



Learn, Live, Believe

*St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Santes Bernadette
We are a Christ centred community reaching out to
others. We learn, grow and celebrate together.*

Weekly Newsletter

19th Rhagfyr 2025



The staff and Governors at St Bernadette's wish all our families, a safe, peaceful and holy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again on Tuesday the 6th January.

Monday 5th January is an INSET day for staff only.

Christmas Preparation

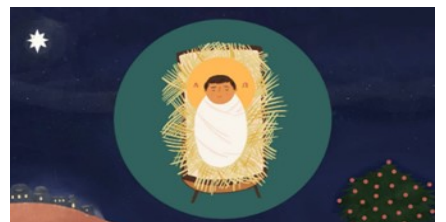
St Bernadette's have had a very exciting week, preparing for Christmas. On Tuesday B15/6 amazed everyone with their beautiful, carol concert.



On Wednesday morning, we had our wonderful Peripatetic Concert, with all our talented musicians – the most we have ever had - performing in front of their friends and families. Then, in the afternoon, our classes celebrated with Christmas parties, including a special visit from Santa! Today, on our last day of term, we had a wonderful time together singing carols and Christmas songs.

The school was able to say a very fond goodbye to Mr Newman. To show much how we appreciated all his contributions to St Bernadette's and to wish him all the very best in his new school in Bridgend.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of Christmas. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be with us. Help us to receive Christmas in our hearts and share it with others. We welcome you, Jesus, Saviour of the World! Amen



ALTAR SERVERS

The Parish is in need of people to serve at the weekend Masses as they now only have 4 regulars. We only have one child from St Bernadette's who serves at the church, but more are needed to share the role. If you think you and/or your child can help, please contact the parish.

Fr Keith: 07495 802 711 keith.evans@cardiffmenevia.org or

Deacon Steve: 07952 471733 steve.melhuish@btinternet.com



CHRISTMAS MASSES IN ST PHILIP EVANS

WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER

5.15 pm	First Mass of Christmas	10.30 am	Mass of Christmas Day
8.00 pm	Mass of Christmas Night		

Term Dates 2025 – 2026

Term	Begins	Half term begins	Half term ends	Term ends
Autumn 2025	Monday 1/9/2025	Monday 27/10/2025	Friday 31/10/2025	Friday 19/12/2025
Spring 2026	Monday 5/1/26	Monday 16/2/26	Friday 20/2/26	Friday 27/3/26
Summer 2026	Monday 13/4/26	Monday 25/5/26	Friday 29/5/26	Monday 20/7/26

Staff Training Days for 2026 – School will be closed to children on the following days:
Monday 5th January. Friday 22nd May and Monday 20th July 2026.

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

Term	Term begins	Half Term begins	Half Term ends	Term ends
Autumn 2026	Tuesday 1/9/2026	Monday 26/10/2026	Friday 30/10/2026	Friday 18/12/2026
Spring 2027	Monday 4/1/27	Monday 8/2/27	Friday 12/2/27	Friday 19/3/27
Summer 2027	Monday 5/4/27	Monday 31/5/27	Friday 4/6/27	Tuesday 20/7/27

* May Day Bank Holiday 3/5/27

Staff Training Days for 2026-7 – School will be closed to children on the following days:
Tuesday 1st September, Wednesday 2nd September, Friday 23rd October 2026.
3 other days to be arranged for 2027.

News from St Philip Evans Church - Spring

First Holy Communion sessions:

The next First Holy Communion sessions at St Philip Evans Church, will be taking place after Christmas. Sessions are open to all pupils entering year 3 in the 25/26 school year and any older children who still wish to take their first Communion.

Sessions will run on Tuesday's from 6pm and Saturday's from 4:15pm. The sessions will typically last between 30-45 minutes.

Sessions begin on Tuesday 6th January and Saturday 10th January for 5 weeks at the times above. Children will need to attend mass every weekend during the duration of the course.

First Holy Communion dates will be spread over two weekends, the 14th/15th February and the 21st/22nd of February.

Contact Teresa the church secretary for a form to enrol your child onto the above courses.

If you have any further questions then please email Teresa (the parish secretary): secretary@stphilpevans.co.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

BI5&BI6 Carol Service

On Wednesday afternoon the pupils in Years 5&6 led us through a beautiful Carol prayer service. We were reminded that at Christmas we welcome Jesus, the light of the world, until then, we are waiting in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus into the world.



Meithrin & Derbyn

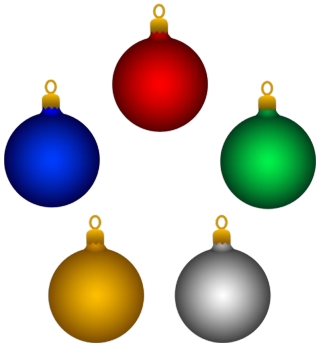
Nursery and Reception have had a very festive week together. Enjoying their Reindeer run and a very special visit from Father Christmas.



Stars of the week Reception: All of Reception for trying their best every day.

Star of the week Nursery: Connor: Connor has come such a long way in such a short amount of time. He is a popular member of the class, loved by both staff and children alike. Connor is loving and caring, with a beautiful smile that truly lights up the room. He enthusiastically joins in and contributes to all activities, including story time, circle time, and Monster Phonics. Connor especially loves spending time in the outdoor area, where he enjoys running and playing with all his friends. Connor is a most valuable member of our nursery — a well-earned Star of the Week!

Blwydynn 1



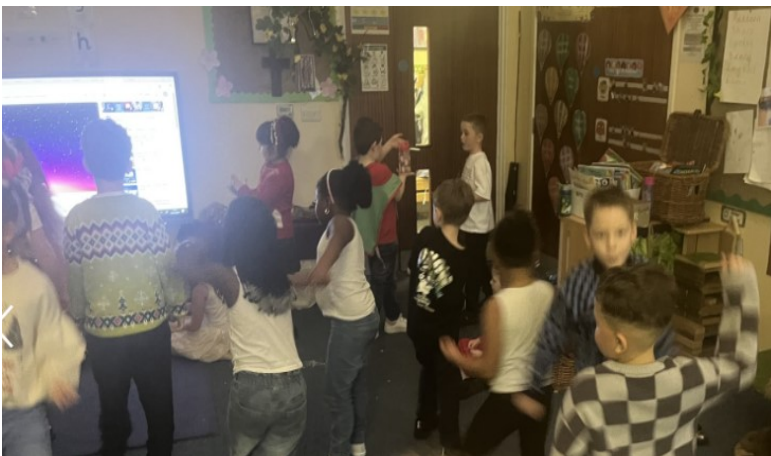
What a wonderful final week we've had in Year 1 before the Christmas holidays! The children have been full of festive cheer and creativity, making beautiful Christmas cards and decorations to take home and hang proudly on their trees. Their imagination and effort have truly shone through, and we're so proud of their hard work.

To end the week in style, we celebrated with a fantastic Christmas party! The children danced, played games, and enjoyed a delicious spread of party food together. We also had a special visit from Santa and his elves. It was a joyful way to finish the term, and the smiles and laughter said it all.



We'd like to thank you for your continued support this term. The children have achieved so much, and we look forward to seeing them back in the New Year, ready for more exciting learning adventures.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Seren Yr Wythnos: Eleanor - Eleanor has been a trouper this term! She has worked so hard and her progress speaks volumes! She never fails to make us smile and we are proud of all her achievements this term. Bendigedig Eleanor!

Blwydynn 2

Year 2 - Christmas party and Reindeer Run

Year 2 have had a very fun and festive week. The Reindeer run was a huge success, and the children showed resilience and hard work running for a full half an hour. The Christmas party was full of joy and laughter, lots of party games and Christmas crafts to get us into the Christmas spirit.



Star of the week: This week in Year 2 everyone is star of the week. You all have all tried exceptionally hard this term. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Blwyddyn 3

Year 3 have had an extremely busy first term. We have enjoyed our first topic 'one planet, our world'. We have enjoyed our final week of 2025 by celebrating with Christmas jumpers, party food and party games. We are all ready for a well deserved break over Christmas.



Jacob J – “We have been learning about the world we live on and the different continents we have. We have also looked at the possibility of life on different planets such as Mars”.

Joshua – “I liked writing a persuasive letter to Mrs Williams asking for more playtime. I enjoyed learning different techniques to help make it persuasive”.

Lily-Mae – “I liked joining up with year 4 for the harvest prayer service and the advent prayer service”.

Poppy – “I liked the reindeer run for charity. It was really fun running through the snow machine”.

Stars of the week: All of Year 3



Everyone has worked so hard this term it is impossible to choose just one person. I am extremely proud of you all and I know you will continue this hard work for the remainder of the year.

Blwyddyn 4

This week, Year 4 took a very special trip to the post box! We proudly sent off our letters to the Prime Minister, bringing our *Blue Abyss* topic to a close. Each letter showcased the key features we've been learning in our writing lessons, and we even included images of our fantastic *Blue Abyss* homework. The children were so excited to see their hard work heading off on a real journey!

We've been sharpening our map skills with a festive twist. Working in small groups, the children tracked Santa's travels across different countries. They identified which continent each country belongs to and explored the population figures. Together, we labelled maps and located key information, building confidence in using atlases and globes.

As we wrapped up our final topic of the term, we took time to reflect on everything we've achieved. Year 4 shared what they enjoyed most, the new skills they've learned, and what they're looking forward to next. Excitement is already building for our upcoming topic on *The Normans*!

It has been a truly fantastic first term in Year 4. The children have worked incredibly hard and should be proud of all they've accomplished. We are especially looking forward to meeting our linking school in January, which promises to be another exciting opportunity for learning and friendship.



Star of the week: This week, everyone in Year 4 is our Star of the Week! Their fantastic efforts, enthusiasm and hard work throughout the term have not gone unnoticed.

Blwyddyn 5

What a final week of the Autumn term Year 5 have had. Full of Christmas spirit and sprinkling joy wherever we can. We have delivered a beautifully traditional Carol Concert, taken part in a sponsored Reindeer Run and enjoyed a cosy Christmas film afternoon with snacks.



Llongyfarchiadau to this young man in year 5 who was awarded 'Junior Male of the Year' for his Judo club. We are very proud of you and your hard work and determination.



Seren yr Wythnos in blwyddyn 5: Da iawn to all of Blwyddyn 5 for your efforts and enthusiasm throughout this first term in Year 5. The progress you have made has been wonderful to witness, as has seeing your personalities, confidence and maturity grow. Nadolig Llawn to you and your families. See you in 2026!

Blwyddyn 6

Christmas Carol Service

We were delighted to hold a Christmas carol service on Wednesday for the school and our families. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our last week in school together.



Achievements Outside of School

Wonderful news to begin the week that this gymnastics star took part in a competition over the weekend as part of a Welsh Gymnastics competition. In her competitions she received a gold and two bronze medals.



Reindeer Run

Much fun was had on Tuesday morning, running with our friends and a few surprise visitors for our 'Reindeer Dash' to raise money for City Hospice. The sun was shining and the snow was falling as we made our way around the playground. Well done Bl6, you certainly brought the joy for our run!

Star of the week:

Seren yr Wythnos



Llongyfarchiadau to all of the pupils in Bl6 for their efforts this week in preparing for our carol service and all the hard work throughout the term. Da iawn, you have made us all very proud!



Seren Yr Ythnos

Nursery - Connor

Reception – All of Reception

Year 1 – Eleanor

Year 2 – All of Year 2

Year 3 – All of Year 3

Year 4 – All of Year 4

Year 5 – All of Year 5

Year 6– All of Year 6





SUPPORT OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD

CEFNOGAETH DROS Y NADOLIG



If Christmas is a hard time for you, it's important to remember that you are not alone.

Os mae Nadolig yn amser anodd i ti, mae'n bwysig cofio nad wyt ti ar ben dy hun.

MIND

0300 102 1234

Cardiff Food Bank

02920 484120

info@cardiff.foodbank.org.uk

Hopeline 24/7

0800 068 41 41

Text: 88247

CALL 24/7

0800 132 737

call@helpline.wales

Samaritans

116 123

Safer Wales

02920 220 033

Childline

0800 1111

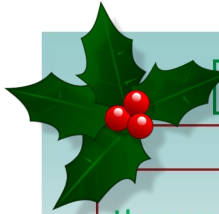
Beyond Blue

1300 22 4636

Shout

Text 'SHOUT' to 85258

CARDIFF
YOUTH
SERVICE
GWASANAETH
IEUENCTID
CAERDYDD



Christmas Holidays 2025 to 2026! Week 1

	Monday 22nd	Tuesday 23rd	Wednesday 24th	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 27th
Llanrumney Hub	Christmas Crafts and Treasure Hunt 1.30 - 3pm Retro Arcade Games 4 - 5pm	Cardiff Play Session 11am - 1pm Calming Space 2 - 4pm	Colouring Club For All 11am - 12pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Closed	Family Lego Fun 11 - 12.30am Retro Arcade Games 3 - 4pm
Powerhouse Hub	Cardiff Play Session 11am - 1pm	Christmas Crafts and Treasure Hunt 11am - 12.30pm Rhyme - time 2-3pm (0-4yrs)	Winter Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.30pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Closed	Colouring Club For All 2 - 3pm
St Mellons Hub	Christmas Crafts and Treasure Hunt 11am - 12.30pm	Rhyme-time 10.30-11am (0-4yrs) Family Lego Fun 2 - 3pm	Colouring Club For All 11am - 12pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Closed	Puzzles and Games 2.30 - 3.30pm
Rumney Hub	Colouring Club For All 2.30 - 3.30pm	Christmas Crafts and Treasure Hunt 11am - 12.30pm	Puzzles and Games 11am - 12pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Closed	Family Lego Fun 11am - 12.30pm

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

Christmas Holidays 2025 to 2026! Week 2

	Monday 29th	Tuesday 30th	Wednesday 31st	Thursday	Friday 2nd	Saturday
Llanrumney Hub	Colouring Club For All 1.30 - 2.30pm Retro Arcade Games 4 - 5pm	Winter Crafts 11.30am - 1pm	Winter Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.30pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Puzzles and Games 10.30 - 11.30am	Family Lego Fun 10 - 11.30am Retro Arcade Games 3 - 4pm
Powerhouse Hub	Winter Crafts 2 - 3.30pm	Rhyme - time 2-3pm (0-4yrs)	Family Lego Fun 11am - 12.30pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Rhyme-time 10.30 - 11.30am (0-4yrs) Puzzles and Games 2 - 3pm	Colouring Club For All 2 - 3pm
St Mellons Hub	Winter Crafts 11am - 12.30pm	Rhyme-time 10.30-11am (0-4yrs) Family Lego Fun 2 - 3pm	Colouring Club 11am - 12pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Story-time 11-11.30am (0-4yrs)	Puzzles and Games 3 - 4pm
Rumney Hub	Colouring Club For All 2.30 - 3.30pm	Winter Crafts 11am - 12.30pm	Puzzles and Games 11am - 12pm <u>Closing at 1pm</u>	Closed	Closed	Family Lego Fun 11am - 12.30pm

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SCHOOLS FAMILY ADVICE

SOUTH WALES

Citizens Advice Cardiff & Vale provide free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of areas including debt, benefits, housing, employment and family.

If you or your family need help, please scan the QR code and complete the referral form and one of our team will be in touch.

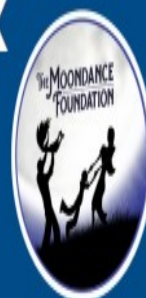
CONTACT US

02921 111272

moondance@cacv.org.uk

Monday - Friday

9am - 5pm



Caerdydd a
Bro Morgannwg
Cardiff & Vale

FAMILIES LEARNING TOGETHER

Following the successful 'Read together, Grow Together' course run in school for our families this term, we would like to introduce a new program all about 'Story Sacks'.

This is aimed at our families with children from Nursery to Year 2 and will start at 1pm on Monday 12th January at St Bernadette's.

About the Course

Story Sacks is a creative and interactive program designed to help parents and carers support their child's reading in fun and engaging ways. This course is built around the much-loved children's book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and uses stories, props, and playful activities to:

- Boost children's confidence and imagination
 - Strengthen early literacy skills
- Foster a lifelong love of reading

To book your place, scan the QR code on the form below to complete an online form, or email Families Learning Together on families@cavc.ac.uk

Families Learning Together



Story Sacks

St Bernadette's

**Monday 12th January
1.00pm**

**For parents / Carers /
Grandparents of pupils in
Reception to Year 2**

Come along to find out more

**Fun sessions for you and your child Get involved in:
Making fun resources to share, create your own story sack, learn new ideas to support reading & imagination. Gain an Aged Qualification, become a student, get student discount. Make new friends.**

**Contact us on
families@cavc.ac.uk**

