



# Head Teacher News

September 2018

**'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.'**

Article 29, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**St Bede's RCVA Primary**  
Front Street  
Sacriston  
Durham  
DH7 6AB  
Tel: 01913710272  
[www.stbedessacriston.co.uk](http://www.stbedessacriston.co.uk)  
Email:  
[st.bedes.rc.sacriston@durhamlearning.net](mailto:st.bedes.rc.sacriston@durhamlearning.net)



## Welcome Back!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. May I take this opportunity to say a huge **thank you** on behalf of all of our staff for your kind wishes, cards and gifts at the end of term.

It is great to be back and we are excited for the new academic year. Our Monday staff INSET was very productive, with staff spending time preparing their freshly painted classrooms in order to welcome their new classes back. We hope the children like them and we look forward to seeing their beautiful work being placed on the walls over the coming weeks.

We welcome our new starters

to the St Bede's family. Their Year 5/6 buddies have been looking after them well and they seem very happy and settled.

We also welcome Mrs Tervit back after her maternity leave to Class 3-she is thrilled to be back with us.

Here is a reminder of the class organisation this year:

Class 1-Reception (Mrs Spratt)

Class 2-Years 1 and 2 (Miss French)

Class 3-Years 3 and 4 (Mrs Tervit and Mrs Williams)

Class 4-Years 5 and 6 (Miss Fletcher)

As usual, you can catch up with all that is happening at St Bede's on our website, [www.stbedessacriston.co.uk](http://www.stbedessacriston.co.uk).

Here you will find diary dates, all our key information and also our twitter feed, which is updated regularly. Please follow us if you are on twitter at @StBedeSacriston.

On the back page are key dates for this term. You will be informed if there are any dates added over the term in our weekly newsletter, distributed every Monday. We would love you to join us whenever you can.

Remember, if you have any questions whatsoever or would like to make an appointment with any member of staff, just contact the office.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Alderson  
Head Teacher

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### Wraparound Provision

Mrs Forth's holiday club was a huge success over the summer-we hope those who attended enjoyed it! Mrs Forth is now offering after school provision from 3.15pm-5.30pm. She will be available before school this week on the yard if you would like to ask any questions. Remember, we also offer a great breakfast club from 8am with Mrs Maitland and Mrs Ord.

## GOLD School Games Mark!

We are delighted to inform you that we have achieved the **Gold School Games Mark!**

Thank you to Mrs Spratt and our School Sports Organising Crew who worked incredibly hard to achieve this and we are delighted that our commit-

ment to effective PE provision has been recognised.

We will be continuing to ensure that all children are active for at least 30 minutes every day through initiatives such as our daily 'St Bede's Sprint', playground leaders, active

maths, festivals and tournaments and our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) opportunities. Any donations of dolls, pushchairs, curtains, dressing up costumes, cars etc for our OPAL would be greatly appreciated. Please also remember wellies and old shirts. Thanks.





## Rights Respecting School Award



Last year we achieved our 'Recognition of Commitment' to becoming a Unicef Rights Respecting School. Children have been learning all about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and how we can respect these rights both in our school community and in the wider world.

We have a 'Rights Respecting School' steering group, consisting of pupils, staff, Cllr Liddle and two of our parents who have been leading this wonderfully and coming up with lots of ideas. We are very excited to have our audit to hopefully become a **Silver Rights Respecting School** on **Tuesday 6th November** and have been preparing for

this in lots of ways. We all have 'class charters' this year using the three favourite rights which each class voted for and children are exploring the Rights of the Child in lessons.

Every month we explore a 'Right of the Month' and children vote for those they feel have followed this right to win an award each month. We will also be holding whole school sessions based on the right every month. This month's right is **Article 29, 'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.'** Children will be holding a talent show in their houses to celebrate

this right. Please talk about what this right means at home.



This is our Rights Respecting School mascot, WILF, designed by Jessica-he has the right to **Water**, have his **I**deas heard, the right to **L**earn and the right to nutritious **F**ood. We love WILF! If you would like to know more about RRSa, please do ask.

## St Bede's Reads...

We absolutely adore reading at St Bede's and aim to inspire all of our children to love both learning to read and reading to learn.



This year we are keen to promote reading for pleasure and regular reading at home. Studies have shown that a child that reads for 20 minutes a day at home is likely to perform better than 90% of their peers and will hear **1.8 million words** per year! Those that read for pleasure also see many benefits such as greater self confidence as a reader and better general knowledge. The best thing you can do to help your child academically is read with them and to them.

In order to truly focus on reading, we will have all sorts of exciting things happening but, as your child's prime educator, we

need your help with this. Please record in your child's reading journal each time they read and when they are ready for an Accelerated Reader test.

We have a **brand new reading reward scheme this year!** In the front of the reading journals is a square for parents to initial and date-your child can win all sorts of lovely prizes and become a 'reading champion!'

This year we will be holding whole school 'paired reading sessions' where our younger children read with our older children.

**"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!"**  
Dr Seuss

We will also be holding our popular '**St Bede's Reads**' sessions more regularly, where you are invited to come in to school to read with your child. In addition to this, we will also be holding a sponsored read and an 'extreme reading' competition later in the year. Miss Armstrong is also running a fabulous 'book club' every Thursday after school for Juniors.

Each month different classes will also have a visit to Sacriston library and choose a book to take back to class to read.

We are starting our year of reading for pleasure off with our 'Roald Dahl Day' on **Thursday 13th September**. Children can bring their favourite Roald Dahl book or dress up as their favourite Roald Dahl character if they wish!

## Laudato Si

As many of you will be aware, we feel strongly about caring for God's beautiful world at St Bede's and were delighted to be the first school in the North East to achieve 'Plastic Free' status last year. We will be

continuing our efforts to care for our environment this year in the hope to become an '**Eco School**' one day. We will be starting this by working with CAFOD volunteer Tri-

sha Whitfield to learn about Pope Francis' letter on caring for our common home, 'Laudato Si.' Look out for the CAFOD cards coming home to tell you more.



## Attendance, Punctuality and Presentation

We strive to prepare pupils for life after St Bede's and encourage them to be independent learners with life skills to help them on their way. One of the ways we believe we can help children to do this is by instilling a sense of pride in themselves and promoting the benefits of regular attendance.

Our whole school attendance for last year was 96.4% We would like to try and improve even further on that percentage this year and will be rewarding children with excellent attendance (99%+) each term. Each week the class with the best attendance also wins a certificate. Please help to

ensure your child has the best possible attendance by ensuring any appointments are made outside of school time if possible and ensuring school is informed on a daily basis of any absence.

Being punctual really helps your child to settle in to the school day. Last year there were 3419 minutes lost altogether due to lateness. If your child is late, it is important that you sign them in at the office for safeguarding purposes. If this happens repeatedly, we may invite you in to see how we can help to support you in getting your child to school on time.



Please ensure your child is fully equipped for the school day, remembering PE kit, a water bottle, homework etc. Just a gentle reminder that long hair needs to be tied up, no trainers or leggings and no earrings at all please. See our uniform policy for more information.

We also have a **new behaviour reward system** this year-more information coming soon!

If you have any queries regarding uniform, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children look so smart and get the most from their time with us.

## Friends of St Bede's



We are extremely grateful to you all for all of the support you give to our school and how generous you are. With cuts to education continuing, our school fundraising is relied upon more than ever to ensure that our children receive the very best here at St Bede's. Last year we purchased phonics resources, and some resources for our Outdoor Play and Learning with the money raised. This year, our School Council will be suggesting ideas of what they would like to

see our fundraising spent on.

We have a very small but dedicated and wonderful Friends of St Bede's group, consisting of parents, grandparents and staff. We would really love to welcome some new faces to our group as many hands make light work! We provide a cuppa and biscuits and children are welcome to join us, too.

Thank you to those who are unable to make the meetings but have offered support with different events. Please just let the office

know if you are able to help with any of our fundraising events, or indeed if you would like to volunteer in school to read with children. We also would love some help with our new garden if you are green fingered!

Our first Friends meeting of this year is **Wednesday 3rd October at 3.20pm.**

Friends of St Bede's needs YOU!

## Parent Governor Vacancy

St Bede's Primary School is committed to raising educational standards. School Governors make a positive contribution to children's education by offering supportive challenge to help raise standards and monitor resources effectively.

We currently have a **parent governor** vacancy and are looking for a dedicated individual who can offer their knowledge and expertise in areas such as these; strategic planning, finance, human resources, health and safety, communications or managing premises. No

qualifications are required. You could make a real difference to the lives of our children!

For more information and an application form please contact Mrs Alderson via the school office or Mr Fingleton, Chair of Governors at [governors.stbedes@yahoo.com](mailto:governors.stbedes@yahoo.com).

Closing date for nominations is **Friday 21st September 2018.**

## Artsmark

We are hoping to achieve the **Artsmark award** this year to acknowledge the wonderful work which our children carry out in the Arts. Miss Fletcher and Mrs Maitland are leading this.

Keep watching our twitter feed for our 'Music Days' with Mrs Cronin and a range of exciting arts related activities happening in school this year.



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

Thursday 13th September	Roald Dahl Day-children to dress up as their favourite character or bring their favourite Roald Dahl book to truly get in to the spirit. There will be a prize of a book for the best costume in each year group!
Wednesday 26th September	From 8:00 School Photos—individual and class. Siblings welcome
Thursday 27th September	9.10am: Welcome Mass, followed by MacMillan Coffee Morning in hall straight after
Wednesday 3rd October	3.20pm: Friends of St Bede’s meeting in school
Friday 5th October	9.10am: Mini Vinnies CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Liturgy in School Hall. Donations of goods for the People’s Kitchen very welcome.
Wednesday 17th October	9.10am: Open Morning for Prospective Parents-all welcome
Thursday 18th October	Non-uniform: donations of bottles for Christmas Fayre are most welcome PM: St Bede’s Reads! Parents invited to read with their children in the hall. Infants: 1.30-2.05pm. Juniors: 2.15pm-3pm. <b>Break up for Autumn Half Term</b>
Monday 29th October	Children return to School.
Thursday 1st November	9.10am: All Saints Day Mass in Church
Friday 2nd November	Clarks Shoe Share-please send in any donations of old shoes paired in a rubber band
Thursday 8th November	Juniors to Parish Mass
Friday 9th November	9.10am: Phonics Family Learning Session in school hall
Thursday 15th November	2.45pm: Anti-Bullying Assembly with all classes presenting their work-all welcome
Wednesday 21st November	1pm-6.30pm: Parents’ Afternoon/Evening for all children. Information to be sent out in due course.
Thursday 22nd November	10am: Class 2 to Parish Mass
Friday 23rd November	Non-uniform: donations of chocolate for the Christmas Fayre are most welcome
Friday 30th November	Youth Friday Advent Liturgy
Wednesday 5th December	3.20pm: Advent journey straight after school in hall
Friday 7th December	2pm: Christmas Fayre in hall
Tuesday 11th December	1.30pm: Infant Nativity in Church
Thursday 13th December	6pm: Infant Nativity in Church
Friday 14th December	Christmas Jumper Day-£1 donation for St Cuthbert’s Hospice.
Monday 17th December	9-10.45am: Class 1 Christmas Activity morning-all parents/carers of children in Class 1 welcome.
Tuesday 18th December	9.10am: Christmas ukulele, guitar and violin concert in hall PM-Christmas party
Wednesday 19th December	Christmas Lunch for staff and children PM: St Bede’s Christmas Reads! Parents invited to read festive tales with their children in the hall. Infants: 1.30-2.05pm. Juniors: 2.15pm-3pm.
Thursday 20th December	9.10am: End of term Mass 1.30pm: Christmas Carol Service in Church. <b>BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. RETURN ON TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY.</b>
Friday 21st December	6.15pm: Buses leave from school or Gala Theatre Pantomime

Educational visits this term to be confirmed-letters will be sent out in due course. Any other events added throughout the term will be palced on the website and in weekly dates letters.