



Message from Mrs. Maguire:

As we draw to the end of Term 1, I have taken some time to look back over the past months, reflecting on all the wonderful learning that has taken place and the wealth of experiences our children have enjoyed. It has been a busy, joyful and rewarding term, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our staff, parents and children for their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to learning. It is this partnership that continues to make our school such a special place.

This month has brought many highlights, but our Christmas celebrations stand out in particular. Our Primary 1 and 2 Nativities, the Primary 3 tableau, and the Primary 4 to 7 Christmas Celebration were all truly memorable. The talent, confidence and enthusiasm shown by our boys and girls were exceptional, and we are tremendously proud of each and every one of them.

Another significant moment this month was our Farewell Assembly for Mrs Magee, led beautifully by her Primary 6 class. This celebration recognised the enormous contribution and commitment Mrs Magee has made to St Bernard's. She has inspired both children and staff, fostering a love of learning and leaving a lasting impact on our school community. We wish her every success and happiness as she begins her next chapter as Principal in Ballymacrickett Primary School.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Pierce on his recent appointment as Acting Vice-Principal. We are delighted for him and I look forward to working alongside him in his leadership role in the months ahead.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our PTA for the wonderful events organised throughout this term. From Mr Hullabaloo to the Christmas Movie Night and our festive Christmas Raffle, the PTA has created magical experiences for our children. Without their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm, we simply would not be able to run such events—events that not only bring joy to the pupils, but also raise much-needed funds for our school. Thank you!

As we prepare to break for the holidays, I would like to wish all our families a happy and peaceful Christmas, filled with rest, joy and time together. And of course—I hope Santa is good to you all!



ST BERNARD'S
PRIMARY
SCHOOL



OPEN DAY

Wednesday 7th January, 2026
9:30am - 10:30am

Principal's address at 9:30am in the
Assembly Hall



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday 5th January
School Commences

Wednesday 7th January
Open Day

Monday 9th - February 13th
Mid-Term Break

WHAT'S GOING ON...

CHOIR

This Christmas season, our choir has continued to share the joy of music with the community. They have performed at Brae Valley Care Home, Knockbreda Nursery, and Forestside, bringing smiles and festive cheer to everyone they met. Each visit was a wonderful opportunity to spread kindness and celebrate the spirit of Christmas together.

The choir will also be singing at the St Bernadette's Carol Service on Sunday at 6:00 pm, which will be a beautiful way to finish the season.

A heartfelt thank you to Miss Knowles and Miss Harding for their incredible hard work and dedication in preparing the choir for these special events.



P6'S ENCHANTING TRIP TO THE LYRIC THEATRE



Our P6 class recently enjoyed a magical day at the Lyric Theatre Belfast, watching A Christmas Carol. The students were captivated by the stunning performances and festive atmosphere, which brought Charles Dickens' classic tale to life.

P4'S FESTIVE BAUBLE MAKING



Our P6 class recently enjoyed a magical day at the Lyric Theatre Belfast, watching A Christmas Carol. The students were captivated by the stunning performances and festive atmosphere, which brought Charles Dickens' classic tale to life.

WHAT'S GOING ON...

DREAM SPACE AMBASSADORS

This term, the Dream Space Ambassadors have been learning all about micro:bits through online training. They were able to share this knowledge with P5, who had never seen or used a micro:bit before!

The Dream Space Ambassadors told P5 that a micro:bit is a tiny computer and we can code it to

do lots of different things. The Ambassadors helped the children to display their name, age, emotion, favourite animal and play a song! The classes had a great time learning from the Ambassadors – they were excellent teachers!



CROSS COUNTRY

“On Tuesday the 3rd of December the boys cross country team were up at Newcastle at Donald Park. On Monday 1st of December, all of the girls and boys on the cross country team went out to represent our school in Dunleath Playing Fields, Downpatrick. All the girls and boys who competed did amazing.

In the boys race they came 1st overall and the girls came 13th overall.

Despite the cold weather, everyone had a great day out.

Thank you Miss Harding and Mrs Barry for taking us out on Monday. Well Done to everyone who competed!”

By Eva and Ruby



Santa Run



On Friday 5th December, the whole school took part in the Daily Mile Santa Run to raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Society. The children wore their best Christmas accessories and ran, jogged, or walked 1 mile around our school playground. Pupils and staff alike had great fun completing the activity, with festive music playing in the background! As a school, we raised an amazing £596 for SVP, which will help support families and individuals this Christmas. Combined with the proceeds from our Christmas Jumper Day, this will go a long way towards helping those in need during the festive season.



ANNUAL APPEAL **SVP**
Society of St Vincent de Paul

CONFERENCE NAME
St Bernadette's Christmas Appeal 2025

CONFERENCE FUNDRAISING ADDRESS
svp.ie/st-bernadettes-appeal-25

Donate locally, at svpni.co.uk
or call 028 90351561

SVP
Society of St Vincent de Paul

Santa Run P1 & P7

MERRY CHRISTMAS

P6 AND P2 SANTA RUN

PIC COLLEGE





PTA Christmas Raffle

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for organising this year's Christmas raffle. We are extremely grateful to all the local businesses who generously donated vouchers, and to Tesco for providing the festive treats. A big thank you also to all the parents who kindly donated prizes—your support and generosity make such a difference. The raffle created a wonderful buzz and excitement throughout the school in the run-up to Christmas, and we are truly appreciative of everything you do.

Raffle Winners:

Four Kpop Demon Hunters Tickets – Amelia Collins, P5

£50 Errigle Inn Voucher – Adam Tierney, P1

£50 Errigle Inn Voucher – Emily, P1

£40 McAtamney's Butcher – Megan Sweeney, P6

£25 Pavilion Bar – Tom Green, P5

£25 Pavilion – Evelyn Chandler, P4

£40 Smyths – Anna McKibben, P3

£40 Utopia Beauty – Danny O'Reilly, P3

£50 Shed – Paddy Norman

£25 Michel's Fruit & Veg – Noah Grant, P7

£25 Hillmount – Olivia Donnelly, P5

£20 waterstones – Megan Sweeney, P6

Spiderman Set – Kate McFarran, P5

Wine Set – Aidan Common-O'Neill, P7

Four Tickets to Over Thirties Club – Ben Foster, P2

Tea Set – Emma Liggett, P3

Art Set – Aine Savage, P4

Large Penguin Teddy – Joseph Bell, P2

Large Dog Teddy – Isabella Fortuna, P1

Gin – Alana Connolly, P5

Gin – Dylan McCormick, P5

Wine – Charlie McGarry, P1

Chocolate Hamper – Owen Lamont, P5

Christmas Hampers:

Kateryna Sakhnenko, P2

Grainne Farry, P7

Tom Green, P5

Shane McGlinchy, P2

Fionn Carre, P4

Luke Kennedy, P5

Daniel, P3

