



St Bernadette's Primary School

Ready Respectful Safe



Newsletter

October 2024

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know. For more information click [here](#).

Update your contact details

Please let us know about any changes to your:



Email



Telephone number



Address

Lost property

We already have quite a collection of school uniform in our lost property. Can you please ensure your child's name is on their clothing, it really does help!

Outdoor Learning and Play

Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing for our ever changing Scottish Weather.



Parent Consultations

Our Parent Consultations are being held on 11th November between 3.30pm - 6.00pm, and the 27th November between 4.30pm - 7.00pm. We shall be using the Groupcall booking system for parents/carers to make appointments. Further details shall follow by email.

The Scottish Poppy Appeal

We are supporting the Scottish Poppy Appeal. P7 pupils shall be visiting classes with Poppies and Donation cans starting after the October break.



October Holidays

Just a reminder that school is closed for the October holidays from 14th October until 25th October. School will reopen on Monday 28th October.

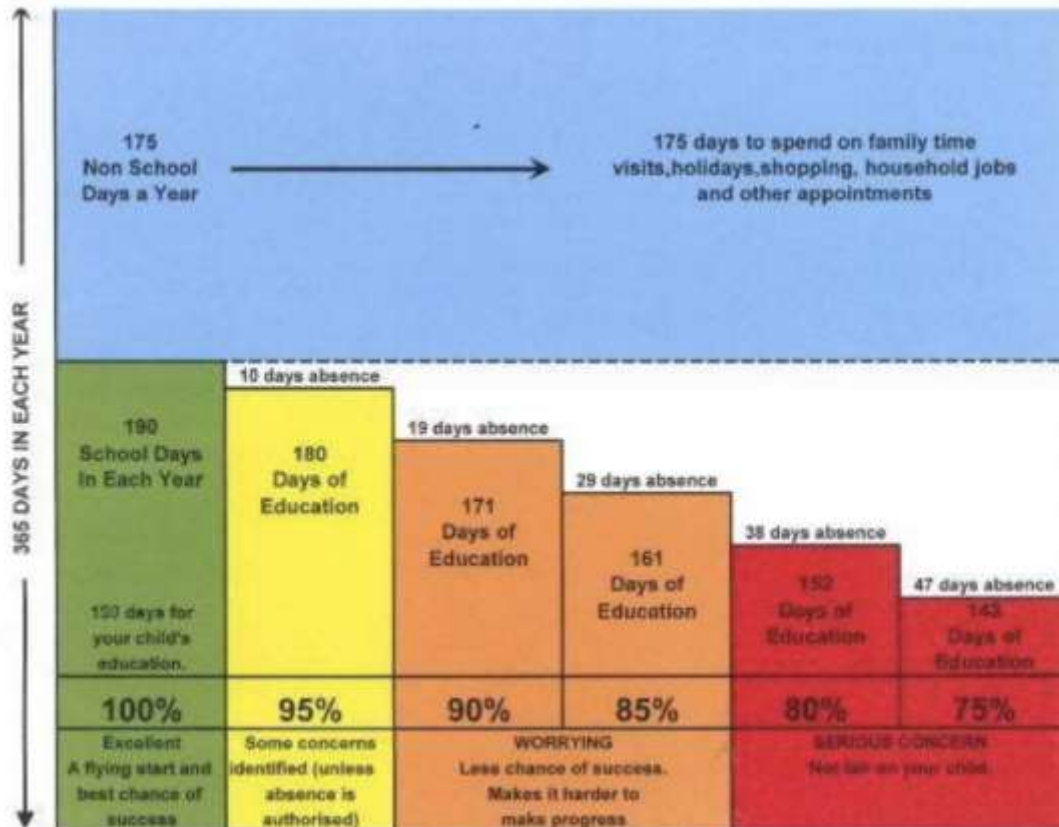
We wish all our pupils and families a lovely October break!



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. **Please do not message the class teacher with absence/appointments messages.** If your child is absent from school and no email 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.**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!			
ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons



Spiritus

Spiritus is a three day professional development programme, led by the Australian Catholic University. It aims to equip educators to evangelise in our contemporary contexts through study of the vision and interrelated components of Evangelisation, retreat experience, spiritual growth and faith leadership. Mrs Gallacher and myself, encountered Spiritus in Edinburgh, September 2022, and Mrs Gallacher and Mrs Gray attended Spiritus in Worth School Sussex, in 2023.

Last weekend, both Mrs Gallacher and myself, as well as Dr Holland, Headteacher of St. Mungo's High School, were delighted to be able to encounter Spiritus in Rome. Sincere thanks to both the Scottish Catholic Education Service and Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette's Parish who sponsored Mrs Gallacher and myself to attend.



For me, this experience was transformative and such a privilege to be part of this international event, where 8 countries came together through prayer and learning. Spiritus is by far the best and most impactful professional development I have ever attended. It left me with a realisation that as a school community we have to deliberately and intentionally evangelise, as nothing happens by chance.

We have already organised and participated in many experiences due to previous attendance, such as, child-led prayer, Rosary and Stations of the Cross; peer to peer ministry where older classes have led prayer services with younger classes; intergenerational faith ministry with organisations such as Age Concern, The Food Train and Strathcarron Hospice; and class retreats for P5-7 classes. We plan to develop each of these areas and so much more following our participation in Rome.

With only 8 Scottish representatives attending Spiritus, St. Bernadette's is leading the way in developing evangelisation across Scotland. Our enthusiasm and learning has been recognised and I was delighted to be asked to present our evangelisation journey to 180 Catholic Headteachers from across Scotland at the annual Catholic Headteachers Association of Primary School's annual conference on Thursday 3rd October.

On our return from Rome, all children have been gifted with a St. Bernadette's prayer card with a scripture reference on the back. Look out for these in school bags this week.

Thanks again to the Parish for all the support given to our children, staff and school community.

Mrs Marianne Savage

Chaps Conference

Mrs Savage attended the annual CHAPS conference where she delivered a presentation on Spiritus.

It was a privilege to share our Spiritus encounter with all Catholic headteachers today and share the evangelisation journey we are on in St. Bernadette's.



PFFA Group

This year, the PFFA group, Faith in Action group and the Mini Vinnies will be making Christmas food/gift hampers. These will be distributed to elderly and isolated people via the Strathcarron Hospice Outreach Team.

The children would be incredibly grateful for donations of any of the items listed below. These items can be brought into school and given to Mrs Gallacher.

Boxes of chocolates
Boxes of biscuits
Flavoured Juices
Mince pies
Christmas Pudding
Crackers
Jams & other preserves
Coffee and Tea
Christmas cake
Bath items
Scented Candles
Toiletry gift sets for men and women

Strathcarron Hospice have been incredibly grateful for our support. It was a fantastic project that allowed the children to see the impact of all their hard work. Hopefully this year's project will be as successful. The final date for donations will be Friday 6th December.

Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Gallacher.

Achievements

Well done to Rose in P2 who was recently awarded level 'Advanced Beginner - Yellow Level' in her swimming! Great news Rose!



Has your child celebrated an achievement out of school, e.g. Dancing, Football, Taekwondo? We would love to hear about it so we can share the good news in our next Newsletter! Please email the school at stbernadettesprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk and let us know all about it!

Mass

All Saints Day Mass is being held in school on Friday 1st November at 1.30pm. This Mass is being led by P7. All are very welcome.

BBC Children in Need



Children in Need 2024 is on Friday, November 15th. Donations can be made here [Donate to BBC Children in Need](#)

Children in Need we will be having a dress down day with a suggested donation of £1. The theme is 'Be SPOTacular' so feel free to wear spotty clothes or make a spotty accessory.

Please do not buy anything new.

Halloween Outfit Swap Shop

Thank you to everyone that donated outfits to our Halloween Swap Shop. There are still plenty of outfits left. Please pop in to the main reception during school hours to browse.



Halloween Class Activities

Each class shall be having Halloween activities on Thursday 31st October. Children are welcome to come to school in Halloween outfits. Can we please ask that there is no scary face painting/masks or accessories (e.g. weapons, tridents etc.)

Staffing News

We will say a fond farewell to Mrs Cruikshanks in our school kitchen who is retiring on Friday 11th October 2024. Mrs Cruikshanks has been with St. Bernadette's over 11 years and will be missed by children and staff. She always had a cheery smile and enjoyed wee chats with the children. We wish her a long and very happy retirement!



We also said a fond farewell to Mrs Merrilees who also worked in the kitchen. She has left for pastures new. We wish her Good luck in her new job. She will also be missed!

Rag Bag Collection

Thank you for all your Rag Bag donations. Our last collection weighed 139Kg, raising £41.70 for school funds. All donations are most welcome, please place the bags directly into our Rag Bag bin (beside the cycle shed) or pass to your child to hand into the school. There are bags available in the main reception. We Collect:

- All Clothing
- Paired Shoes (tied together)
- Handbags, bags, ties & belts
- Household linen & twels



Allergies

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

We have pupils and staff who are severely allergic to peanuts/nuts. Peanuts/nuts 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/nut products will be returned home in packed lunch boxes unopened.

All Falkirk Council school lunch menus do not have nut products as standard.

Further information can be viewed here:

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

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.



Primary 1 Enrolment and Primary & Secondary Placing Requests

Children who reach 5 years of age on or before 13th August 2025 **must** commence primary education at the start of the school session in August 2025.

Children whose fifth birthday falls on or between the 14th August 2025 and 28th February 2026 **may** commence primary education in August 2024.

At Primary 1 entry, parents/carers are entitled to enrol their children at their

- catchment non-denominational school
- catchment denominational school if they are baptised Roman Catholic (RC baptismal certificate must be provided).

You can enrol your child for Primary 1 online at www.falkirk.gov.uk/schoolenrolments

Enrolments will be accepted from 1st November until 31st December 2024 for entry to Primary 1 the following August.

What you need to know:

- You will be required to register for a 'My Falkirk' account.
- Your address will be checked against Council Tax records for verification.
- A copy of your child's RC Baptism certificate is required to support enrolment at a RC school.

If your child does not already attend a Falkirk Council or Partner nursery you will be asked to submit their birth certificate or passport as proof of identification.

You **MUST** enrol your child at the catchment school for your address in addition to any placing request you may choose to submit.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACING REQUESTS FOR AUGUST 2024

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 (RC) secondary school or vice versa

Online placing request applications can be made via the Council's website www.falkirk.gov.uk/placingrequests. Written application forms are available from all schools and from Children's Services. Written applications must be returned to the Director of Children's Services at the address below.

Applications will be accepted no earlier than Thursday 5th December 2024 until the 15th March 2025. Parents/Carers will be notified of the outcome in writing by the 30th April 2024. Placing Requests received after the 15th March 2025 will be notified of the outcome within eight weeks of receipt of the application.

Parents/Carers must enrol their child at the catchment area school for their home address whilst awaiting the outcome of their Placing Request application.

Football

Well done to the football team and Mr Taylor who recently got through to the finals at the Steve Burns Memorial Match at SFC.

Mr Taylor said they were a credit to the school and should be very proud of themselves!



Cross Country

Well done to our Cross Country for participating in the races held at Stirling Road parks recently. They all done well – results and photos to follow.

REDUCED PRICE ORDERING WINDOWS

BE UNIFORMS RESPONDS TO COST OF LIVING CRISIS

With paying for school uniform being a struggle for a lot of parents, BE have been looking at options to help with the affordability. From October 2023 we will be launching Reduced Price Ordering Windows allowing parents the option to purchase their uniforms online with a 20% discount. Orders will be batched and delivered within 28 days of the window closure. There will be 3 windows in operation.

We would encourage schools and parents alike to publicise the dates below as much as possible and advise all parents to order within these windows to benefit from the reduced pricing.

REDUCED PRICE ORDERING WINDOW DATES

AUTUMN

7 OCTOBER 2024 -
20 OCTOBER 2024

WINTER

16 DECEMBER 2024 -
5 JANUARY 2025

SPRING

7 APRIL 2025 -
18 MAY 2025

ALL ORDERS DELIVERED WITHIN 28 DAYS OF WINDOW CLOSURE



PLAN AHEAD & SAVE MONEY!

Parental Questionnaire September 2024

Thank you to all parents who responded to our recent parental questionnaire. We are delighted to share the results and our next steps. Please remember you can contact the school at any time if you have any concerns about your child's learning.

43% of children were represented in the responses.

100% of respondents said their child liked attending to St. Bernadette's.
98% felt their child was treated fairly and with respect.
91% felt their child was safe at school.
89% feel the school helps their child to feel confident.
89% feel staff really know their child as an individual.
78% feel their child finds their learning activities hard enough.
88% feel their child receives the help he/she needs to do well.
87% feel their child is encouraged by the school to be healthy and take regular exercise.
91% feel the school supports their child's emotional wellbeing.
89% feel their child is making good progress at school.
71% feel they receive helpful, regular feedback about how their child is learning and developing e.g. informal feedback, reports and learning profiles.
73% feel the information they receive about how their child is doing reaches them at the right time.

Parental
Questionnaire
September
2024

65% understand how their child's progress is assessed.
71% feel the school gives advice on how to support their child's learning at home.
67% feel the school organises activities where their child and them can learn together.
67% feel the school takes their views into account when making changes.
92% feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem.
88% feel encouraged to be involved in the work of the Parent Council and/or Fundraising Group.
97% feel kept informed about the work of the Parent Council and/or Fundraising Group.
87% feel satisfied with the quality of teaching in the school.
95% feel the school is well led and managed.
94% feel the school encourages children to treat others with respect.
94% would recommend the school to other parents.
94% are satisfied with the school overall.
88% feel the school deals well with bullying, whilst a further 38% indicate their child has never experienced any bullying
94% of people who started St. Bernadette's within the last year feel their child was well supported with their transition

Parental
Questionnaire
September
2024

Next Steps

1. Revisit our Building Positive Relationships Policy, especially restorative practices. Produce literature to explain practices and strategies used and issue to parents. Arrange a parental workshop with the focus of restorative practices.
2. Continue to use quality assurance procedures to ensure learning is planned at the correct level.
3. Review procedures on how we currently inform parents of how their child is learning and developing to ensure this is helpful, regular and reaches them at the right time.
4. Make assessment procedures visible
5. Provide advice on how to support learning at home.
6. Organise activities where children and parents can learn together.
7. Highlight how the school has taken parental views into account when making changes within the newsletter. Make this a spotlight feature.

News from our Parent Council

200 Club Winners

September draw winners are:

£100 -25 Jacqui Butterly
£50 - 221 Sean Tennant
£50 - 74 Pat Godley
£25 - 124 Clare Kavanagh
£25 - Veronica Cully



Congratulations to the above winners! The prize winnings can be collected from the school office between 9am and 3.30pm any day.

Thanks again to all the members for continuing to support the 200 Club.
Anyone wishing to join the 200 club please contact stbernadettes200club@gmail.com. We would love to have more people join up to help support the school.

St. Bernadette's Parent Council



Autumn Disco

Thursday 7th November 2024

£2.50 entry free which includes juice and treats

P1 - P3: 6-7pm

P4 - P7 : 7.15 - 8.30pm



Mobile Phones

If your child brings their mobile phone to school can we please ask that you reiterate at home, that it must be switched off and in their school bag throughout the school day. If any mobile phone is seen during the day or disrupts the class it shall be confiscated by the Class Teacher and given to the Headteacher who will then contact the parent/carer and arrange for the parent/carer to collect it from school, it will not be given back to the child. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please contact the school office. We would appreciate your support with this matter.

Head Lice

We would encourage you to check your child at regular intervals to prevent the spread of head lice. If our child becomes infected, we would appreciate if you could inform us as soon as possible. All information provided will be strictly confidential.

No Smoking/Vaping

Can we please gently remind parents/carers that there is a strictly no smoking/vaping permitted within the school grounds, including the car park area. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



School Website

Please check the school website regularly as this will be the main source of information for parents. The address is <http://stbernadettes.edusite.co.uk/>

Class Twitter

Below is a link to each classes Twitter page. Please check for regular updates.

School Twitter <https://twitter.com/stbernadettesps>

Nursery Twitter: <https://twitter.com/StBernNursery>

St. Bernadette's Parent Council: <https://twitter.com/StBernadettesPC>



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.rcstated.org.uk/current>
and <https://www.facebook.com/stbernadettelarbert>

Event Calendar 2024/25

Month	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Term	Wk	Notes
Aug	26	27	28	29	30	31	1		35	Holiday - School Closed
Sep 2024	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		36	In-service Day - School closed to pupils
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		37	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		38	Reporting to Parents
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		39	Wednesday 11.9.24: Meet the Teacher 4.00-5.00pm
	30	1	2	3	4	5	6		40	Wednesday 13.11.24: Parent Consultations 3.30 - 6.00pm
Oct	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		41	Wednesday 27.11.24: Parent Consultations 4.30-7.00pm
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		42	Wednesday 12.3.25: P7 Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		43	Wednesday 26.3.25: P1-6 Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3		44	Wednesday 2.4.24: P1-7 Parent Consultations 4.30-7.00pm
Nov	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		45	Friday 20.6.25: End of Year reports issued
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		46	Celebration Event
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		47	Tuesday 10.12.24: Christmas Concert
	25	26	27	28	29	30	1		48	Thursday 12.12.24: Christmas Lunch and jumper day
Dec	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		49	Friday 13.12.24: ELC and P1 party am
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		50	Monday 16.12.24: ELC sing-a-long 1.30pm
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		51	Wednesday 18.12.24: P3 and P3/4 party am / P5 pm
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		52	Thursday 19.12.24: P2 party am / P6 and P7 pm
	30	31	1	2	3	4	5		1	Wednesday 19.3.25: School Show 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Jan 2025	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		2	Week 24.3.25: P7 Residential
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		3	Wednesday 21.5.25: Sports Day option 1 - all day
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		4	Friday 30.5.25: ELC Sports Day 1.30pm
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2		5	Wednesday 4.6.25: Sports Day option 2 - all day
Feb	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		6	Monday 23.6.25: ELC Moving on Celebration 1.30pm
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		7	Wednesday 25.6.25: P7 Leavers Assembly 9.30am
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		8	Wednesday 25.6.25: P7 Leavers Mass 1.30pm
	24	25	26	27	28	1	2		9	Class Led Assembly - followed by child-led learning
Mar	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	Thursday 10.10.24: P5 class assembly, 1.30pm
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		11	Thursday 14.11.24: P6 class assembly, 1.30pm
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		12	Thursday 30.1.25: P7 class assembly, tbc
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		13	Thursday 20.2.25: P3/4 class assembly, 1.30pm
	31	1	2	3	4	5	6		14	Thursday 13.3.25: P3 class assembly, 1.30pm
Apr	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		15	Thursday 8.5.25: P2 class assembly, 1.30pm
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		16	Thursday 5.6.25: P1 class assembly, 1.30pm
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		17	ELC / P1 Transition
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4		18	Thursday 29.5.25: 10.45am - 12.15pm, with lunch
May	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		19	Thursday 5.6.25: 9.15-10.00am, classroom visit
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		20	Wednesday 11.6.25: 3.30-4.30pm, outdoors
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		21	Thursday 19.6.25: 9.15-10.00am, classroom visit
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1		22	Religious Observance
Jun	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		23	Saturday 31.05.25 – Confirmations at St. Francis Xavier – 11am
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		24	Friday 01.11.24 – All Saints Day Mass 1.30pm
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		25	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		26	
	30	1	2	3	4	5	6		27	
Jul	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		28	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		29	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		30	
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3		31	
Aug	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		32	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		33	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		34	
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		35	