



St Bernadette's Primary School

Newsletter

January 2019



Welcome back and Happy New Year from everyone at St. Bernadette's Primary School. Thank you for all your support last year and we look forward to continuing working in partnership with you in 2019.



If there has been any changes to your home or emergency contact details or to your child's medical needs then please contact the office.

Primary 1 Enrolments

Children who reach 5 years of age on or before 21st August 2019 **must** commence primary education at the start of the school session in August 2019. Children whose fifth birthday falls on or between the 22nd August 2019 and 29th February 2020 **may** commence primary education in August 2019.

Enrolments were held in the school on Wednesday 16th January 2019. If you still haven't enrolled your child please do so ASAP, bring with you the enrolment form, Birth Certificate, Baptism Certificate and Proof of Address, e.g. recent Utility Bill.

Primary & Secondary School Placing Requests

Parents/Carers must submit a Placing Request if they wish their child:

- to attend a school other than their catchment area school
- to attend a denominational school and are not baptised Roman Catholic
- to transfer from a non-denominational primary school to a denominational secondary school or vice versa

Placing Requests are available from school or on www.falkirk.gov.uk. Forms must be returned to the Director of Children's Services at Sealock House no earlier than Thursday 6th December 2018 up to the 15th March 2019. Parents/Carers will be notified of the outcome within eight weeks of receipt of the application.

Car Parking

We still receive numerous complaints about the Car Park – please be considerate when parking. We are very fortunate to have such a large car park! Please only use the disabled bays if you have a blue badge. **NO CARS** should park in the Bus bay for dropping off/picking up children. Thank you for your co-operation.

Achievements

Has your child achieved something that you would like to share with us?

Please email/contact the school and let us know and we would happily include it in the next Newsletter.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting shall be held on Tuesday 5th March at 6.30pm. All welcome.

Entering the School

Anyone wishing to speak to their child's teacher **must** make an appointment via the school office. The teachers are extremely busy with pupils in the morning and the sooner the children are settled into class, the more time they have to learn. Please do not take up the teacher's time by trying to discuss your child at the class room door.

Entrance to the school is through the main reception. Do not attempt to follow your child into the building via the classroom door or enter the building through the side doors. For the safety of all, visitors must be identified.

Attendance Procedure in Falkirk Council

Please contact the **school office** on 503400 before 9.15am on the day of your child's absence. If you wish, you can leave a message on the school's answering machine. If your child is absent from school and no letter or telephone call has been received to explain their absence, you will receive a text requesting you contact the school. This system gives you the added peace of mind of knowing that if you have not had a text then your child has arrived safely in school. As this is a centralised system a mobile phone number will display and the message will include the school name and contact number. **Please respond to this promptly.**

Inverclyde Trip 2019

Our P7 pupils will be going to Inverclyde on the week beginning 25th March. Could P7 parents please ensure payments are kept up-to-date. Final payment has to be paid by end of February 2019. Please check with the school office if unsure about balance. Thank you.

DID YOU RECEIVE A NEW ELECTRONIC DEVICE AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT?

If you received a new tablet, PC or mobile phone at Christmas, the following information from Malcolm Wilson, ICT Curriculum Development Officer, may be of interest.

1. Keeping safe – here's a link to three simple steps to keeping safe with a mobile device, tablet or PC : <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00489083.pdf>
2. FREE Microsoft Office for all pupils P1-S6 and staff for use at home and on mobile devices – this works on all mobile devices and PCs (up to 10 devices per person!) – the following link describes how to get it: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/mobiledevices/2015/06/17/microsoft-office-free-for-all-falkirk-council-childrens-services-staff-and-pupils-with-a-glow-account/> . If you are unsure of your child's Glow Account details – please contact the school office.
3. Falkirk Primary and Secondary school children – Falkirk Learning Resource Services have made BorrowBox available to you all! Ebooks and Audiobooks on your phone/tablet/PC/Mac, or in school. All you need is your Glow Account – please click on this link for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLJBh6ZaUFm-Edw6Pyvr8w15bHNWsBpLX1&v=7IGIENwpJTM>

Staffing

We are delighted that Mrs Edwards (P2 Teacher) was successful at interview for the post of Acting Principal Teacher at St. Bernadette's. Mrs Edwards shall still be in P2 most of the week.

We wish to warmly congratulate our Music Specialist, Miss Derrick who got married over the Christmas holidays. We wish Mr & Mrs Mills all the very best for their future together.



Mrs Martin has commenced her maternity leave – we look forward to meeting Baby Martin.

Mrs McLaren, Support for Learning Assistant left St. Bernadette's Primary School on Friday 21st December 2018 to take up a new post within Falkirk Council. This will more than likely be a permanent move. Mrs McLaren joined St. Bernadette's Primary School when we opened in 2012. Not only has Mrs McLaren fulfilled her remit as a Support for Learning Assistant, she also dedicated her own time to developing the Basketball Team and leading them to success. She will be greatly missed by all staff and pupils.

Houses

We are introducing a new house system. These houses will be used for Sports Day and other activities around the school, giving children the opportunity to work with others out with their own class. Children will be awarded house points within the school and the playground. More details of this will be made available in the very near future. We decided on a Scottish theme and asked all children, staff and parents to vote for your favourite theme. I am pleased to announce that Castles is our most popular theme. Therefore our 4 House Names are: Eilean Donan, Braemer, Dunvegan and Lochranza. We decided all siblings would be kept together in the same house. To introduce the new houses we would like all children to research their castle and submit a project on their findings. This can be presented in any way they wish. Siblings can work together to produce one project. All projects need to be submitted to school by **Friday 15th March 2019**.

Community Coffee Morning

The Pope Francis Faith Award Group shall be running a Community Coffee Morning on the last Wednesday of the month. The first one shall be on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 9.30am in the Community Room. Parents/Carers/Grandparents are more than welcome to come along and enjoy tea/coffee and cakes for a small donation of £1.



Childhood Infectious diseases especially: Measles, Chicken Pox and Shingles

Please may we ask for your co-operation in this important matter. One of our pupils is receiving medical treatment for Lymphoma that puts them at risk from measles, chicken pox and shingles. If they come in to contact with anyone suffering from these conditions the pupil requires to be given some protection against them. Unfortunately this has to be given within 72 hours of the contact.

We would ask therefore that if your child develops measles, chicken pox or shingles that you inform us **immediately** so that appropriate action may be taken. Your child is not at any risk from this situation, however, the health of our pupil does depend on your co-operation in this important matter.

Headlice

We would encourage you to check your child at regular intervals to prevent the spread of headlice throughout the school. If your child becomes infected, we would appreciate it if you could inform school as soon as possible. **All information provided will be strictly confidential.**

Infection Control in Schools

Parents are often unaware or unsure about the recommended length of time children should be kept away from school or nursery following an illness. If your child is unwell, please refer to the information provided on the Health Protection Agency website.

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140714084352/http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1274087715902

Allergies

For the health and safety of all pupils please ensure that your child is not provided with nut products at school. Some children are bringing products such as Snickers, Lion Bars and Peanut Butter sandwiches to school.

We have pupils and staff who are severely allergic to peanuts. Peanuts do not have to be eaten by an allergic person to cause an allergic reaction; they can be ingested or contaminate tables, hands etc. Any peanut products will be returned home in packed lunch boxes unopened.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/what-is-anaphylaxis/signs-and-symptoms>

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.



Water Bottles

All our pupils are encouraged to drink water during the school day. Research has indicated that drinking plain water improves concentration and therefore leads to effective learning. It would be helpful if all our pupils have a labelled water bottle with them in school daily.

Dogs in the Playground



For health and safety reasons Falkirk Council do not permit dogs into the playground; please also keep dogs at a safe distance away from the school gates.

Please remember that there is access to funding to help families with financial difficulties. Please contact Mrs Savage, in strictest confidence, for more information.

Stay Connected! Please follow us on Twitter @stbernadettesps

Check our website for details of school events and information: <http://stbernadettes.edusite.co.uk/>

Keep up-to-date with Parish News on: <http://www.stbernadette.rcstanded.org.uk/current>
and <https://www.facebook.com/stbernadettelarbert>

School Events Calendar 2018/19

Month	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Notes
Jan 2019		1	2	3	4	5	6	January
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	16 th - P1 Enrolments
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	24 th – 2pm P5/6 class assembly
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	31 st – 1.30pm Mass (Led by P4)
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	February
Feb	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14 th – 2pm P5 class assembly
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	28 th – 1.30pm Mass (led by P7)
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	March
	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	6 th – 1.30pm Ash Wednesday service (led by P6)
Mar	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8 th - Snap Shot Jotters to come home, return Monday 11th
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13 th – 27 th – P4 to P7 Sacrament of Reconciliation in Church
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	14 th – 2pm P7 class assembly
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	23 rd – 11am or 2pm P3 Sacrament of Reconciliation in Church
Apr	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	28 th – 1.30pm Mass (led by P5/6)
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	28 th – 3pm – 6pm Open Afternoon, led by pupils
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	April
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	24 th / 25 th – 4.30pm to 6.30pm Parent Consultations
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	16 th – 1.30pm Mass (led by P5)
May	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	May
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	2 nd – 2pm P1 class assembly 23 rd – 2pm P4 class assembly
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	30 th – 1.30pm Mass (Feast of the Ascension) (led by P4)
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	June
Jun	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4 th – Sports Day option 1 / 11 th – option 2
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7 th - Snap Shot Jotters to come home, return Monday 10 th
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	12 th – 1.15pm / 13 th – 7pm School Show P5 – P7
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	13 th – 2pm P2 class assembly
Jul	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14 th – Nursery Sports Day
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	21 st – Final written reports to be given home
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	21 st – Nursery Graduation
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	15 th / 22 nd – Sacrament of Holy Communion (P4)
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	27 th – 9.30am P7 Leaver's Assembly / 1.30pm Mass (led by P7)
Aug	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Reporting to Parents event
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Class Led Assembly or School celebration/event
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Religious observance
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	School closure due to holiday or staff development.