



July 2024

St. Bernard's RC Primary & Nursery School

A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for your support, collaboration, and commitment to our school community. I would also like to express my gratitude to our wonderful teachers and support staff. Their passion, creativity, and dedication have been instrumental in providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for our students. They have gone above and beyond to ensure that every child receives the best possible education and care. It has been amazing to have this externally validated in our recent Catholic Schools Inspection. I am especially proud of this quote from the report: '...all members of the community, help to make St Bernard's a shining example of faith in action.'

On Tuesday the school gathered together at a mass celebrated by Father Edmund, where we gave thanks for the school year and wished our Team 6 all the very best at High School.

We had an emotional leavers film night for Team 6. It was a delight to watch and reflect on their achievements this year and all their primary years. As you move on to the next chapter of your lives, carry with you the knowledge, skills, and values that you have acquired here. We are incredibly proud of you and confident that you will continue to succeed and make a positive impact in the world.

Today we also say goodbye to Miss Carey and Mrs Morgan. We will miss them so much as they have contributed so much to the life of St Bernard's. We also thank our Learning Coaches: Mrs Greetham, Miss Bennett, Mrs Casey and Ms McAlister who have worked with us over the year. I know that you will join me in wishing them all happiness and success in the future.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we are excited about the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead. We remain committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.

To all our families, I wish you a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break. Take this time to relax, rejuvenate, and spend quality moments with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year. Thank you once again for being an integral part of our school community. Your partnership is vital to our success, and we truly appreciate all that you do.

Julie Le Feuvre



Catholic Schools Inspection

You have all been sent a copy of our recent Inspection report. We were absolutely delighted to receive outstanding grades across the board. The inspectors reported that:

‘Pupils learning at St Bernard’s develop a strong sense of what it means to ‘grow, love, and learn following Jesus’. They understand that a choice to respond to this means they have a personal responsibility to care for each other, the local community, and the wider world. This is a strength of St Bernard’s.’

‘Pupils confidently articulate why they try to treat each other with kindness and can relate this to scripture. For example, pupils understand the links between Jesus’ disciples and themselves.’

‘They welcome all who come to work or learn in school.’

‘All aspects of school life are designed to provide a range of opportunities to develop pupils’ awareness of the issues surrounding social justice and conservation.’



Holy Communion

Congratulations to our T3 children who made their First Holy Communion in June. Please pray for them as they continue on their sacramental journey.



Thank you to everybody who left their old shoes in school today. ShoeShare not only diverts shoes away from landfill, but benefits communities around the world. We are one of over 500 schools in the UK that have held ShoeShare collections, contributing towards the amazing work carried out by Clarks' partner charities, both in the UK and abroad.

Our children really understand that they can make a difference in the lives of other children in other parts of the world.

World Faiths week

Each class focused on exploring two of the different world religions. They discovered how they celebrate special events throughout the year. As always, the children showed their curiosity through the questions they asked.

Conservation Cafe

At the end of the summer term, we celebrated in style all our work around 'Our Common Home' with our Conservation Cafe event. Parents were invited to listen to Teams Reception to 6 perform songs and poetry about our environment and how we can help protect it.

Learning about the message of being stewards of creation from Pope Francis' letter 'Laudato Si', has enabled the children to speak with passion and awareness of how we can all care for our common home.





Chester Zoo Takeover

We are extremely proud of our children who attend the Chester Zoo Takeover, educating the public all about plastic pollution and encouraging them to make pledges to reduce their use of single-use plastic.



Everyone's Welcome

Our 'Everyone's Welcome' showcase was a highlight of this year. The children had the opportunity to share their learning with their families. Two of our children even performed their poems at Storyhouse in Chester at an event to celebrate Refugee Week. We were delighted to be visited by Neil from 'Chester City of Sanctuary' who awarded us our renewal certificate for being a School of Sanctuary. We are really proud of the work we do to make sure that everyone is welcome. Catholic social teaching sits at the heart of everything we do.





Outdoor Play and Learning

We are thrilled to keep expanding our Outdoor Play and Learning experiences for the children! Recently, we've added more den-building kits and balance bikes to our collection. The kids are absolutely loving our new jianzis, and it's amazing to see their skills progress. Lunchtimes are a whirlwind of excitement as children of all ages come together to create their own games, dig in the sand, scale trees, and simply revel in the joy of play. Every one of these activities is a golden opportunity for them to hone their collaboration, resilience, and imagination.



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

For the 2nd time St Bernard's has been awarded the highest award for our cultural and arts offer for children. Artsmark recognises schools' exceptional commitment to creativity. One example of this is our partnership with Liverpool Empire that enables Theatre Club to stand on the stage at Liverpool Empire and perform *Madagascar the Musical*. This week they performed it to the school and parents. We are extremely proud of everyone who shone on stage.





School Trips

Team 5 went to York for 2 nights. They had a fantastic time learning all about the Vikings and discovering how chocolate is made.



Team Reception and Team 1 explored the deep ocean at Blue Planet Aquarium and learned all about the creatures that live in our seas and how we can reduce, reuse and recycle to ensure our rivers, seas and oceans to protect their habitats.



Team 4 visited Manchester for the day. They explored the Science and Industry Museum, found out about banking with a visit to DF Capital and then enjoyed The Wizard of Oz at the Palace Theatre.



Nursery and Reception had a fabulous time at Park Hall Farm in Oswestry. They especially loved the pig races and there were lots of tired children on the coach home!





Attendance

This year to date our whole school attendance is 92.2%. As you know, we aim for over 96%. We have had lots of children with childhood illnesses but please remember that once they are feeling well enough we are happy to administer medicine in school (Once relevant forms have been completed).

Whilst we understand and sympathise that with the cost of living at the moment, taking holidays during term time can be a lot cheaper, we cannot authorise requests and these will be registered as 'Unauthorised absences'. This is in line with the advice of Chester West LA Attendance managers. Thank you for your understanding.

If a child's attendance falls below a certain level, our attendance team will invite parents to school for an attendance panel meeting. These are not intended to blame or judge but rather an opportunity to offer support, if needed, or allow you to talk about your child's absence with a view to working together. If you receive a letter, please don't worry, just come in and have a chat with us.

We also have had an increase in unauthorised attendance. All schools have to report unauthorised absence to the Local Authority and you may be issued an Education Penalty Notice (EPN). Thank you for your cooperation with this.





Uniform

We have noticed that more children are not adhering to our school uniform. Children can come into school on PE days dressed in their PE kit:

This consists of navy shorts, plain white t-shirt and black pumps/trainers. In winter months jogging bottoms or leggings can be worn for PE lessons outside.

Please note that jewellery, including earrings, should not be worn and children will be asked to remove such items. Pumps/trainers should only be worn on PE days. Thank you for supporting us with this.



All children return to school on Wednesday 4th September at 8.45am

