



# Head Teacher News

'Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.'  
Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

January 2018

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## Welcome Back!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Thank you on behalf of all the staff for your kind wishes, cards and gifts.

Autumn term was a very productive and happy term. Children have returned refreshed and ready for the challenges which this new term will bring. Please could you ensure your child has everything they need in school to participate fully in all activities including **full uniform, a PE kit with trainers at all times and a water bottle.** You can find our uniform policy on the school website should you need it.

We are always keen to refine and improve at St Bede's. We welcome feedback and have made many positive changes thanks to the ideas of children and parents. Please share any ideas, thoughts or comments with us by talking to us, sending us an e-mail or using our contact page on our website.

Please remember that we also have an **appointment system** if you have any matters or concerns you would like to discuss with any member of staff, including myself. This has been highly effective and well received by those parents that have used it.

As usual, we have all sorts of events happening this term, which we would love you to join us for if possible. Dates are on the back of this newsletter and please check the weekly dates letter or website for any other events which arise during the term. We have had a few queries recently regarding class names and we are aware this can be confusing! Just to clarify, the structure is as follows:

**Class 1: Reception**

**Class 2: Years 1 and 2**

**Class 3: Years 3 and 4**

**Class 4: Years 5 and 6**

Best wishes,

Mrs Alderson

Head Teacher

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### CAFOD World Gifts

With the £53.25 raised for CAFOD at the Christmas fayre our children chose to buy CAFOD World Gifts which included a vegetable garden, a happy queen bee, teach someone to read, emergency water, colouring pencils, fabulous football, the net that protects and an Oscar Romero cross. Thank you!

## Rights Respecting School 'Recognition of Commitment'



We are delighted to inform you that we have achieved the **Recognition of Commitment** towards achieving our Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA). The next step on our journey is to carry out our action plan to work towards Level 1.

Each month we now have a 'Right of the month' and you have received a copy of the rights in your child's bag today. This month it is **Article 12.** You may wish to discuss the right of the month with your child. A certificate will be given

each month to those children who have showed respect for the rights of others in each class.

We will also be holding a competition this month to design an RRSA mascot-it would be wonderful to have lots of entries!



## Walk to School 'Park and Stride' launch

Here at St Bede's we are very active and have lots of initiatives in school to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Last term we re-launched our 'Walk to School' initiative. Children receive a badge if they walk, cycle, take the bus or 'park and stride' to school at least once a week every month. The best class each month also receives the prestigious 'Class of the month' trophy.

Many children have already received badges and are enjoying the benefits walking to school brings to their health and wellbeing. We are aware, however, that some children live a

little too far away to walk and do not want these children to miss out.

The **Fulforth Centre** have kindly offered to become a '**park and stride**' venue for school. This means that those who drive to school will be able to park at the centre and walk to school with their parent or carer. If a child does this at least once a week every month they will be entitled to their badge.

We are launching this on **Wednesday 24th January at 8.30am** at the Fulforth Centre. Staff, together with parents/carers and children, will walk to

school together from the Fulforth Centre. Strider, the Walk to School mascot, will also accompany us.

It would be wonderful if as many children and parents could join us for the launch. We hope to see you there!

There is also a competition running to design a badge for the scheme. Please see the entry form, which has been sent out with this week's mailing.



## British Science Week-'The Plastic Tide'

British Science Week takes place the week beginning the **12th March 2018**. Mrs Cronin, our Science Subject Leader, and staff are busy planning a fun filled week to truly inspire a sense of scientific awe and wonder in our children.

This year the theme is 'The Plastic Tide.' Many of us watched Blue Planet 2 and were horrified to witness the effects that plastic is having on our

environment, particularly our oceans. As part of our Rights Respecting School Award we will be thinking about sustainable development and what this means. We have an 'Eco Warrior' group and we really want to try to make a difference. We are working towards becoming a '**plastic-free**' school, although this is a difficult task! We have decided to purchase only biodegradable glitter and will be thinking of other ways we can reduce

**'UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.'** Dr Seuss.

our plastic usage during science week.

We would love to have some speakers in school during the week and educational visits. Unfortunately Sir David Attenborough is unable to attend but if you are passionate about this cause, can help in any way, or have any ideas, please do get in touch!

We are also holding an environmentally themed film club screening of 'The Lorax' on Wednesday 14th March after school, £2 per child.

## Attendance

As you will be aware, we have implemented a new attendance policy at St Bede's and have been promoting and celebrating good attendance.

Many children received certificates for excellent attendance in Autumn term- well done! Our whole school attendance for Autumn term was **96.27%**. This is just above the national average. We are hoping to improve on this even more as the year continues!



## Year of Mary

This year our Diocese is celebrating a '**Year of Mary.**' Every month we will be holding a liturgy with a specific theme related to Our Lady and the different names of Mary will be used. A Mary prayer bag will also be sent home with all children throughout the year. You may wish to say the Hail Mary with your child and discuss what they have learnt about Mary each month. The theme this month is 'Loving.'





## Outdoor Play and Learn Award Ceremony

As you will be aware, we are incredibly proud to have achieved the **Outdoor Play and Learn (OPAL) Platinum Award!** This is the highest level we could achieve and highlights how far we have come on our play journey over the last couple of years. The results of our recent play surveys showed just how much happier chil-

dren are at play times.

There will be a ceremony in which OPAL will present us with the award on **Tuesday 27th February at 9am.** Councillors Heather Liddle and Simon Wilson will be attending; they have been instrumental in helping us to achieve the award by providing funding and support. Ingrid Wilkinson,

Schools Play Advisor, will be presenting the award to Mrs Ord, Mrs Luke and all the children on the OPAL team. Please join us.

We would be very grateful for any play items you may have to donate to OPAL e.g. pushchairs, dolls, teddy bears, dress up outfits, cars etc. Please hand any items to the office.

## St Bede's Big Read!

Due to the huge success of 'St Bede's Big Read' last year we are holding the event again on World Book Day, **Thursday 1st March.** Children can dress up as their

favourite book character and parents are invited to come and read with their children in the hall in the afternoon (and dress up too if they wish!).

Please could we remind you to be sure to **write in your child's reading diary regularly** so we can keep track of when they need to change their book or take an accelerated reading test. Thank you.

## Friends of St Bede's and Easy Fundraising

In the autumn term we raised an incredible **£1199.05** for school thanks to your generosity. This money has been used to purchase reading resources across school, which will be used to enhance the teaching and learning of reading.

In a time when budgets are being cut, small schools like ours rely heavily on fundraising to help us. This fundraising could not happen without the sup-

port of the Friends of St Bede's.

We have a very loyal and caring group at present who help us so much but we would love to see some new faces. If you are able to spare a few hours of your time we can reward you with biscuits, cuppas and a warm welcome. The next meeting is **on Wednesday 31st January straight after school.** Please do come

along if you can. Children are welcome also as they are kept entertained with activities while we plan.

One easy way you can help to support St Bede's is by setting up an **'Easy Fundraising' account.** It is quick to do and allows you to raise money for school every time you shop online. We have raised over £400 so far through this. Please see <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stbedesdurham/> to register.

Parents/  
carers/  
grandpar-  
ents-we  
need  
you!

## Artsmark Recognition of Commitment

In addition to our RRSA Recognition of Commitment, we are delighted to inform you that we have achieved the **Artsmark Recognition of Commitment.**

Artsmark brings learning to life through arts and culture for our children and spans across our whole curriculum.

We already offer a wide range of art, drama and cultural opportunities to

our children but hope to develop and strengthen our arts provision by working towards the award.

Miss Fletcher and Mrs Maitland are leading the award and we hope to achieve this within two years. Please let them know if you have any ideas or artistic talents you would like to share with us!



We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

## Spring Term Dates-for more details see our website calendar

Thursday 18th January	First Holy Communion Session 4 after school
Wednesday 31st January	3.30pm: Friends of St Bede's meeting
Wednesday 24th January	8.30am: Walk to School 'Park and Stride' launch at Fulforth Centre. All welcome.
Thursday 25th January	9.10am: Family Mass and refreshments in hall afterwards. All welcome.
Tuesday 30th January	2.15pm: Y2 SATS family learning session. 2.45pm: Y6 SATS family learning session.
Monday 5th February	Outdoor Learning week. Children will need warm coats, tracksuit bottoms and wellingtons or trainers in school all week.
Wednesday 7th February	Kingsway outdoor sessions for Classes 2 and 3, please ensure your child wears warm, comfortable outdoor clothing today with their school jumper. Class 3 are also at a gymnastics carousel in the morning at the Louisa Centre.
Thursday 8th February	Class 2-Gymnastics carousel at the Louisa Centre. PE kit required and trainers.
Thursday 8th February	Break up for half term. Please note, school is closed on Friday 9th February 2018 due to staff training.
Monday 19th February	Return to school
Wednesday 21st February	9.10am: Fairtrade Assembly and stall. All welcome. Please send money in with children if you wish for them to purchase anything from the Fairtrade sale e.g chocolate.
Tuesday 22nd February	Class 4 to attend parish Mass.
Friday 23rd February	9.10am in Church: Lenten Liturgy organised by Key Stage 2. All welcome. CAFOD Family Fast Day lunch. Please see letter with this mailing.
Tuesday 27th February	9am in hall: OPAL Award Ceremony. All welcome.
Thursday 1st March	Class 3 to parish Mass. World Book Day. Children to come dressed in fancy dress as their favourite book character. PM: 'St Bede's Big Read.' Parents/carers are welcome to come and read in the hall with their children. 3.20pm: First Holy Communion Session 5
Wednesday 7th March	Mother's Day Lunch Infants. PM: Class 1 (Reception) attending Agility Festival at New College Durham
Thursday 8th March	Class 2 to parish Mass
Friday 9th March	9.10am in Church: Infant Mother's Day Liturgy
Wednesday 14th March	Mother's Day Lunch Juniors. Letters will be sent out regarding this in due course.
Thursday 15th March	3.20pm-5.15pm: Film Club. The Lorax. £2 per child, including a drink and slice of pizza.
Thursday 22nd March	9.15am-9.45am: Class 1 (Reception) parent/child Spring craft session. Parents/carers are welcome to come along and carry out crafts in the hall with their child. First Holy Communion Session 6 after school.
Friday 23rd March	Non-uniform for Easter eggs. 3.15pm in hall: Easter journey. Please come along to share this experience with your child.
Wednesday 28th March	9.10am: Family Mass. Easter egg competition/tombola and refreshments in hall straight after. All welcome. 1pm-6pm: Parents' Afternoon/Evening
Thursday 29th March	PM-Class 3 to dance festival. Break up for Easter holidays. <b>Please note, children return to school on TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2018.</b>
	Class trips may be organised throughout the term in addition to the dates on this newsletter. Letters will be sent out to advise of any upcoming trips and dates will be on the website and weekly newsletters.