



St Bernadette's Primary School



August 2026 Newsletter



Welcome back to our 14th year at St. Bernadette's. A very warm welcome to all of our new pupils and their parents/carers.

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.

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. This is a useful link: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)
Please ensure all contact details are up to date.

Emails

As we are an ECO school letters very rarely go out in paper form. There are many emails sent out to parents, you should have received a few already! If you have not received any, it may mean that we do not have your up-to-date email address. Please let Mrs Heeps know and she can update your details.

Administration of Medication

If your child requires any medication to be administered during the school day (including inhalers for asthma), it is Falkirk Council policy that a standard form is completed by parents/carers. To ensure all our information is up to date this has to be done every school year. If you need a form, please contact the school office.

Primary One

Our Primary 1's have all settled in very well at school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We would rather you ask us than let something worry you.

Photographs

Could you please let the school know ASAP if you do **NOT** want your child's photograph taken. Please email the school stbernadettesprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk Thank you.

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

We recommend all parent/carers sign up as you can report absences, book parent consultations, see report cards, check all contact details are up to date and so much more! You can do all of this in one central place. Please click: www.parentsportal.scot to sign-up.

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

Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme

In Autumn/Winter 2026, flu immunisation will be offered to all primary school aged children in their school. All P1-P7 children have had a letter with further information and consent forms. Please return these by **24th August**.

Please don't worry if your child did not receive a letter, NHS Team have been informed and a letter shall be sent to school and you will receive it soon.

Unfortunately, forms cannot be accepted after the 24th August as these are collected by the NHS.

The date of the Flu Immunisations in school is 26th October 2026.

Please visit www.nhsinform.scot/childflu for further information.



School Photographs

Tempest shall be in school on **Tuesday 1st September** to take family and individual school photographs. Parents will be sent home a proof photograph and have the opportunity to purchase packs – there is **NO OBLIGATION** to buy.

Please ensure your child comes to school on photograph day full in school uniform – including their biggest smile 😊



Primary 1 Falkirk Herald Souvenir Edition

The Falkirk Herald photographer will be in school on Tuesday 25th August to take the P1 class photograph to be included in the Falkirk Herald Souvenir Edition. Please ensure your child is in school uniform on this day (shirt and tie where possible). Parents/Carers will have the opportunity to purchase this edition at a reduced price – email to follow 😊

School Lunches

Lunches are free for all children in P1-P5. Please note there has been a price increase for school lunches and the cost per child is now £3.00 for P6 & P7 pupils. If your child requires a Medically Prescribed Diet please ensure the forms are updated and signed by a medical professional.

Staffing News

We are delighted to welcome our new Probationer Teacher, Miss Kennedy. Miss Kennedy is teaching P3. We also welcome Miss Thomas who has joined us this year, she is teaching P4.

September Holiday

Just a reminder that school is closed to staff and pupils on Monday 7th September as it is a local holiday.

Communication with Class Teachers

Can we please ask that if you wish to speak to your child's teacher that you please contact the school office to arrange a phone call or meeting. Please do **NOT** approach the teacher in the morning or at the end of the day at the classroom door as the teacher is settling in/dismissing all her class. All teachers use the SeeSaw app and you can also message the teacher on this.

5th Larbert Boys Brigade

Come and join us on Friday nights at 7pm!

5th Larbert Boys Brigade Company meets in Larbert Baptist Church Hall on Friday nights at 7pm. Boys from P2 upwards will be made most welcome.

For further information please phone Lorraine on [01324 557686](tel:01324557686)

P7 Residential Trip

We have booked our residential for the P7 pupils to Dalguise. In previous years our P7's had a very positive experience at their residential trip. Lots more information can be found by clicking this link [About \(pgl.co.uk\)](http://pgl.co.uk)

The week the children shall visit shall be w/b 26th April 2027. There will be two members of staff who will accompany the children. PGL provide a wide range of activities. All the residential staff are very well qualified and the children will be supervised at all times.

The cost of this trip will be £400.00. (We have capped this price and shall fundraise to meet the cost of the trip). This includes £20 spending money for each child. A deposit of £60.00 was required by 26th June 2026. Interim deposit of £80.00 will be due by 28th August. Final payment will be due by 29th January 2027. Payments can be made at any time on IpayImpact. If you need any help with IpayImpact, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

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

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.



Jewellery in PE

Just a reminder that for health and safety reasons pupils should remove all jewellery on PE days. If your child has a new piercing this must be covered with micropore tape. Staff cannot remove children's earrings; we ask that this is done at home.



Cakes and Sweet Treats

Can we please remind parents/carers that unfortunately, we cannot allow cakes or sweet treats to be brought in to be shared in class. We understand that this is usually a kind thing to do to celebrate your child's birthday, but we have children and staff with several food allergies. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Rag Bag Collection

Thank you for all your Rag Bag donations. 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



School Uniform

It is great to see so many children wearing school uniform. We are delighted that parents co-operate with the school in encouraging their child to follow the school's dress code. Football colours are not allowed in school as they can lead to incidents of rivalry.

The wearing of school 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. trips
- Enhances the school's reputation within the community; and
- Minimises rivalry and bullying amongst pupils that can arise from, e.g. the wearing of designer clothing

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 all items of clothing are clearly labelled.



Please remember we have pre-loved uniform at the main entrance. If your child outgrows their uniform and it is still in good condition, please donate to our pre-loved table. All parents/carers are welcome to browse this from 9am – 3.15pm every day. Any donations shall be made to Mary's Meals.

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.

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
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.





RECYCLE AND RAISE MONEY!

Dear Parents and Guardians!

I wanted to reach out to share an exciting initiative that we have launched to help raise money for the school!

We have partnered with a company called Denner UK, to start a **NO COST recycling program** to collect empty inkjet cartridges, and we are asking you all to get involved by spreading the word to family and friends.

Simply have a root around at home, or work, for any unwanted printer cartridges (empty or full!) and then bring them into school. We have a recycling box on site for you to pop them in, and each time that gets full we organise a **FREE collection** from Denner UK.

They then process them at their London facility and for every cartridge collected, they pay the school up to **£1 per cartridge**, providing a fantastic opportunity for us to raise funds for the school's projects and initiatives. To put this into context, the majority of households will be using inkjet printers, and each box can hold in excess of 400 of these meaning that for every full box that is returned it could **raise as much as £400** for the school!

Not only does this help generate financial support, but it also encourages environmentally friendly practices both at school and at home.

Please just reach out if you have any questions and we look forward to receiving all your unwanted printer cartridges!

Thanks in advance for your support on this easy and environmentally friendly program to help us raise much needed funds for the school!

denner[™]
UK

200 Club

As anyone who has won money from the 200 club will testify, it's a great feeling when 'your number comes up'. If you or anyone in your family would like to join (cost £3 per month per number), then please drop an email to stbernadettes200club@gmail.com and someone will be in touch.

ST. BERNADETTE'S NEEDS YOU



St. Bernadette's fundraising group needs new members to be involved with the fantastic events held each year at the school.

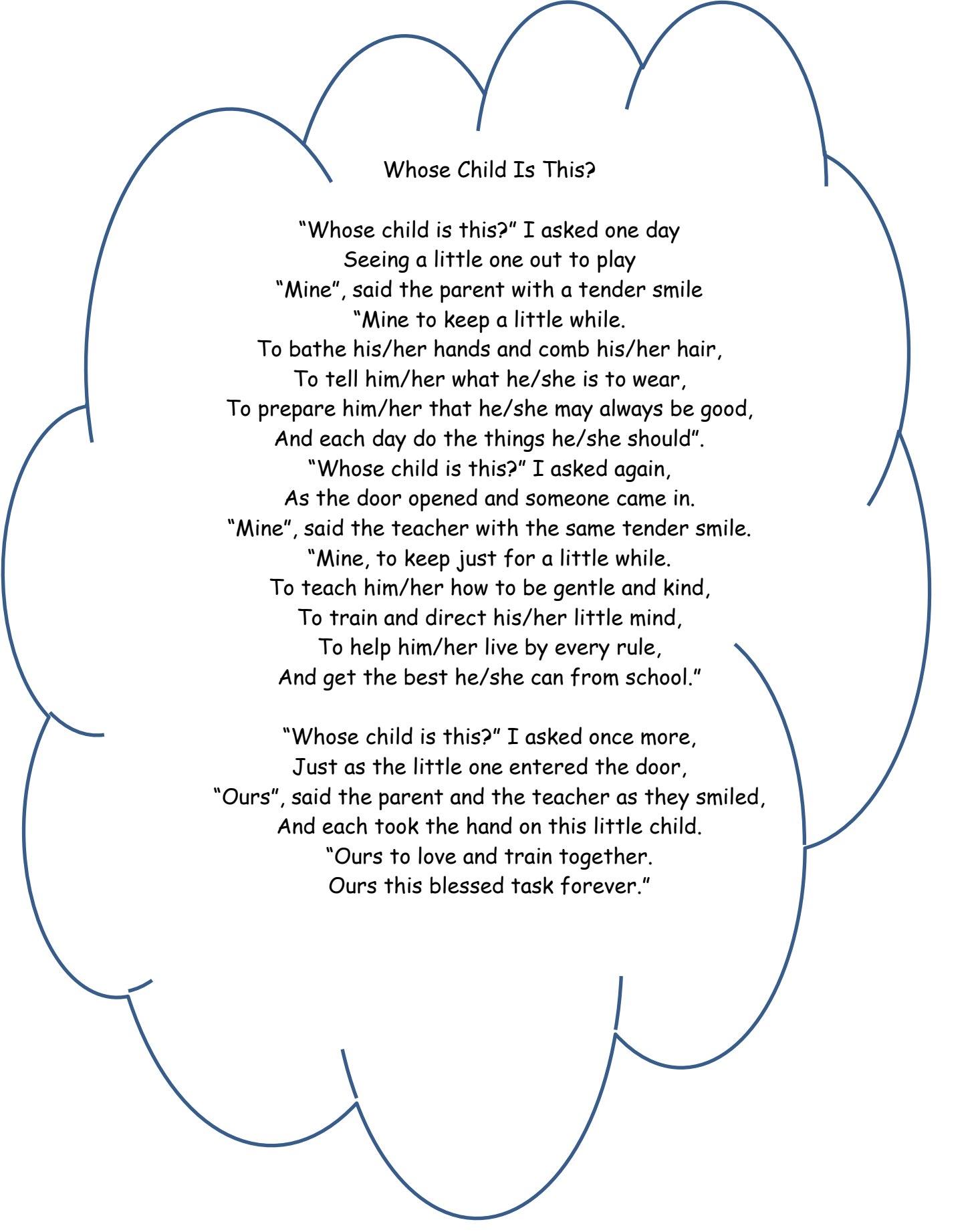
As kids move on so do parents and without more parents support the below events will eventually come to an end!

- Kids Disco – Halloween/Easter/Summer
- Family BBQ
- Summer Fayre
- Annual Quiz Night
- Race Night and many more.....

Year on year school budgets have been tightened and without the funds raised from the above events St. Bernadette's would not have been able to provide the below for your children.



- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| • Sumdog | • Classroom Smartboards | • Wellsfield & Almond Valley Family Pass |
| • Busy Things | • Outdoor toys | • Astro Turf In Nursery |
| • Picnic Benches & Woody | • Running Bibs | • Climbing Wall |
| | • 20 iPads & Apple TV's | |
| | | Plus much more..... |



Whose Child Is This?

"Whose child is this?" I asked one day
Seeing a little one out to play
"Mine", said the parent with a tender smile
"Mine to keep a little while.
To bathe his/her hands and comb his/her hair,
To tell him/her what he/she is to wear,
To prepare him/her that he/she may always be good,
And each day do the things he/she should".

"Whose child is this?" I asked again,
As the door opened and someone came in.
"Mine", said the teacher with the same tender smile.
"Mine, to keep just for a little while.
To teach him/her how to be gentle and kind,
To train and direct his/her little mind,
To help him/her live by every rule,
And get the best he/she can from school."

"Whose child is this?" I asked once more,
Just as the little one entered the door,
"Ours", said the parent and the teacher as they smiled,
And each took the hand on this little child.
"Ours to love and train together.
Ours this blessed task forever."

Events Calendar 2026 – 2027



August

25th: Falkirk Herald
photographer in to
take P1 Photo

28th: Mass, 1.30pm,
led by P7

September

1st – School photographs being taken (Tempest)

2nd: P7 reconciliation, 10.45am, in school

3rd: P6 reconciliation, 10.45am, in school

4th: P5 reconciliation, 10.45am, in school

7th: Holiday

10th: Family Mass 6pm,
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, all welcome!

18th: Meet the Teacher - information via email

October

2nd: Mass, 1.30pm, led by P6

12th – 23rd: Holiday

26th – Flu Immunisations
in school

30th: Mass, 1.30pm, led by P5
(All Saints Day)

November

Sunday 8th: Rite of Enrolment,
Holy Communion candidates,
10.30am Mass,
Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadettes

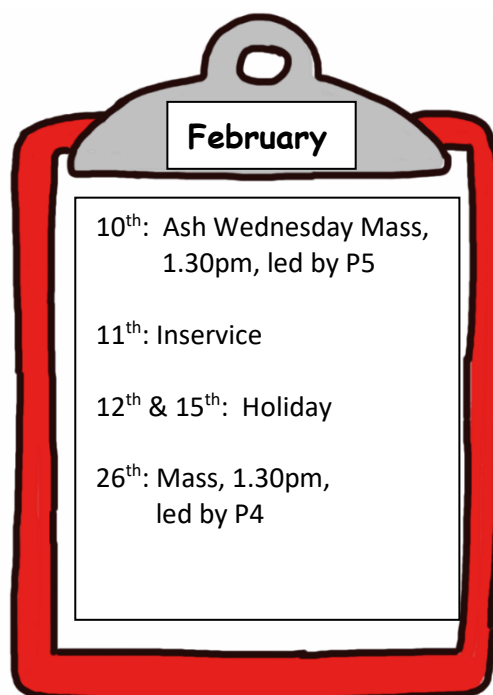
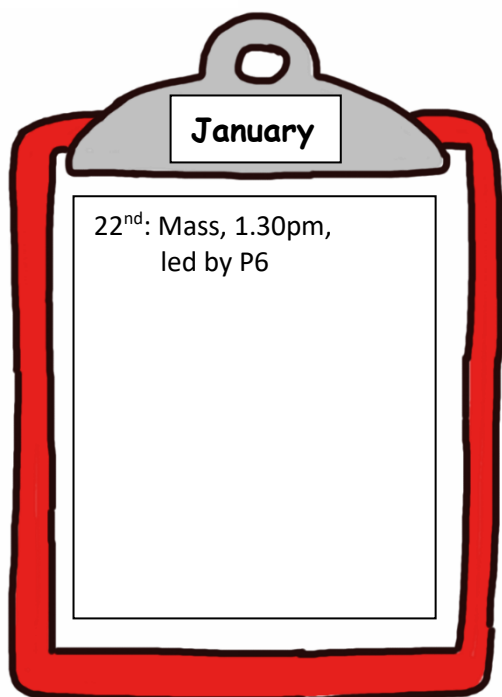
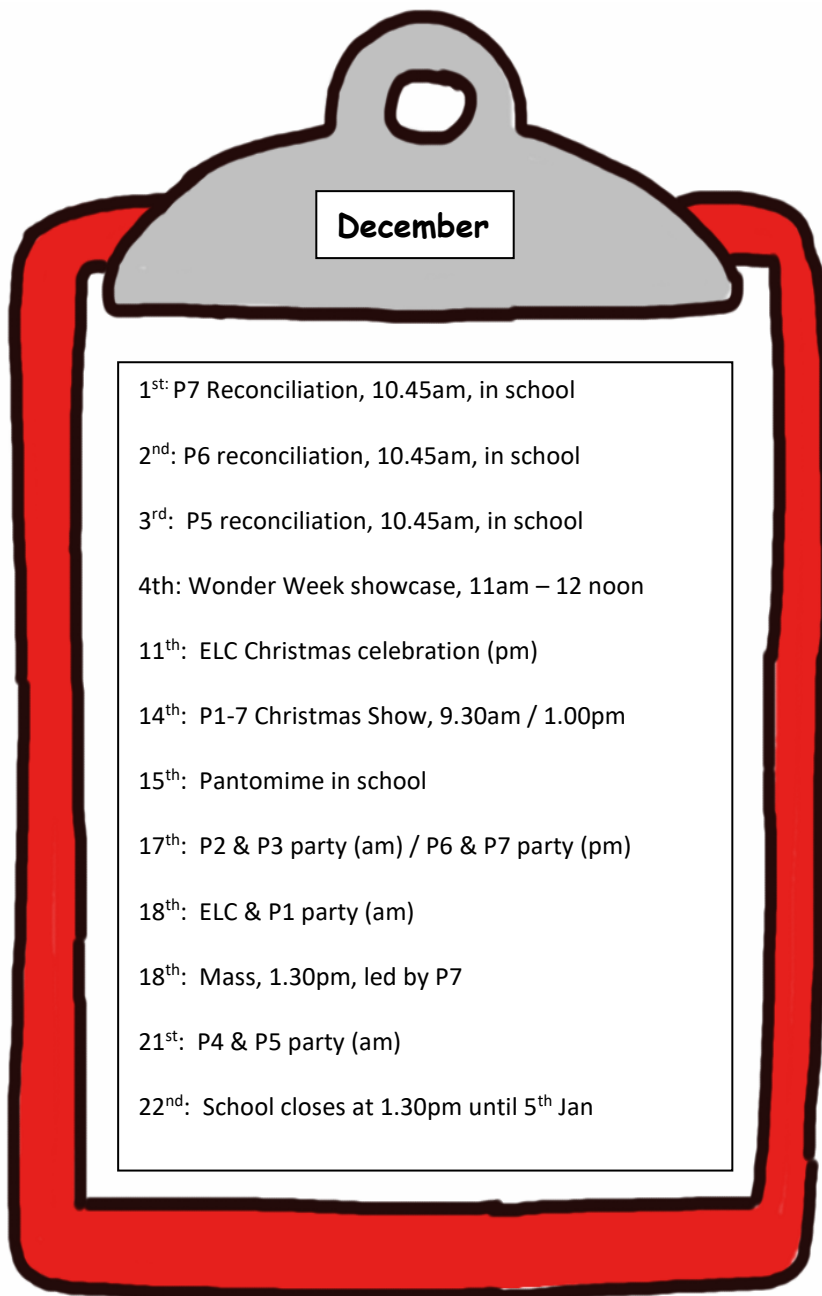
10th and 12th: Parent Consultations
(3.30pm -6.00pm)

16th – 30th: Catholic Education Week

20th: Children in Need

27th: Mass, 1.30pm, led by P4

30th: Inservice day



March

4th: World Book Day

Saturday 6th: Sacrament of Reconciliation,
11am, in church

10th: P7 reconciliation, 10.30am, in church

11th: P6 reconciliation, 10.30am, in church

12th: P5 reconciliation, 10.30am, in church

16th & 18th: Parent Consultations
(3.30pm – 6.00pm)

19th: Mass, 1.30pm, led by P7

26th: School closed for Good Friday

29th: School closed for Easter Monday

April

5th – 16th: Holiday

23rd: Mass, 1.30pm, led by P6

30th: Inservice

May

3rd: Holiday

6th: School Trips (info to follow)

27th: P1 transitions, (10.45am – 12.15pm)

27th: P4 Reconciliation and Holy
Communion practice, 1030am, in church

28th: Wonder Week showcase, (11am – 12
noon)

Saturday 29th: Sacrament of Holy
Communion, 10.30am and 2pm

June

2nd: Sports day or 9th if it rains

3rd: P1 transition, children only
(9.15am – 10am)

3rd: P7 reconciliation, 10.45am,
in school

Saturday 5th: Sacrament of Confirmation,
11am, St. Francis Xavier Parish

10th: P1 transition (3.30pm – 4.30pm)

17th: P1 transition, children only
(9.15am – 10am)

17th: P6 reconciliation, 10.45am, in school

18th: P5 reconciliation, 10.45am, in school

18th: ELC moving on celebration (pm)

19th: Written reports issued

23rd: P7 leavers assembly (9.30am). &
Mass (1.30pm)

25th: School closes at 1.30pm

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: [@stbernadettesps.bsky.social](https://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>