

Spring Term Dates-for more details see our website calendar

Wednesday 9th January	Y6 to Northumbria University
Tuesday 15th January	FISCH project starts for Juniors every Tuesday-see letter sent to Juniors for details.
Wednesday 16th January	PM: NSPCC safeguarding workshops for children. 3.20pm: Friends of St Bede's meeting-all welcome.
Thursday 17th January	9.10am: Family Mass-all welcome.
Saturday 19th January	Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mass at 10am and service at 10.30am.
Monday 21st January	Dance Festival tickets go on sale for Class 3 through the Gala-letter to follow shortly.
Thursday 24th January	First Holy Communion Session 4 after school
Monday 28th January	9.10am in hall: RRSA Silver Award Ceremony. All welcome
Thursday 31st January	9am: Sleep Hygiene Session in hall with Dr Ben Greenfield, Educational Psychologist. Dr Greenfield will talk about how to help your child establish good sleep routines. All welcome.
Tuesday 5th February	E-Safety Day. All welcome to join us for an assembly at 2.45pm in which the children will share what they have been learning.
Thursday 14th February	First Holy Communion Session 5
Wednesday 6th February	2.15pm: Y2 SATS family learning session 2.45pm: Y6 SATS family learning session. These sessions will help parents of Y2/Y6 pupils understand the SATs process and what it entails.
Thursday 7th February	Juniors to Parish Mass.
Friday 15th February	Break up for half term.
Monday 25th February	Return from half term. Fairtrade Fortnight begins. We will be selling some Fairtrade goods during this period-keep an eye on the weekly newsletters for more information.
Wednesday 6th March	9.10am:Ash Wednesday Liturgy.
Thursday 7th March	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.
Thursday 14th March	Infants to attend parish Mass. First Holy Communion Session 6 after school.
Monday 18th March	Dance Festival-Year 3/4. Letters will be sent out regarding this in due course,
Friday 22nd March	Non-uniform for donations of Mother's Day gifts.
Wednesday 27th March	Mother's Day Lunch-Infants. Letters will be sent out for this in due course.
Friday 29th March	9.10am: Infant Mother's Day Liturgy (all welcome), followed by Mother's Day market for children. Children can bring money in to purchase gifts for their mum, prices range from £1 to £5 and the presents are then wrapped. If you can help with wrapping/selling on the day, please let us know.
W/c 1st April	Book Fayre in hall-letters to follow in due course.
Wednesday 3rd April	Mother's Day Lunch-Juniors. Letters will be sent out for this in due course.
Thursday 4th April	Parent Consultation Afternoon-letters will be sent out for this in due course. First Holy Communion session 7 after school.
Friday 5th April	Non-uniform for Easter eggs. Y5 to Edmondsley for inter school hockey event.
Wednesday 10th April	3.15pm in hall: Easter journey in hall. Please come along to share this experience with your child.
Thursday 11th April	Family Mass. Easter egg competition, tombola and refreshments in hall straight after. All welcome.
Friday 12th April	Break up for Easter holidays. Children return to school on MONDAY 29th APRIL 2019.
	Class trips/other events 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.



Head Teacher News

'The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.'

Article 3, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

January 2019

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Youth Friday

On Friday 30th November we celebrated 'Youth Friday.' Thank you for your donations for the Youth Mission Team-we raised an amazing £131.20. Two of our children will attend the Youth Friday Mass in February and present the cheque.

Happy 2019!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a very restful Christmas and a lovely New Year. Thank you on behalf of all the staff for your kind wishes, cards, gifts and contributions to our fundraising efforts-we are always overwhelmed by your kindness.

Autumn term was very successful. Children and staff have returned refreshed and ready for the challenges which this new term will bring. Please 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**, a

water bottle and a **warm coat** as the weather is forecast to be very chilly. Please also remember that long hair must be tied back and school shoes must be worn in school, not trainers. You can find our uniform policy on the school website should you require it.

Even in the cold weather, we feel it is important that children access outdoors as much as possible. It would be very helpful for your child to have wellies that can be kept in school at all times this term if they do not already. If you have any that your child has outgrown, we would welcome any donations too.

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.

Please remember that we also have an appointment system if you have any matters or concerns you would like to discuss with myself or any member of staff. Please see Mrs Daynes or Mrs Brady in the office to arrange an appointment.

Best wishes,
 Mrs Alderson
 Head Teacher

Rights Respecting School Silver Award Ceremony



As you will be aware, we are delighted that we have achieved the **Silver** Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA). The next step on our journey is to carry out our action plan to work towards gold.

A beautiful banner and certificate arrived in the post before Christmas. We will be holding a ceremony to celebrate this on Monday 28th January at 9.10am. Councillor Liddle, who is on our RRSA steering group, will be presenting

the children with the award. All children may wear silver/grey clothes or accessories if they wish to on the day to truly celebrate the occasion!

St Bede's Reads!

We shared our school improvement priorities with you at the start of the year. Reading forms part of our School Improvement Plan this year and we have been trying hard to inspire a love of reading in our pupils and also improve their reading skills. Reading helps your child in every single subject and also sparks their imagination!

We have had a number of exciting reading events happening this term; paired reading, 'St Bede's Reads' sessions, reading journal homework, reading areas in each class, teachers' reading choices and reading skills

lessons every Friday to name but a few! We also have started our new reading reward scheme and this has proved very successful. We already have some children that have read over 100 times at home-this has a hugely positive impact. Keep signing the squares in the front of the reading diary to ensure your child receives their rewards and gets their name on our reading display board.

We will also be holding a sponsored read this term, which should help to motivate your child whilst also raising funds to purchase more books for school. More information will follow

regarding this.

Our next 'St Bede's Reads' takes place on World Book Day, which is Thursday 7th March. Please join us in the hall to read with your child and feel free to dress as your favourite book character!

You can find magic
wherever you look. Sit
back and relax, all you
need is a book.

- Dr. Seuss

PE Premium Funding-Getting Active!

We receive extra funding of £16820 from the government for PE and have a 'PE premium strategy' to demonstrate how we are spending the money. We regularly review and evaluate this. You can find it on our website in the 'about us' section under 'premium allocations'.

Some of the strategies we have implemented to ensure our children achieve 30 active minutes a day are:

employing a Lunch time Sports Leader, Mr Avery; carrying out the 'St Bede's Sprint' every day; offering after school sports clubs free of charge; hosting intra school tournaments; being part of the School Sports Partnership; providing support to our teachers from specialists; having active play times and implementing 'active maths' in school. We also have the 'FISCH' project starting in school for Juniors this term every Tuesday and

staff are even taking part in exercise classes.

We ensure our children are active in lessons and all classes now take regular 'movement breaks' in which children will learn in an active fashion. If you want to try some of these at home visit <http://standupkids.org/movement-break/>.

Please let us know if you have any other ideas regarding how we can continue to get active.



Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are so important for ensuring your child makes the best possible progress. Many children received certificates for excellent attendance in Autumn term-well done!

However, we have been plagued by different illnesses in the winter months and our whole school attendance for Autumn term was 96.35%. This is below the national average. We are hoping to improve upon this

as the year progresses.

Please could you try to make appointments for your child outside of school hours wherever possible and ensure you inform us as soon as possible in the morning if your child is going to be off sick.

You will notice we have a new sign to remind your child to be an **'Attendance HERO-Here, Every Day, Ready and On time.**

Loose Parts

We are always looking to replenish our outdoor play and learning loose parts-crates, tubes, dolls, toy cars, scooters, sheets, costumes etc. Children love playing with these things and using their imaginations at play times!

If you have anything suitable, please drop it off at the office. Thank you.

Eco-Warriors and our Plastic Free School

Our Eco-Warriors have been very busy this term trying to make a difference. In addition to carrying out litter picks to seek out the dreaded single use plastic, they have created posters aimed at encouraging people to dispose of litter properly and they hope to display them in local businesses. They also achieved a 'highly com-

mended' award from the Council for their work becoming a 'plastic free school' last year,

They are keen to carry on their work by holding another beach clean this year and meeting with Alice Evans, our Carbon Reduction Officer.

They are also hoping to achieve the

bronze Eco-Schools award. As part of this, we need a parent to join our group and attend meetings (approximately one a month). If you are interested in doing this, please see Miss Mason (Eco-Warrior Leader) or ask at the office.



Friends of St Bede's and Easy Fundraising

In the autumn term we raised an incredible £1399.61 for school thanks to your generosity.

In a time when budgets are being cut, small schools like ours rely heavily on fundraising to help us and are having to make some tough decisions. Please find a letter attached with this newsletter for more information about the funding crisis in schools.

This fundraising could not happen

without the support of the Friends of St Bede's. We have a very small, 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 16th January straight after school.** Please do come along if

Parents/
carers/
grandparents-we
need
you!

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.

Epiphany

You might soon notice chalk marked above doors with the letters and numbers 20+C+M+B+19. This is a time honoured Christian tradition.

The letters represent the initials of the Magi-Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar and also abbreviate the Latin phrase 'Christus mansionem benedicat' which means 'May Christ bless this house.' The + sign represents the cross and the numbers mark the year.

This inscription is a request to Christ to bless our school and all who attend it, work in it or visit it.

Fr Chris will be blessing the chalk during our Welcome Mass on Thursday 17th January at 9.10am. Please join us if you can to welcome Christ in to our hearts as we start 2019.

