



# St Bernadette's Primary School



May 2026 Newsletter

## Update your contact details

Please let us know about any changes to your:



Email



Telephone number



Address

### Outdoor Learning & Play

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



## parentsportal.scot

Have you signed-up to parentsportal.scot yet? Parentsportal replaces the traditional school bag run allowing parents/guardians of children attending school to sign forms and receive important information online. You can sign-up at [www.parentsportal.scot](http://www.parentsportal.scot)

### General Illness

As per NHS guidance, if your child is displaying sickness or stomach upset, your child **must not** return to school until they are 48 hours clear of symptoms. If your child falls ill during the school day, we will contact you via telephone. Please ensure all contact details are up to date.

There is advice from NHS here: [Is my child too ill for school](#)

We recommend all parent/carers sign up as you can report absences, book parent consultations, see report cards, respond to permission slips, update your child's record, make school payments and much more! You can do all of this in one central place. Please click: [www.parentsportal.scot](http://www.parentsportal.scot) to sign-up.

### Dalguise 2027

Our current P6 should have all received a letter regarding the P7 residential trip next March. Please return the tear off slip as soon as possible. Initial deposits are due to PGL by the end of term. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Pre Loved School Uniform

We are always looking for donations of pre-loved school uniform. Please donate any school uniform that is in reasonable, clean condition and remove any names from them. Thank you.

### Staffing News

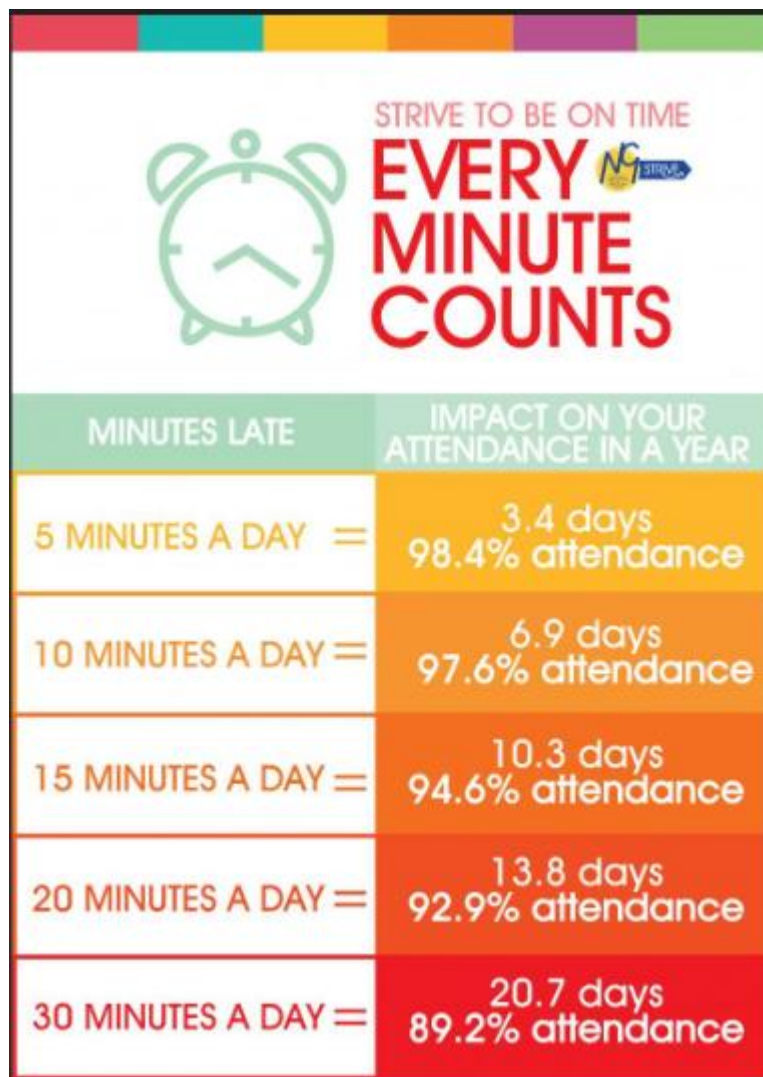
We welcome back Mrs Murtagh as she returns from her maternity leave.

Mrs Heeps shall be absent for a few weeks from Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, there will be cover in the school office, at times.

## 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.**

Arriving to school **on time** and ready to learn is the best start to the day for our children. Even being 5 minutes late per day can add up to 3.4 school days missed.



## 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

## **School Uniform**

We understand it is getting closer to the End of Term, but we are aware there are pupils attending school not in appropriate uniform. Jeans, leggings etc should only be worn when it is a dress down day. Please see a reminder of our school dress code:

### **School Dress Code**

Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging their child to follow the school's dress code.

All schools have a dress code, which includes the school's policy on uniform. The wearing of uniform is encouraged as it helps to:

- develop a school community spirit
- improves school security by making non-pupils more easily identifiable
- allows pupils to be easily identified when out of the school, e.g. on trips
- enhances the school's reputation within the community; and
- minimises rivalry and bullying amongst pupils that can arise from, for example, the wearing of designer clothing.

The school's dress code has been agreed in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and the Parent Council. This consultation has ensured that the dress code meets the needs of the school community, allows pupils to participate in all aspects of school life and is age appropriate.

The appropriate clothing and footwear for PE is a T-shirt, preferable plain white, shorts and gym shoes with non-marking soles. These are necessary for health and safety reasons and your co-operation is requested to ensure that pupils are equipped to participate in the PE lessons.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled, particularly ties, sweatshirts and PE equipment, which are often lost. A protective apron or an old shirt should be worn for art and craft activities. Please help the school and the education authority by making sure that pupils do not bring valuable or expensive items of clothing to school.

In certain circumstances, appropriate clothing will be necessary for school activities for safety reasons, e.g. in games areas, science laboratories and technical workshops; this extends to the wearing of suitable footwear and even, on occasion, to the length of pupils' hair and the wearing of jewellery and earrings.

Offensive clothing such as T-shirts or other items featuring inappropriate language or illustrations is not permitted. Football colours are also inappropriate as they can lead to incidents of rivalry.

## Learning Gardens

We are delighted to share the opening of our new Learning Garden, which has quickly become a much-loved space by our classes.

The children have been thoroughly enjoying the wide range of activities and areas we have set out. Including mud kitchens, water area, stage for performing, planting, reading area, sand pit and much more.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Smith for helping us with everything and helping us make the Learning Garden a lovely space for our school.



## Wonder Week

We look forward to welcoming our families into school to see their children showcasing Wonder Week on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May between 11am and 12noon.

### School Car Park

We are very lucky that we have such a large car park. Can we please remind all parents/carers to be respectful of others when using our School Car Park. The carpark has a one-way system in place for the safety of our children. Some cars are continuing to access the top carpark by turning right on entry to the carpark, rather than driving around the main part of the carpark first. This may lead to an avoidable accident. The school cannot be held to account if cars are damaged by drivers accessing the top carpark in the wrong way.

Can we please ask that children are supervised when walking near the school car park, we have had reports of children running in front of cars.

Disabled bays should only be used for those who need them.



In addition, no parents should be using the staff carpark or bus bay to drop off or collect children.

### 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 Peanut Butter/Nutella sandwiches and Dubai chocolate.

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.



### Rag Bag Collection

Thank you for all your Rag Bag donations. Our last collection weighed 135kg, raising £27.00 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 & towels



## Achievements

Has your child celebrated an achievement out of school?  
e.g. Dancing, Football, Tae Kwon Do? 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](mailto:stbernadettesprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk)  
and let us know all about it!

## 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 your child.

## 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 NO Smoking/Vaping in school grounds.



## School Website

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

## Bluesky

Please follow us on: [St. Bernadette's Primary School \(@stbernadettesps.bsky.social\)](https://bsky.app/profile/stbernadettesps.bsky.social) — Bluesky



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

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



### **200 Club Winners**

The April 200 Club draw lucky numbers and winners were: -

£100 - 122 Clare Kavanagh

£50 - 199 Debbie Blair

£50 - 93 Elizabeth Kilbride

£25 - 226 Eleanor Garvin

£25 - 91 John Galbraith

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](mailto:stbernadettes200club@gmail.com). We would love to have more people join up to help support the school.

### **Urgently required – new members for the Parent Council**

As the school year comes to a close, we are at a crisis point with our membership. Our chair and vice-chair will be stepping down since their children are moving on to high school. Our treasurer and fundraising coordinator, who have given years of service, cannot take on more responsibilities. For three years, we have faced low attendance, but now the situation is urgent—after this term, we will fall below the minimum of five members. Members must have children currently at the school.

If no new members step forward, the Parent Council will not be able to continue. This means we lose the transparent decision-making process that ensures fundraising money is spent wisely and fairly. Without the council, our children will directly lose out on resources like Smart TVs, essential learning subscriptions used by all children, the new shed that benefits both the school and nursery, P7 leavers' hoodies, and many other valuable items. The school is unlikely to secure funding for these resources through other means.

To keep the Parent Council running, we need new members now. If you're willing to help, please join us at our next meeting on 16 June 2026. If you have questions or want to express your interest, contact us by email at [stbernadettesparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:stbernadettesparentcouncil@gmail.com). We can coopt new members, but we must have a committed group of volunteers to keep our work going.

Even a small contribution from you can make a real difference for our school community and the children who benefit from everything the Parent Council provides. Please consider this urgent request— I hope to hear from you soon.

Update: We have had around three or four responses; however, this still leaves us very short for numbers. Thank you to those who have responded so far, and someone will be in touch with you shortly. If anyone is concerned about not being able to attend in person, there is always the option to attend via MS Teams.



Date	Stage	Event
20 <sup>th</sup> May	P3 P5/6	Museum of Scotland visit
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	P1-7	11am – 12 noon Wonder Week showcase to parents – all welcome
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	ELC	Afternoon Sports Day – all welcome
28 <sup>th</sup> May	ELC / new P1	10.45am – 12 noon P1 Transition, with lunch and parents
28 <sup>th</sup> May	P1-7 / new P1	School Disco - £3.50 entry 6.00pm – 7.00pm P1-3 and new P1 (with parent) 7.15pm – 8.30pm P4-7
29 <sup>th</sup> May	P1-7	1.30pm Mass, led by P4 – all welcome
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Sacrament of Holy Communion candidates	Sacrament of Holy Communion – times already issued
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	P1-7	9.30am – 11.30am and 1.00pm – 3.00pm Sports Day – all welcome
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	ELC	Trip to Mariner Centre
4 <sup>th</sup> June	ELC / new P1	9.15am – 10am Transition event, children only
11 <sup>th</sup> June	ELC / new P1	3.30pm – 4.30pm Transition outdoor event, children and parents
12 <sup>th</sup> June	P6 (4 pupils)	Afternoon Euro Quiz finals (good luck!)
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Sacrament of Confirmation candidates	11am Sacrament of Confirmation

		St. Francis Xavier's Church
16 <sup>th</sup> June and 17 <sup>th</sup> June	P7	St. Mungo's transition (transport provided)
16 <sup>th</sup> June	All	6.30pm Parent Council meeting – all welcome
18 <sup>th</sup> June	ELC / new P1	9.15am – 10am Transition event, children only
19 <sup>th</sup> June	ELC	Afternoon Moving On celebration – all welcome
19 <sup>th</sup> June	P1-7	Reports issued to parents
24 <sup>th</sup> June	P7	9.30am P7 Leavers Assembly – all welcome 1.30pm Mass, led by P7 – all welcome
26 <sup>th</sup> June	All	End of Term 12.15pm or 1.30pm pick-up School bus will leave at 1.30pm