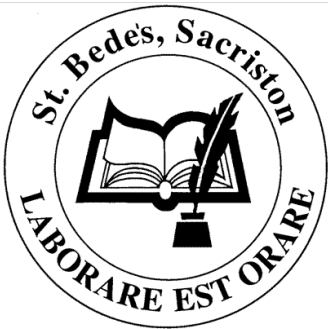


Autumn Term Dates-for more details see our website calendar

Wednesday 11th September	3.20pm-3.45pm: ‘Meet the teacher.’ Please feel free to pop in with your child to meet their class teacher on an informal basis and see their classroom if you would like to.
Thursday 19th September	9.10am: Welcome Mass for new starters, followed by MacMillan coffee morning in hall straight after. All welcome. Donations of cakes to office please and children may bring in money to buy cakes.
Tuesday 24th September	3.20pm: Friends of St Bede’s meeting. All welcome.
Wednesday 25th September	Class 4 to Durham Federation for problem solving day.
Thursday 26th September	Year 7 Welcome Mass at St Leonard’s.
Friday 4th October	9.10am: Mini Vinnies CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Liturgy in School Hall. Wear something bright-£1 donation to CAFOD. All welcome.
Thursday 17th October	9.10am: Open Morning for Prospective Parents-all welcome. Please spread the word!
Thursday 24th October	Non-uniform: donations of chocolates for Christmas Fayre are most welcome
Break up for Autumn Half Term	
Monday 4th November	Children return to School.
Thursday 7th November	9.10am: Month of Remembrance Mass in Church. All welcome.
Tuesday 12th November	2pm-3.15pm: Parent anti-bullying workshop and anti-bullying assembly. All welcome.
Thursday 14th November	Juniors to Parish Mass.
Tuesday 19th November	3.20pm: Friends of St Bede’s meeting.
Wednesday 20th November	9.10am: Phonics Family Learning Session in school hall-learn about read write. Inc and how to help your child with reading. All Reception/Year 1 parents are welcome.
Thursday 21st November	Class 2 to parish Mass.
Tuesday 26th November	PM-Whole school flu vaccinations in school hall. Don’t forget to register your child electronically. See Mrs Daynes in the office if you have any questions.
Thursday 28th November	1pm-6.30pm: Parents’ Afternoon/Evening for all children. Information to be sent out in due course.
Friday 22nd November	Youth Friday Advent Liturgy. Wear purple and make a donation to the Youth Mission Team.
Monday 2nd December	3.20pm: Advent journey straight after school in hall. All welcome.
Tuesday 3rd December	2pm: Infant nativity in Church. All welcome.
Wednesday 4th December	6pm: Infant nativity in Church. Please bring your child to the presbytery for 5.30pm. All welcome.
Friday 6th December	Non-uniform: donations of bottles for the Christmas Fayre are most welcome
Thursday 12th December	9.10am: End of term Mass, then Christmas Fayre in hall straight after. All welcome.
Friday 13th December	Christmas Jumper Day-£1 donation for St Cuthbert’s Hospice.
Monday 16th December	9-10.45am: Class 1 Christmas Activity morning-all parents/carers of children in Class 1 welcome.
Wednesday 18th 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 19th December	PM: Christmas Party.
Friday 20th December	1.30pm: Christmas ukulele, guitar and violin concert in hall 1.45pm: Christmas Carol Service in Church.
BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. RETURN ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY.	
6.15pm: Buses leave from school for Gala Theatre Pantomine	
Educational visits this term to be confirmed-letters will be sent out in due course. Any other events added throughout the term will be placed on the website and in weekly dates letters.	



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Plea For Reception

Mrs Spratt and Mrs Penfold have asked for donations of the following:

- Dried food goods such as corn-flakes, lentils, pasta, rice etc.
- Scented food essences e.g peppermint oil but not nut oils.
- Kitchen utensils for the home corner.

We would also be very grateful if any reception parents could kindly donate the following: cooking oil, washing up liquid, flour and salt to make play doh. Thank you.

Head Teacher News

‘I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food.’ Article 24, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

September 2019



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 really is a pleasure to be able to teach your children.

It is lovely to be back. We have new carpets in classes 3 and 4, a new boundary wall (almost!) and Mr Stephenson has been painting around school so St Bede’s is looking fabulous.

We welcome our new starters to the St Bede’s family. We also welcome **Mrs Holtham**, our new Deputy Headteacher and Class 2 teacher.

We welcome **Mrs Cronin** back

in Class 3-she is thrilled to be back with us.

Staff had some lovely events happening over the summer. Miss Fletcher has become **Mrs Jones**, after celebrating her wedding over the summer holidays. We would like to extend our warmest wishes to Mrs Jones and her husband. Mrs Ord has also become a grandmother for the first time. Congratulations to Mrs Ord and her family!

Here is a reminder of the class organisation this year:

Class 1-Reception (Mrs Spratt)

Class 2-Years 1 and 2 (Mrs Holtham)

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

Class 4-Years 5 and 6 (Mrs

Jones)

As usual, you can catch up with all that is happening at St Bede’s on our website, www.stbedessacriston.co.uk. 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 newsletter, which will now be distributed every fortnight. 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, please just contact the office.

Best wishes,
Mrs Alderson

GOLD School Games Mark...Again!



We are thrilled to inform you that we have achieved the **Gold School Games Mark for the second year running!**

Thank you to Mrs Spratt and our School Sports Organising Crew who worked incredibly hard to achieve this. We are

delighted that our commitment 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. **Mrs Holtham is PE Coordinator** this year.

We are collecting for the **Aldi’s Kit For Schools**. Please send any stickers to the office.

Any donations of **dolls, push-chairs, curtains, dressing up costumes, cars etc for our OPAL** would also be greatly appreciated. Please also remember wellies and old shirts.

Eco Schools Award



As you will be aware, we were delighted to achieve the **Silver Eco Schools Award** last year. Our Eco Warriors and indeed the whole school truly lived out the message to **'care for our common home'** as Pope Francis asks us to do in his letter, **'Laudato Si.'**

Since achieving the first 'plastic free school award' in the North East, we have inspired a number of schools to make positive changes and even been fortunate enough to feature in the press and on national television on The One Show!

This year, we hope to achieve the international **Green Flag Eco Schools award**. We will be looking at a number of ways that we can raise environmental awareness and improve our school environment. As we hear more and more on the news about issues such as climate change, deforestation and plastic pollution, it is more important than ever that our children lead the way in improving God's precious earth for the future.

We are keen for parents to be involved in our mission. If you are able to **spare half an hour once a month** to be part of our Eco group, please speak to Miss Mason



We are also keen to hear any ideas and thoughts from parents and pupils as to how we can be even more environmentally friendly; please do let us know if you have any.

Also, don't forget that we **collect crisp packets for Terracycle** and are on a waiting list to collect other goods to recycle. Just hand them in to the office and we get funding for school whilst reducing waste.



Mission Statement and Gospel Values

As a Catholic school, our ethos and values inspired by Christ and the Gospel are at the heart of everything we do.

Our school motto which you find on our school badge is **'laborare est orare,'** which was written by the Benedictine monks and means **'to work is to pray.'**

Our current **school mission statement** is 'The purpose of St Bede's school is to lead children to that place within themselves that only God can fill.' This has been the mission statement for over 20 years and we feel it is time to collectively come up with a new mission statement to reflect our school and pupils now.

We would like this to involve **all members of our school community** and be inspired by Christ and the teachings of the Bible. If

you and your child have any ideas regarding our new mission statement and what it might incorporate, we would love you to e-mail any ideas to school at st.bedes.rc.sacrison@durhamlearning.net by Friday 27th September. We would like this statement to be unique to our school and to reflect our ethos.

This year in school we will be appointing two 'RE ambassadors' from Year 6 to come up with ideas to enhance the Catholic life of the school and RE teaching and learning across school. We will also be awarding certificates for **'Gospel values'** each week this year to those children who display the values of faith, service, courage, justice, hope, love, reconciliation and community.

Mrs Spratt is our RE Co-Ordinator and Mrs Maitland and Mr Gillingham are our RE Governors. If you have any ideas you would like to share with them or indeed any questions you would like to ask, please feel free to get in touch. You are very welcome to join us at all our Masses, liturgies and parish community events this year.

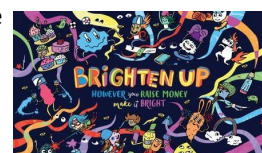


CAFOD Harvest Day 2019

Friday 4th October is CAFOD Family Fast Day. The theme is to 'brighten up our world.' **Our Mini Vinnies will be leading a liturgy at 9.10am** in the hall on that day and all are welcome. The Mini Vinnies will

also be commissioned during the liturgy to carry on the good work of St Vincent de Paul throughout the year in our community.

All pupils are welcome to **wear bright clothes on this day and bring in a £1 donation for CAFOD.** Thank you.



'I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food' Article 24, UNCRC

School Fundraising

We are incredibly grateful for how generously you all give to school at our fundraising events. It really does make a huge difference. Last year we raised an amazing **£3843.94** for school funds. You may be aware of the **budgets cuts** that continue to be made to education and we are very concerned about the impact these cuts will have on St Bede's over the coming years.

Your fundraising helps to support a range of activities. We are passionate about providing our pupils with as many opportunities as possible. Your fundraising helped to support so many exciting opportunities last year such as Adam Bushnell, Mister Wilson's Second Liners, Konflux Theatre, Captain Chemistry, discos and resources.

We also feel that **educational visits** help to support our curriculum and provide children with enriching opportunities that they will remember forever. We tried hard to keep costs of these down last year as much as possible. For example, our whole school Sage trip tickets were kindly paid for by Miss Palmer and we access as many 'free' events as possible e.g. Durham Federation, Nissan, sports festivals etc. We have also started using the public bus wherever possible as buses to local venues cost upwards of £200.

However, there are times when trips may cost a little more money and we have to ask for donations from yourselves. We use school fundraising and pupil premium fund-

ing to help to subsidise trips, residential and buses when necessary but rely on parent contributions to ensure the trip can take place. We will be very grateful this year for any contributions you can make towards your child's trips and will endeavour to continue to keep these costs to a minimum.

We would love to see some new faces at our **Friends of St Bede's** meetings. Our current volunteers work so hard but many hands make light work! Our first meeting of the year is on **Tuesday 24th September at 3.20pm.**

We also are registered with **easyfundraising**. You can earn money for our school every time you shop online! The link is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/.causes/stbedesdurham/>



Anti-Bullying Week

At St Bede's RC Primary School, we aim to provide an environment that is both safe and secure, in which children may develop and grow positively to achieve their full potential.

All staff are trained in **restorative approaches** across school which we use to resolve conflict and we also have trained pupil **'mediators.'** We use our **'good to be green'** system to reward positive behaviour and ensure pupils are aware there are consequences of behaving negatively.

We are proud of our pupils and the love and care they show towards one another. However,

while incidences of bullying at St Bede's are rare, we take any reports of bullying very seriously and act swiftly to resolve any concerns. We have an **anti-bullying policy** agreed by governors and reviewed yearly which can be viewed in our policies section of the website.

If you feel your child is being bullied, please come and see your child's class teacher or Mrs Alderson as soon as possible so we can help. The DfE define bullying as 'behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally'.

We will be exploring bullying as part of our PSHE bullying topic during **anti-bullying week**, which takes place this year from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November.

We would like to invite you to a **parent workshop** about bullying on **Tuesday 12th November from 2pm until 3.15pm.** This will be a chance for you to ask any questions you may have about our anti-bullying policy and hear how we deal with bullying at St Bede's. All classes will also present some of the work they have learned as part of this in an **anti-bullying assembly**. All are welcome.

Homework Consultation

We constantly strive to improve at St Bede's and act upon feedback from parents and children. We genuinely want every child in our school to receive the best education possible and, most importantly, to be happy and enjoy their time with us.

We listened carefully to the views expressed from parents in the Ofsted questionnaire and are consulting on some areas this term.

Firstly, we want to ensure that children enjoy homework and that it is purposeful and enjoyable. With this newsletter you will find a **questionnaire about homework**, which we

would be very grateful if you could complete. We will then determine the homework given for this year based on feedback. Until this is completed, please ensure your children are **reading every day** as this is the most important skill they can learn to help them. Also, **regular practice of times tables** is crucial. Reception parents, please feel free to express an opinion on the questionnaire even though your child may not have received any homework yet.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We are hosting our MacMillan Cancer Support coffee morning straight after Mass in **the hall on Thursday 19th September**. We are appealing to any bakers out there to send cakes in to the office that morning. Mrs Brady was our staff 'star baker' for the event last year!

All are welcome at our coffee morning and children are welcome to bring donations in on the day to buy a cake. It's all for a great cause!

