



St Bernard's Preparatory School Newsletter



A new school year is a fresh page, ready for wonderful things.



14th September 2026

Issue #01

Welcome Back to School

LOOKING AHEAD...

A new school year always brings a wonderful sense of possibility: new books to discover, challenges to tackle, friendships to make, places to visit and talents to uncover.

At St Bernard's Prep, we believe that education is about so much more than what happens behind a classroom desk. From the books our children read to the matches they play; from the questions they ask to the prayers they lead; and from standing on a stage to solving a seemingly impossible Maths problem, every experience plays its part in developing a St Bernard's Prep child.

As always there will be many opportunities to take learning beyond the school gates this year. Trips, workshops, visiting speakers, museums, residential experiences, competitions and special curriculum days will help our children see how their learning connects to the wider world.

Our extra-curricular programme will also offer something for everyone, including sport, music, drama, art, STEM, languages and academic challenges.

Clubs also give children the chance to discover something new, develop an existing talent or simply have a go. Not every child needs to be the fastest runner, strongest mathematician or most confident performer. Part of growing up is discovering your thing, and our role is to provide enough opportunities for every child to find it.

Alongside lessons and academic challenges, there will be plenty of moments designed simply to bring joy. Our reindeer visit, pantomime, Nativity, Christmas celebrations, performances and special visitors will help create memories that last. Childhood is precious, and school should contain a little bit of magic too.

At the heart of everything remains our Catholic ethos of Love, Work and Prayer. We want our children to work hard, show kindness and compassion, value others and recognise that everyone has something special to contribute.

There is so much to look forward to in this year.

As I will continue to remind our children:

Try your best and a little bit more.

I cannot wait to see what this year brings.



Spotlight

We are delighted to celebrate Himmat's fantastic achievement in the School Events National Mathematician of the Year Competition 2026. After achieving a Distinction in the Regional Heat, Himmat progressed to the prestigious National Final, where he won a Bronze Award in the Key Stage 1 category. This accomplishment reflects his enthusiasm, resilience and wonderful mathematical ability.

We know that other St Bernard's pupils also took part in the National Finals, and we would love to hear how they got on. Please share their results with us so that we can celebrate their achievements too!



We are thinking of all our Year 6 children who sat the Buckinghamshire 11+ last week and those taking the 11+ this Saturday. We know it can be an anxious time and wish you all the very best.



Summer Reading Challenge

A huge congratulations to Harnaam in Early Years, Rayna in Year 1, Evleen in Year 2, Shanaya in Year 3 and Pranay in Year 6 for completing the Summer Reading Challenge at their local library! 📖🌟

We are very proud of their fantastic commitment to reading throughout the summer, well done, everyone! 🙌

Upcoming Events



- Monday 14th September Upper Trans Welcome Meeting, 3.00pm
- Tuesday 15th September Lower Trans and Prep Welcome Meeting, 3.00pm
- Wednesday 16th September Welcome Mass led by Year 6 10.50am
- Thursday 17th September. Upper Prep Welcome Meeting, 3.00pm
- Friday 18th September School and sibling photos - winter uniform

Sports News

We have a wonderfully busy term of sport ahead at St Bernard's Prep! Our pupils will represent the school in football, netball and rugby fixtures, both at home and away, beginning this week with matches against Herries.

Highlights include the U11 Netball League at The Marist, football and netball tournaments, the Year 5 Inter-House Football Tournament and an exciting U9 Rugby Tournament at Caldicott. There will even be an opportunity for pupils to enjoy golf in December! We wish all our teams the very best and look forward to celebrating their efforts, teamwork and achievements throughout the term.



What makes a St Bernard's Prep Child?

It isn't one lesson.
It isn't one examination result.
It isn't one trophy, certificate or badge.
It is the sum of hundreds of experiences.
It is reading a book that opens your eyes to another world.
Solving the problem you nearly gave up on.
Scoring the goal and congratulating the person who scored against you.
Standing on a stage when your knees are trembling.
Leading a prayer.
Helping a younger child.
Taking pride in beautifully presented work.
Putting your hand up.
Asking a brilliant question.
Making a mistake and trying again.
Laughing with your friends at the pantomime.
Meeting a reindeer!
Discovering something you didn't know you were good at.
And gradually becoming a little more confident, independent, curious, compassionate and resilient than you were before.



Little St B's



 Little St B's is coming!

We are delighted to be launching Little St B's, our very own Mother & Toddler Group, with our first session taking place on Friday 2nd October.

Little St B's will provide a warm and welcoming space for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups to play, explore and make new friends. It is a wonderful opportunity to bring our local community together, while also welcoming current St Bernard's Prep families with younger children to come along and join in the fun.

There will be plenty for our littlest visitors to enjoy – and a chance for parents and carers to meet, chat and become part of the St Bernard's Prep community.

After all, you are never too little to be a Little St B! 

Finding their voice

Confidence does not suddenly appear when a child reaches Year 6. We build it, little by little, from the moment a child joins us.

Assemblies, class liturgies, performances, presentations, drama, poetry and opportunities to speak in front of others all help our children develop their oracy skills.

Sometimes that means performing to a packed audience.

Sometimes it simply means finding the courage to put up a hand and say:

"I have an idea..."

Both matter.

Our LAMDA results demonstrate just what can happen when those skills are nurtured. Once again, our pupils achieved an extraordinary 100% Distinction rate.



Putting pen to paper

We have always believed that presentation matters and that children should take pride in their work.

I am pleased to announce that our commitment was once again recognised nationally through the SATIPS National Handwriting Competition, with an incredible 17 individual winners from across St Bernard's Prep Seventeen!

A wonderful achievement and another reminder that high expectations, careful practice and attention to detail really do make a difference.



Books that take us places

Reading sits at the heart of our curriculum, and, throughout the year, our children will encounter wonderful books chosen to challenge, inspire and sometimes surprise them. Across the school, stories become the starting point for discussion, writing, drama, debate, vocabulary, imagination and deeper thinking. We want our children not simply to read books, but to talk about them, question them, enjoy them and remember them.



A School That Thinks

This year will see us continue our journey towards becoming an accredited Thinking School. Thinking Frames are already an established part of learning at St Bernard's Prep, helping children to organise, connect and develop their ideas. Our whole-school Thinking Families take this even further, bringing children of different ages together to collaborate, problem-solve and learn from one another. Our status in Maths as an NRICH Problem Solving School reflects the same philosophy. We don't simply want children who know the answer. We want children who are curious enough to ask the question, confident enough to have a go, resilient enough to get something wrong and thoughtful enough to try another way.