

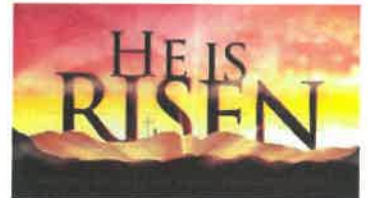
St Bede's Newsletter

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'Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to make sure that children survive and develop to their full potential.'

May 2019

Article 6, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Happy Easter!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a joyful Easter and have enjoyed lots of chocolate eggs and the delightful burst of sunshine we had!

We have another exciting and busy term stretching ahead of us, as you will see from our dates on the back of this newsletter. The summer term is always full of fun activities and all kinds of events. We would love you to join us whenever you can.

Please ensure your child has **sun cream** and their school cap or a **sun hat** over the coming months but also a coat as the British weather is very unpre-

dictable! Please also remember a **reusable water bottle**.

We are hoping to include outdoor learning as much as possible during the summer months so please ensure your child has **full PE kit with trainers** in school at all times. Please also remember that long hair must be tied back at all times and earrings are not permitted, for health and safety reasons.

We are so grateful for your kindness during the spring term and always! Our Easter fayre raised an amazing £560.55. The lovely Friends of St Bede's would be very grateful if you could spare half an hour of your time to join us

at our next fundraising meeting on **Wednesday 22nd May at 3.30pm**. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you are still very welcome to help at any of our events.

We would also appreciate you spreading the word about our wonderful school to anyone whose child may be starting school in September 2019. We have a couple of places left and would love to fill them.

If you have any questions about any of the topics in this newsletter, please contact the office who will be happy to help.

Best wishes,
Mrs Alderson
Head Teacher

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 'Ofsted Success!' | 1 |
| Whole School Outing | 1 |
| The One Show | 2 |
| First Holy Communion | 2 |
| 'Radical Reading' | 3 |
| Sports News | 3 |
| Dates | 4 |

Gardeners Wanted!

Are you green fingered?

We would love for any keen gardeners who may have a little bit of free time to help us with a spot of gardening during the summer months. Any donations of plants to add some colour to our grounds would also be most welcome! Please speak to the office if you think you may be able to help.

Ofsted Success!

We are delighted to report that on 14th March 2019 we had an incredibly positive Ofsted inspection! Our school 'continues to be good' and the letter from the inspector, Sue Waugh, highlights many of the strengths of our school.



Thank you to all of our pupils, parents, governors, volunteers and staff for your support with the inspection. We firmly believe we are a wonderful school but it is good to have this formally acknowledged by Ofsted.

Whole School Outing!

We have received an incredibly kind donation from a parishioner of tickets for the whole school to watch 'Wallace and Gromit' Musical Marvels' on Thursday 6th June at the Sage, Gateshead. A letter will be coming out in due course. It will be a grand day out, we are so grateful!



The One Show and our Eco-School!

We were very pleasantly surprised to receive an invitation from BBC's 'The One Show' to talk about our work as the first 'plastic-free' school in the North East.



We recently became the first school in the North East to sign the Durham Council pledge against single use plastics. The article had been spotted by the BBC researchers, who were very impressed by all that we have been doing.

Mrs Alderson, together with Violet

and her family, travelled down to the BBC Broadcasting House in London. We were able to talk to the whole nation about how we are leading the way with the fight against single-use plastic and how Violet is at home, too. We hope you spotted us-the episode from Wednesday 17th April is still available on Iplayer if you missed it. Violet was incredible!

We are also delighted to announce that our Eco-Warriors have achieved the **Silver 'Eco-Schools' award**. They are working towards the 'Green Flag' award next, which will form part of our School Improvement Plan next year.

The Eco-Warriors have lots of exciting news and ideas. We are now signed up to Terracycle UK and have applied to become a recycling venue for items which cannot be recycled in your bins at home. We can already start recycling crisp packets with the help of one of our eco-minded governors, Theresa White. Please hand any empty crisp packets in to the office. We also have a great competition for KS2 children to design their own beeswax wrap, information will accompany this newsletter.

We love hearing about your litter picks, beach cleans and environmental efforts at home. Keep it up!

Durham Brass Festival Comes to Sacriston!

We absolutely love music at St Bede's and are thrilled that so many of our talented children are learning to play musical instruments this year.

The **Durham Brass Festival** is being held for a fortnight across Durham from 12th July and we are delighted to tell you it is coming to St Bede's!

On the **morning of Tuesday 16th July**, an incredible brass band called **'Mr Wilson's Second Liners'** will be playing in school. They are a brass band with a twist, playing upbeat dance classics and rousing the crowds with bright uniforms and dancing. Mrs Alderson has had the pleasure of seeing this band in action and can guarantee that it is an event not to be missed!

Whilst the children will watch the

'It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us but for all life on earth.' Sir David Attenborough

band free of charge, we are inviting parents/carers to come and join in the fun for just £3 a ticket. If you would like to purchase tickets, please send your money in an envelope to the office, with your name and the number of tickets you would like written on the front.



Attendance and Punctuality

Research has shown that regular attendance has a very positive impact on attainment. Our **whole school attendance for spring term was 96.11%**. This is still above the national average but is a slight decrease on last year, which was 97.68%.

There were a lot of bugs going round last term and we are really hoping for a healthier term for all of our children and staff! Let's all try our best to be an Attendance HERO-

Here, Every day, Ready and On time.

Getting to school on time is so important. In Spring term, **747 minutes were lost in total due to lateness**. This is a 350 minute decrease on Spring term last year, so we are heading in the right direction! Remember, we have a breakfast club from 8am for just £2 a session.

Well done to our **41 children** who achieved certificates for excellent attendance and punctuality last term.

First Holy Communion

Some of our Year 4 children are making their **First Holy Communion on Sunday 12th May at 9am** in St Bede's Church. Their families and Miss Maitland have ensured that they are well prepared. We hope they have a joyful day and ask you to keep those children in your prayers.

We would love for as many as possible to join us in this wonderful celebration of this very special Sacrament. All are welcome.

Radical Reading Competition!

As you are aware, reading is one of our priorities this year. A huge part of this involves inspiring a love of reading in our pupils and we have done this through a number of ways such as paired reading sessions, parent/children reading sessions, visits to the library and a new reading reward scheme to celebrate reading at home.

We are very lucky to have the amazing author, Adam Bushnell, in school this year on Wednesday 17th July. We are holding a competition this term called '**Radical Reading**' which we would like Adam to judge. We would like pupils to take their books everywhere this term and **read in the most unusual locations** you can

think of. We want to see strange places, silly costumes and as many wacky ideas as possible! Just please make sure your parents know and do not do anything dangerous. Then just send a photo in (either hard copies or electronically) to school by **Friday 5th July**. There will be a **£10 book token** prize for the winner in each year group!



Key Stage 2 'Roald Dahl 100'

This year we are very excited to have a **theatre production company** leading our KS2 play! Konflux Theatre will be in school on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th

July working with Classes 3 and 4 to produce a performance called 'Roald Dahl 100.' The children will then perform the show for parents at **2.40pm on Thursday 4th July**.

Children will be required to wear a simple costume consisting of a pair of jeans, a colourful t-shirt and trainers for the show. All are welcome!

Sports News

As a **GOLD** School Games award winner, we are committed to raising the standards of physical activity provision in our school. We are a member of the Durham School Sports Partnership and other agencies such as Simply Sport and Live Well also support us in our mission.

We work hard to ensure that children achieve their '**Active 30**' minutes per day and are more active than ever

throughout our school day. This term we have lots of exciting sporting opportunities happening. For example, we have Irish dancing taster sessions, a cricket festival, inter-school sports tournaments and, of course, our Sports Day!

If you would like to see exactly how we spend our Sports Premium funding from the government or have any ideas or sug-

gestions to improve our PE provision further, please see our website or chat to Mrs Spratt, our PE Subject Leader.

Don't forget full PE kit for the summer!



Careers Afternoon

On the afternoon of **Tuesday 16th July** we are hosting a '**Careers Fayre**' for Class 4 and also pupils of Witton Gilbert Primary. The Fayre will consist of adults talking to small groups of children about what they do, how they got to be in the career they are in and what qualifications are needed.

If you are available that afternoon and would like to talk to the children

about your job, we would love to hear from you. It is a fantastic way to help raise aspirations amongst our pupils and is also a great opportunity to join together with Witton Gilbert Primary, another wonderful school in our community.

Please let Mrs Alderson know if you are able to help by **Friday 24th May**. Thank you.

Mornings

Please could anyone whose child comes in to school before 8.40am ensure their child is taken to the hall door to be registered for breakfast club. It is very important we know where children are at all times and that they are fully supervised on their journey to school.

May we also remind parents that dogs are not allowed anywhere on school premises. Thank you.

Summer Term Dates-for more details see our website calendar

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|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday 9th May | Reception Multi Skills Festival. |
| Sunday 12th May | 9am: First Holy Communion at Church. |
| Monday 13th May | SATS week-Year 6. Good luck to all of our amazing children. |
| Wednesday 15th May | Class 3 trip to Tynemouth Beach for Ocean School. 8.30am in school please. |
| Thursday 16th May | Class 3 to Tennis Festival, Park View School. 3.20-4.20pm: First Holy Communion Session. |
| Friday 17th May | Y6 to Pizza Hut as a reward for working so hard. Non uniform for Father's Day market. |
| Wednesday 22nd May | 3.20pm: Friends of St Bede's meeting. All welcome. |
| Thursday 23rd May | 9.10am: St Bede's Feast Day Family Mass. All welcome. |
| Friday 24th May | 2pm: Afternoon tea for the parish/parents/community. All adults welcome. £5 a ticket. |
| Thursday 6th June | 9.15am: New starters' parent meeting. 10am: Class 4 to Parish Mass |
| Friday 7th June | Non-uniform for toiletries for Summer Fayre. |
| Sunday 9th June | 9am: Mass and Go Forth Liturgy in Church. |
| Tuesday 11th June and | Class 4 Harry Potter trip. |
| Thursday 13th June | 10am: Class 3 to Parish Mass. 12 noon: Father's Day Lunch. |
| Friday 14th June | Father's Day market. |
| Monday 17th June | Year 6 Rounders Festival. |
| Tuesday 18th June | Cycle and scooters workshops -whole school. |
| Wednesday 19th June | Year 6 to YMT Primary Festival |
| Thursday 20th June | Year 6 new intake day at St Leonard's. Lunch and buses will be provided. |
| Friday 21st June | Class 2 to Mini Olympics |
| Tuesday 25th June | Year 6 to Mass at St Cuthbert's. |
| Wednesday 26th June | Durham Guild Spinners in working with children all day. |
| Friday 28th June | Non uniform day for bottles for Summer Fayre |
| Tuesday 2nd July | Y6 to St Leonard's. School buses and money needed. Changeover Day for all children. |
| Thursday 4th July | 2.40pm: Key Stage 2 'Roald Dahl 101' performance. All welcome. |
| Friday 5th July | 2pm: Summer Fayre |
| Monday 8th July | 1.15pm: Sports Day |
| Wednesday 10th July | Y4/5 Cricket Festival |
| Thursday 11th July | End of term Family Mass, followed by Awards Assembly. All welcome. |
| Friday 12th July | Irish Dancing Taster Sessions. |
| Monday 15th July | Y3 Athletics Festival. |
| Tuesday 16th July | AM (Time to be confirmed): Mr Wilson's Second Liners brass band. £3 a ticket for adults. |
| Wednesday 17th July | Adam Bushnell in. 'Radical Reading' competition to be judged. |
| Thursday 18th July | 9.10am: Y6 Leavers' Liturgy. PM: Leavers' Disco. |
| Friday 19th July | BREAK UP FOR HOLIDAYS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER. |