

ST. BERNARD'S NEWSLETTER

April 2026

April has been a particularly busy and enjoyable month in St Bernard's, filled with energy, achievement and a wonderful sense of community.

There was great excitement surrounding both the PTA Easter Raffle and the Student Council Raffle. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the PTA and our Student Council for all their hard work and commitment in organising these events and helping to raise valuable funds for our school. Your efforts are very much appreciated. We are also delighted to share that the school raised an outstanding £1,230 for Trócaire during the Lenten period. This generous contribution will make a huge difference to the lives of those supported by the charity.

Our sporting calendar has also been exceptionally busy, with St Bernard's proudly represented across a wide range of sports including Netball, Camogie, Hurling, Soccer, Gaelic and Cross Country. A special congratulations must go to our Boys' Soccer team, who were crowned East Down League Champions for the second year running, a fantastic achievement. We also congratulate Jaxon in Primary Seven who will travel to Southampton to represent the Belfast Schools in a tournament, having been selected for the squad. Well done also to both our boys' and girls' cross country teams who reached the finals in Mallusk; we are very proud of all who represented the school so positively.

With the arrival of better weather, it was lovely to welcome Green Space Bernie to help spruce up our school grounds. It was heartening to see children and parents working together, enjoying gardening and being outdoors as a school community.

A real highlight of the term was our wonderful Spring Concert. Last week, the boys and girls of St Bernard's showcased their outstanding musical talents alongside Irish dancers from the Kathy O'Connor School of Irish Dancing. The evening featured performances from our school orchestra, choir and individual instrumentalists, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this special evening and to all who helped make it such a success.

As always, thank you for your continued support of St Bernard's. April has truly reflected the talent, teamwork and spirit that make our school such a special place.

Dates for your diaries:



Monday 4th May
May Day holiday

Friday 8th May
P4 First Holy Communion

Wednesday 13th & Thursday

14th May
P7 Show



18th May

SEAG Registration opens for
current P6 pupils wishing to sit the
SEAG Entrance Assessment

Tuesday 19th May
Sports Day (P1-P4)

Wednesday 20th May
Sports Day (P5-P7)

WHAT'S GOING ON IN ST. BERNARD'S...

P2 MUSEUM TRIP

P2 had a fantastic fossil filled trip to the Ulster Museum. We enjoyed looking at all the dinosaur objects and learning about the prehistoric giants that used to roam the earth.



EAST DOWN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



For the second year in a row the St Bernard's Boys Football Team have been crowned champions of the East Down League! Twenty-four schools entered the competition this year, with the top eight meeting for a finals day playoff to determine the winner. The games were tough and the margins were narrow, but St Bernard's emerged victorious and held onto the trophy! All the boys played brilliantly, and they were deserving winners. A special shoutout in particular goes to our goalkeeper who managed to score the winning goal in the semi-final, as well as Cillian, who scored two outrageous goals in the final. Well done boys!

P7 NETBALL

On Thursday 16th April 2026 some of the girls from Primary 7 went to a netball blitz at Queens P.E.C. We played three matches. First, we played St Brides and unfortunately during the last minute, St Brides scored so the final score was 2-1. After a little break, we played St.Ita's and we lost 4-1 but we still stayed positive. In the last match we played Stranmillis and we had a great comeback and won 3-2. We had a very positive mindset and what was most important to us was that we worked as a team! We had a great time and we all enjoyed it very much. A special thank you to Written by P7



WHAT'S GOING ON IN ST. BERNARD'S...

LIBRARY VISIT FOR P1



Primary 1 enjoyed a visit from Cregagh Library this month. During the session, the children took part in rhythm and rhyme activities, listened to stories, and engaged enthusiastically with the librarian. The pupils also learned about their local library and were shown how they can join and apply for their own library card. It was an enjoyable and informative visit that encouraged a love of stories and reading from an early age. We would like to thank the staff from Cregagh Library for taking the time to visit our school and for providing such an engaging experience for our Primary 1 pupils.

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our Cross Country Team who proudly represented the school at the Belfast Cross Country Final in Mallusk Playing Fields. Everyone ran brilliantly, showing great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. A special congratulations goes to our P6 girls runner who achieved an outstanding 1st place finish. We are so proud of all our pupils for having such a fantastic day and performing so well.



THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE BPSFA SQUAD

All of us at St Bernard's would like to say a massive congratulations to one of our very own players for being accepted into this year's BPSFA Representative Squad! The Belfast Primary Schools Football Association is an enormous organisation encompassing dozens of different schools all across Belfast, and every year they ask all the schools in the association to put forward 3 names of children who would like to try out for their Representative Squad. As you can imagine, there is a huge number of children who try-out, and according to the coaches who ran the trials this was probably the toughest year they've ever had as the level was so high. The squad only has 14 members, and it is a truly remarkable achievement to be a part of it. The squad will be shortly travelling to England to play against the academy teams of professional football clubs, showing just high-calibre the members of this squad need to be. Massive well done, and we wish you all the very best of luck as you go on this extraordinary journey!



Information for Parents



17th April	10:30AM - 11.30AM Thinking Outside the Box: How Different Brains Grow & Learn	SCAN ME
24th April	10:30AM - 11.30AM Sensory SOS: Practical Strategies for Kids Who Feel Everything	SCAN ME
1st May	10:30AM - 11.30AM Social Smarts Helping Your Child Build Meaningful Connections	SCAN ME
8th May	10:30AM - 11.30AM Calm & Connected: Helping Kids Understand and Manage Emotions	SCAN ME
15th May	10:30AM - 11.30AM Stop! Think! Act! Helping Kids with Self-Control	SCAN ME
22nd May	10:30AM - 11.30AM Attention HQ: Helping Kids Tune In and Stay on Track	SCAN ME



A project supported by the PEACEPLUS Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).
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Please find information on upcoming **FREE Workshops** for Parents / Caregivers. The workshops will be held in **Greenway Women's Centre** on **May 1st, May 8th, May 15th and 22nd May.**



MORE INFO



Join Green Space Bernie Next Time!
The transformation continues, and we would love for you to get involved. Whether you can stay for the whole time or just an hour, everyone is welcome!

- **Date:** Sunday 17th May
- **Time:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Stay in the Loop: If you're interested in joining Green Space Bernie or want to stay updated via our community WhatsApp group, please fill in your details using the form below:

<https://forms.gle/G2LrdnhdrpsE5APt8>



1st May, 2026

Re: Sports Day

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to announce that this year's Sports Days for both Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two will take place again at **Cherryvale Playing Fields** on the dates outlined below:

- **Foundation Stage/Key Stage One (P.1–P.4):**

Tuesday 19th May

Parents of pupils in **P1-P4** are asked to bring their child to Cherryvale for **9:15am**. Sports Day will commence at 9:30am.

Children will be walked back to school after Sports Day and resume their normal school day. Children in P4-P7 will be in school as normal.

It is anticipated that Sports Day will finish at 10:30am for children in P1 & P2 and 10:45am for children in P3 & P4.

- **Key Stage Two (P.5–P.7):**

Wednesday 20th May

Parents of pupils in **P5-P7** are asked to bring their child to Cherryvale for **9:15am**.

Sports Day will commence at 9:30am

Children in P1-P4 will be in school as normal on this day.

It is anticipated that Sports Day will finish at 11:30am for children in KS2

To ensure the safety and smooth running of the event, we kindly ask that **parents and carers who wish to attend Sports Day remain behind the fence** and do not enter the pitch area during the activities.

All children must come prepared for the day. We ask that children:

- Wear their full **School PE kit**
- **Wear trainers**
- **Have sun cream** applied before school
- Bring a **water bottle** clearly labelled with their name
- Bring a healthy snack to be eaten after Sports Day
- Have eaten breakfast beforehand

For children attending Breakfast Club on these days, arrangements will be made to walk the children down to Cherryvale.

Should Sports Day need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, the **contingency date for P1-P4 Sports Day is 2nd June and P5-P7 Sports Day is 3rd June**. Same arrangements apply.

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