

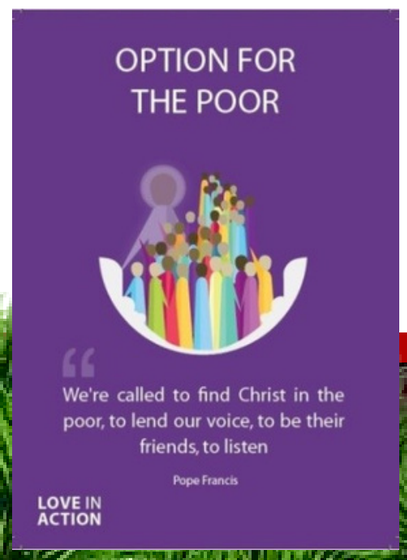
Merry Christmas from all of the staff at St Bernadette's

It has been a truly wonderful season of Advent in school as we have prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus and reflected in prayer on our anticipation in his coming again.
As a school community, we came together to consider our responsibility to use our talents to spread joy, love and, most importantly, hope. The children have done a splendid job of reminding us that there is so much to be hopeful for. Through their kindness and care, they have reached out to those both near and far, living out our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this term: the option for the poor and our call to support those in need so that all may experience what is fair and just.

We launched the season of Advent and marked the end of the jubilee year with a collection of donations for the Hillingdon Women's Refuge, supporting women and girls in our local community. Your generosity was truly overwhelming and left both us and the refuge team speechless. The heartfelt message we received below speaks volumes about the impact of your kindness:

"My staff team and I were left in awe at the kindness and generosity shared. The women and children will be having a very special Christmas because of the amazing donations collected. Many children tell us that Santa isn't coming this year because they are not at home — but because of your support, Santa definitely will be coming, and gifts will be under the tree for all of our families."

This continued spirit of giving was also evident in our preparations for Christmas. Our Reception and Year 2 children were simply spectacular in their performances, beautifully reminding us of the true message of Christmas. The Christmas music concert was another highlight of the term; the school band and choir were magnificent, creating a truly magical evening for all who attended.
Thank-you for your generous donations - we raised £395.85 for our school plagrounds.





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Our commitment to supporting those in need continued as our Faith Ambassadors and Pupil Leadership Team led fundraising events for CAFOD which raised £493.96. The cake sale was a huge success — the children's excitement as they carefully chose their cakes was a joy to witness! We also ended the week with Christmas Jumper Day, raising an impressive £307.95 for Save the Children.

This year also marked a special milestone as we hosted our first-ever community Christmas event. We were delighted to welcome guests from the parish, local community, and residents from Ryefield and Marian House care homes. It was a truly joyous afternoon, filled with awe and wonder, as children from Reception and Year 2 performed songs alongside our school band, school choir, and church choir. Our guests also enjoyed sandwiches, cakes, and refreshments, generously served throughout the afternoon.

We concluded our Advent journey with class parties, our Christmas dinner, and we look forward to our end-of-term Mass — a fitting end to a truly special term.

Our community is something very special indeed. The efforts of our children and parents are deeply appreciated, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of staff who has gone above and beyond this term, giving their very best for our children.

I am filled to the brim with hope, and I wish the same for every member of our community as we look forward to all that we can continue to achieve together in 2026.

