mom,  
This babe was very special  
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,  
And they began to sing,  
To the shepherds in the fields below,  
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,  
To light the magi's way,  
To the baby in the manger  
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,  
Rejoiced and praised His birth,  
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,  
Is our Saviour here on earth!





# A Dance of Joy



# A Tale of Hope





# Year 2 Party Time!



A group of children in a school hall, some sitting on the floor and others standing, during a Christmas assembly. The hall has a red wall with a banner that says "Merry Christmas" and a large Christmas tree on the left. The children are dressed in formal attire, and the floor is covered with a patterned carpet.





# Goodbye Mrs Cairns



It is with huge sadness that today we shall say a very fond farewell to Mrs Cairns, from our school office.

Since, July 2014, she has worked tirelessly to help our pupils, parents and staff with so, so many tasks-it would be impossible to list them! Always with a smile!

A much loved colleague and friend, we wish her every happiness in her new role, looking after baby Thomas.

He is a very lucky lad!

We shall miss you!



## Breakfast and After School Clubs

### Important message from Miss Coates

Any queries you may have **MUST** please be directed to

**[oosc@st-bernadettesprimary.co.uk](mailto:oosc@st-bernadettesprimary.co.uk)**

Please remember to contact this email with cancellations and late bookings if required but numbers are limited. Miss Coates will reply from here but please check your junk mail for responses.

Thank you!

## Primary School Menu 2021



WEEK 1					
MAIN MEAL	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Oven baked beef burger or vegetable burger in a bun served with chips & sweetcorn	Margarita pizza served with baked potato wedges & salad	Chicken curry or Quorn curry served with brown rice	Homemade minced beef pie or Quorn mince pie served with creamed potatoes & carrots	Oven baked fish fingers or vegetable fingers served with chips & peas
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS	Jacket potato or a freshly made sandwich, each with a choice of fillings				
PUDDING	Fresh fruit or load chocolate sponge finger	Fresh fruit or Flapjack	Fresh fruit or chocolate brownie	Fresh fruit or raspberry muffin	Fresh fruit or golden coconut cookie

WEEK 2					
MAIN MEAL	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Margarita pizza served with baked potato wedges & salad	Homemade minced beef lasagne or vegetable lasagne served with garlic bread and sweetcorn	Oven baked pork or Quorn sausage served with creamed potato and baked beans	Homemade chicken & vegetable pie or Lentil & tomato vegetable pie served with creamed potato & broccoli	Oven baked battered fish fillet or vegetable fingers served with chips & peas
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS	Jacket potato or a freshly made sandwich, each with a choice of fillings				
PUDDING	Fresh fruit or Oat crunch biscuit	Fresh fruit or Fruit jelly	Fresh fruit or chocolate muffin	Fresh fruit or iced lemon sponge finger	Fresh fruit or chocolate shortbread biscuit

Medical prescribed diets will be catered for and items subject to availability

food matters



# Forwarded Information

**A HELPFUL GUIDE TO:**  
**Christmas 2020**  
for children aged 0 to 99 years old  
ISSUED BY THE MAGIC CIRCLE OF ELVES  
THE HOUSE OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC, 55 1/2 TOBOGGAN LANE, THE NORTH POLE  
★ ON BEHALF OF *Father Christmas*. ★

*He's Coming to Town!*  
NOTHING STOPS  
~ FATHER ~  
CHRISTMAS

*The*  
**MAGIC**  
is all around you.  
All you need  
do is...  
**BELIEVE**

**A LIST OF THINGS YOU DO NOT NEED TO WORRY ABOUT:**  
★ Quarantining presents  
★ Father Christmas  
(he's old enough & magical enough to take care of himself)

★★★★  
All Children have shown  
**IRREPRESSIBLE**  
*Spirit*  
in the  
**YEAR 2020**  
(very closely associated to Christmas Spirit)  
★★★★

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**  
★ Leave out a snack  
★ Send us a letter  
★ Show us you believe

**GENTLE REMINDER:**  
PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE TUCKED UP IN BED & FAST ASLEEP ON CHRISTMAS EVE (*preferably with visions of sugar plums dancing in your head...*)

**HANG UP YOUR STOCKING WITH CARE.**  
**Operation Now Is The Time For Magic Is Go!**

## Happy Birthday!



We wish everyone who celebrates their birthday in the holidays, a very special day.





# Sports Awards and Achievements



No wonder Anna is looking so happy! Here she is with the trophy for being the 'Most Improved Gymnast of the Month' which she received at the weekend.

It's a beauty!  
Congratulations,  
Anna!



Last week Kora was the 1st leg in the Under 13 Cross Country at Thornley Hill Farm in Durham. She was the youngest girl to run on the day and did an amazing job in harsh conditions. Brilliant!!

Always lovely to hear about former pupils, who have moved to high school!  
Alex just got his black belt at Ninjitsu, which he has been doing since nursery.  
Well done, Alex!



Many congratulations to Roma who has just gained her Orange belt at kick boxing. Very impressive!



Here is Seb with his Brown badge for kickboxing. Only his black badge to go until he moves onto his belts. 2 years of hard work and we are all very proud of him. Fantastic!!



Mrs McGuigan was thrilled to send away 89 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to everyone who supported this amazing effort at a time when helping others is more important than ever.

have already been delivered to Belarus, more boxes are going to Eastern European countries and North Africa.

We would love to see all your birthday photos, achievements, good news, sports awards and acts of kindness on the blog each week!

Please email to [blog@st-bernadettesprimary.co.uk](mailto:blog@st-bernadettesprimary.co.uk) by 10am Thursdays

Thank you!



Mass: Sunday 11.30am  
Fr John McElhone— 0191 2623820



Message from Fr John

We have launched new more interactive websites bringing you the most up to date news regarding our parish communities which will be updated on a daily basis.

These can be found at:

[www.staidanschurch.uk](http://www.staidanschurch.uk)

[www.stbernadetteschurch.uk](http://www.stbernadetteschurch.uk)

On our websites you will find information relating to times that churches will be open, booking a place for Mass and the initiatives that we will be undertaking to try and keep in touch with parishioners.

Additionally we have a Facebook Page:

[St Aidan's and St Bernadette's Community Page](#)

which you can join.

## Stars of the Week

Nursery	Everyone!!
Recep (AW)	Zach W
Recep (SK)	George
Year 1	Luke W
Year 1/2	Helena R
Year 2	Everyone for their dancing and signing
Year 3	Jad
Year 3/4	Whole Class!
Year 4	The whole class!
Year 5	Evan M
Year 5/6	Everyone!
Year 6	Will C.

## Christmas Mass

Fr John

MASS BOOKINGS FOR BOTH CHURCHES OPEN ON MONDAY AM UNTIL THURDAY PM  
Christmas Mass Bookings open this week. Please visit the relevant website to make your booking. I would ask family and friends to reach out to help those who may struggle to book on line. Please do not attend if you haven't booked.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve St Aidan's 4pm & 6pm

Christmas Day St Bernadette's 10am

At the time of writing the 4pm Mass is full, there are limited places available at the 6pm Mass and better availability at the 10am Mass on Christmas Day.



It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mrs Anne Ward. Not only was Anne a member of our St. Bernadette's School family but she used to be Cook here. Such a wonderful character.

Our deepest sympathies go to Cheryl, Jessica and all the family.

## School Places

We have spaces in Year 2 and Reception, please email

[office@st-bernadettesprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@st-bernadettesprimary.co.uk)

for details.

We are also now accepting applications for our September, 2021 Reception Class start!



## Scripture of the Week

