

ST BERNARD'S NEWSLETTER



December 2022



The end of Autumn term is here at last. Advent is well underway and the excitement around school warms my heart. During this time of Advent we have lit the candles of hope, love and joy and children have participated in an Advent Prayer Trail. The children have thought about the positive changes that they can make in preparation for the birth of Jesus. Every child will be given a Christmas prayer card and tealight so that they can remember the true meaning of Christmas over the holiday period.

What a busy term this has been! So much high quality learning has taken place - not just in the classroom but in after school clubs, sporting events, and other visits outside school. I am sure that you will join me in thanking all the wonderful staff for their commitment, enthusiasm and devotion. We really are blessed with a fabulous team at St Bernard's.

As always, thank you so much to all of you for your support this term. On behalf of staff and governors, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and hope you manage to enjoy the peace and blessings of spending time with loved ones during this very special season.

Julie Le Feuvre

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

5pm	St Saviour
6pm	Our Lady Star of the Sea
12 Midnight	Our Lady Star of the Sea

Christmas Day

9am	St Mary of the Angels
9am	Our Lady Star of the Sea
11am	St Saviour
11am	Our Lady Star of the Sea



THANK YOU

It is with great sadness that I am letting you know that Mrs Edgar and Miss Wykes will be leaving St Bernard's today. Mrs Edgar has worked in our kitchen for four years and is moving to a high school in Chester. Miss Wykes trained here last year and has been working in Team 2 and 3, this term. I am delighted that she has secured a teaching job at St Augustine's in Runcorn. I know that both will be missed by the pupils and staff. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them all the best for the future.



UNICEF UK RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD

BRONZE - RIGHTS COMMITTED

We are delighted to be awarded the Bronze UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award and will continue our journey to Silver.



This term we have loved having Jon Barton (Diocesan Director of Music) leading our weekly singing.

First Forgiveness

Thank you to all the children and families who attended the First Forgiveness service. We are very proud of all our children. Thank you to Miss Worthington for all her work in preparing the children for this event.



Our Lady Star of The Sea Catholic Church

St Bernard's were delighted to be asked to collaborate with Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School on an art project for the church with a mission to brighten up the church and bring the schools together. Please try and visit the church to see the children's art over the Christmas break. It is lovely to see the schools coming together and the art really does bring colour and joy to the church during ADVENT.



During Advent, our children are enjoying taking a Travelling Crib home to share with their families. This is to help them to remember the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem and, as a family, to take time to stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas.



Attendance

Huge congratulations to our children and families who have enjoyed excellent attendance and we hope this continues into 2023. Every day in school counts!

Our school attendance is currently 94.5% - unfortunately we are not reaching our attendance target of 96%+. As you are aware, improving attendance is a key priority for the school. Over 30 of our children have missed over 10% of their schooling this term. This has huge impact on their education and well-being. We are continuing to work with families to improve this and support in any way we can.

Please remember that any family holidays planned for spring or summer term time will not be authorised and could result in fixed penalty notices being served by Cheshire West and Chester.

Half termly attendance winners

Team 6 are this half termly winners! They will be treated to a surprise in the new year.



TEAM	% ATTENDANCE AUTUMN 2 HALF TERM
TR	90.5
T1	92.6
T2	94.7
T3	95.8
T4	92.9
T5	94.3
T6	95.9

Water/Ice Safety

I am sure you have all seen the devastating news this week about the 3 young children who lost their lives whilst out playing in the snow and ice. We have told the children to follow these guidelines:

- Always tell an adult where you are going
- Always stay together
- Never venture out onto any frozen water as it may not be very strong
- If a friend gets into difficulty, throw something to them, don't try and rescue them
- Call 999 and ask for the fire service – phones need to be charged and the call is free
- If you fall into water, lie on your back and try and float by making a star shape.

Social Media

Over the past term we have had an increasing amount of issues rising from the use of social media. These issues, which occur outside school hours, can spill into school. Some children are accessing their phones throughout the night and messaging other children inappropriately - often via Snapchat. Snapchat is a platform that has an age rating of 13+. The information pamphlet outlines the reasons for this. Please click on the link to download a larger copy.

<https://www.stbernardsrc.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=259&type=pdf>

As a school we need your support, as a parent, to monitor your child's phone and limit their usage. It is very difficult to manage this as a school, if parents do not check their child's phone periodically or allow their child to have access to their phone through the night. Safeguarding is our first priority at St Bernard's.



Elf Run



Thank you to everybody who sponsored their child to take part in this run. The children loved running with Santa and even got to keep their elf hats. The event raised money for 'The Hospice of the Good Shepherd' - we will let you know how much we raised in the new year. The hospice has helped thousands of people, and their families, living with life limiting illness.



Pop Choir Concert



Our Pop Choir performed brilliantly this week-such talent. They finished with a Christmas boogie with their families!



Christmas Fair



Thank you to everybody who supported our Christmas Fair. Everybody had a wonderful time and we made a whopping £750. A huge thank you to all the PTA, teachers and children who helped run the stalls.