

BACK TO SCHOOL

St. Bernard's



ST. BERNARD'S WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

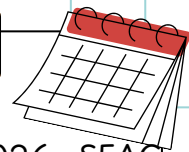
A very warm welcome back to all our pupils, parents, staff and wider school community as we begin another exciting school year at St Bernard's. It has been wonderful to see the children return so positively, looking smart in their uniforms, settling quickly into school life and adapting so well to our new morning routine.

We extend a special welcome to our new Primary One children and their families as they begin their journey with us, and we look forward to supporting them in the years ahead. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Loughran and Mr Cunningham to our staff team and wish them every success in their new roles.

As we begin the year, we look forward to the many learning opportunities, achievements and experiences that lie ahead for our pupils. We also take this opportunity to wish our P7 Class of 2026 every success and happiness as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey in their new schools.

We look forward to a happy, rewarding and successful year for all.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SEAG Registration:

- 18th September registration of pupils for 2026 SEAG entrance assessment closes at 11:59am.

Beginning of Year Mass:

- 23rd September at 9:30am in St Bernadette's Chapel

Curriculum Information Sessions

- 21st September at 3:30pm:
P1 (Classroom) and P4 (Classroom)
- 22nd September at 3:30pm:
P3 (Classroom) and P5 (Assembly Hall)
- 23rd September at 3:30pm:
P2 (Classroom) and P6 (Assembly Hall)
- 24th September at 3:30pm:
P7 (Assembly Hall)

Transform Ed Staff Development Day:

- 25th September (Children will not be in school on this day)

PTA AGM

- 28th September at 7:00pm

Parent Teacher Meetings, P2-P7

- 23rd October (Children will not be in school on this day)

Hallowe'en Mid Term Break

- 26th -30th October

SACRAMENTAL DATES

- **Confirmation** - 26th February at 11:00am
- **First Confession** - 12th March at 12:30pm
- **First Holy Communion** - 30th April at 11:00am



Please note that the sacramental dates listed are provisional at this stage. Due to the commitments and availability of the Bishop and clergy, the dates may be subject to change. Should any amendments be required, parents will be informed as soon as possible.

PARENT INFORMATION

MORNING ROUTINE

The children have adapted extremely well to our new morning arrival routine, which was introduced to provide a calmer and more settled start to the school day while helping to ease congestion around the playground and car park. Pupils now enter the school through designated entrances and make their way independently to their classrooms, where they are welcomed and supervised by staff before lessons begin. We would like to sincerely thank all parents and carers for their support, cooperation and patience in helping to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements. Your support has played a key role in making the change a success and in ensuring a safe, positive and well-organised start to each school day.

We have however noticed that some children have been arriving in the playground before 8:45am. A gentle reminder to parents and carers that **school supervision does not begin until 8:45am**. For health and safety reasons, children should not be on the school premises before 8:45am unless they are attending Breakfast Club.

We would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that children are not dropped off early, as staff are not available to supervise pupils before 8:45am.

Any child arriving after 9:00am should enter the school through the main entrance and report to the school office. This allows classes that have already begun to continue uninterrupted while ensuring all pupils are registered safely on arrival.

MOBILE PHONE PERMISSION



To help ensure a positive and distraction-free learning environment, pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones or cellular smart watches in their possession during the school day. Parents/Carers who feel their child requires a mobile phone for safety reasons when travelling to and from school may submit a written request to the Principal. A letter is available from the school office or your class teacher. If permission is granted, the phone must be switched off and handed into the school office on arrival, and collected by the pupil at the end of the day. Phones must not be used on school grounds. Cellular smart watches are not permitted in school. Any mobile phone or cellular smart watch brought into school without permission will be confiscated and held in the office. Parents/carers will be contacted and asked to attend a meeting before the device is returned. Failure to comply with the agreed procedures may result in permission to bring a phone to school being withdrawn. All urgent communication with pupils during the school day should be made through the school office.

DOGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

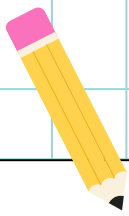


To help ensure the safety and comfort of all members of our school community, we politely remind parents and visitors that dogs are not permitted on school premises, including the playground and school grounds. The only exception is for registered service dogs accompanying their owner.

WALKING HOME ARRANGEMENTS

If you wish your child to walk home from school independently, please notify the school office in writing. This information is important to ensure that staff are aware of your child's home-time arrangements and can help ensure their safe dismissal at the end of the school day.

For safeguarding purposes, children will only be permitted to walk home if written parental permission has been received by the school. We would appreciate parents informing the office promptly of any changes to their child's usual collection arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



PARENT INFORMATION

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS



To ensure clear, consistent and effective communication throughout the school year, we ask parents to note the following arrangements:

School App and Website: All school letters, club information, trip details and general announcements will be communicated through the School iclass App, School Money App and school website.

Text Messaging Service:

Should an urgent message need to be communicated, such as a school closure or other important school-wide update, parents will be notified through the school's text messaging service. We ask parents to ensure that the school always has their most up-to-date contact details to enable us to communicate important information promptly.

Contacting the School: Any matters relating to pupil absences, friendship concerns, bullying, safeguarding, or Special Educational Needs should be directed to the school office or the school information email account, info@stbernardsps.belfast.ni.sch.uk. When contacting the school by email, please indicate the staff member you wish the correspondence to be brought to the attention of. This helps ensure that queries and concerns are directed promptly to the appropriate member of staff and dealt with as efficiently as possible. For confidential or sensitive matters, contacting the office remains the most appropriate method of communication.

Class Communication Platforms

Primary 1 to Primary 4: Seesaw will be used to share homework, class information and reminders. Messaging from staff to parents may occasionally be used for practical matters, but Seesaw will not be used for parent-to-staff communication.

Primary 5 to Primary 7: Google Classroom will be used to share homework, announcements and class-specific information. Parent commenting will not be enabled.
Requests to Speak with a Teacher

If you wish to speak with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office. As teachers are engaged in teaching and supervisory duties throughout the day, it may not always be possible to respond immediately however we will endeavour to reply before the end of the next school day. Urgent messages of a non-confidential nature, such as changes to collection arrangements, should be communicated through the school office. We appreciate your support in following these procedures, which help us to ensure that communication remains efficient, consistent and effective for all members of our school community.

PARENTS CURRICULUM INFORMATION SESSIONS

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to attend our forthcoming Curriculum Information Sessions. The Primary 1 to Primary 4 sessions will take place in your child's classroom, while the Primary 5 to Primary 7 session will be held in the Assembly Hall. Please see dates below. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, gain an overview of the learning, experiences and expectations for the year ahead, and learn about the ways in which you can support your child's learning at home. We would strongly encourage parents and carers to attend and take advantage of this valuable opportunity to engage with your child's education. However, we understand that not everyone will be able to attend, and a copy of the presentation will be made available on the school website afterwards for those who are unable to be present.

- Monday 21st September at 3:30pm: P1 (Classroom) and P4 (Classroom)
- Tuesday 22nd September at 3:30pm: P3 (Classroom) and P5 (Assembly Hall)
- Wednesday 23rd September at 3:30pm: P2 (Classroom) and P6 (Assembly Hall)
- Thursday 24th September at 3:30pm: P7 (Assembly Hall)

SEAG

REGISTRATION OF PUPILS FOR THE 2026 SEAG ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT

- The registration period deadline for submitting a Pupil Application is 11:59pm on Friday 18th September 2026 - the Portal will then close.
- If a pupil has not been Registered to sit the Entrance Assessment they cannot sit the Entrance Assessment.
- <https://seagni.co.uk/>

SEAG Schools'
Entrance
Assessment
Group

PTA



The poster features a central crest with a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant contains the letters 'P', the top-right 'T', the bottom-left 'A', and the bottom-right 'G'. The shield is flanked by the words 'PARENTS' and 'TEACHERS'. Above the shield is a banner with 'PTA'. Below the shield is a banner with 'ST BERNARD'S'. The text 'PTA' is written in large, bold, red letters, and 'AGM' is written in large, bold, white letters on a black background. To the left of the text are three icons: a clock, a calendar, and a plate with a knife and fork. To the right of the text is the date '28TH SEPTEMBER 2026'. Below the date is the location 'SCHOOL CANTEN'. At the bottom is the slogan 'Your PTA. Their Future. Our Community.' in a red banner.

PTA

ST BERNARD'S

PTA

AGM

7PM

28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHOOL CANTEN

Your PTA. Their Future. Our Community.