



# Head Teacher News

April 2018

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**'Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.'**

Article 13, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## Happy Easter!



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a joyful Easter and have enjoyed lots of chocolate eggs.

It is hard to believe that we are already in the Summer term. We have lots of lovely things happening over the coming months and have already had camera crews in school for our Plastic Free Award! Despite the disappointing weather over Easter, we are hoping for lots of sunshine this term. Please ensure your child has **sun cream** and their school cap or a **sun hat** when it is warm but also a coat as the British weather is very unpredictable!

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 to send in a **refillable water bottle**.

We have so many exciting events coming up this term. Please check the back of the newsletter and the website for dates. Our twitter account is also a great way of accessing all of our latest news. You can follow us or look on Twitter or see the feed on the website home page.

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 2nd May at 3.30pm**. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you are still very welcome to help at any of our events. Due to budget cuts, our school budget is reducing year on year and we rely on fundraising to help to provide our children with the best opportunities. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

This term we are working towards purchasing some games markings on our OPAL yard. We have already raised **£496.68** from the Easter Fayre and only need another **£303.32** to meet our target of £800.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Alderson

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### Cancer Research

One of our pupils thoughtfully asked whether we could donate some of the money raised from teas and coffees to Cancer Research, a charity close to their hearts. We are going to donate half of the money raised from teas and coffees up until the end of the year to this worthy charity.

### St Bede's 'Garden of Curiosities'



Our 'Garden of Curiosities', which was funded by a grant of almost £10,000 by the Big Lottery Fund, is ready to be played in! It was created by English Garden Landscapes and includes digging areas, a sandpit and a storytelling

area. It will help to ensure children continue to learn through our **Outdoor Play and Learn project**.

Children **must bring in wellies** if they wish to play in the area. Please see the letter included in today's

mailing for more information.

You are invited to come and view the garden after St Bede's Feast Day Mass (which starts at 9.10am) on **Thursday 24th May**.



## Plastic Free Schools Award

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we are the **first school in the North East** to have been awarded 'Plastic Free School' status and only the fourth in the country!

We are so proud of our Eco-Warriors and all of our children, who have carried out a number of initiatives to try to reduce the use of plastic in our school.

Some of these acts have included cleaning Seaburn beach in a storm, picking up litter and tweeting companies to ask them to change their plastic packaging, changing the way we

serve milk and using tinfoil in the kitchen instead of foil.

The status has been awarded by Surfers Against Sewerage (SAS), a charity which aims to help to reduce plastic pollution and raise awareness of the problem. Andrew Riley, an SAS representative, has been an inspiration to us all.

The award ceremony, which took place on Friday, saw our MP Kevan Jones attending and responding to letters which Year 6 had written. Kevan was very impressed!

We have been in the Northern Echo

over the last week and are due to be on Tyne Tees news with the reporter, Tom Sheldrick. Our small school can do great things and we hope to inspire other schools to make simple changes to help to protect our oceans.

Pope Francis has written a letter called '**Laudato Si**' (meaning 'Praise You') which addresses global issues such as plastic pollution and climate change; see [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) for more details.

If you have any ideas as to how else we can help to reduce plastic pollution or help climate change, please get in touch.

## Rights Respecting School News

Our Rights Respecting School Council have been meeting regularly to discuss ways we can ensure the UN Convention Rights of the Child are being taught throughout school.

At the last meeting, the RRSA Council suggested having a 'suggestion box' for children to nominate pupils they feel have followed the 'Right of the Month' particularly well. This is currently being set up. We also have

award winners every month and teachers are incorporating the rights into the curriculum, identifying lessons linked to rights by placing an RRSA sticker on the piece of work.

The '**Right of the Month**' for April is Article 13, which is on the front of this newsletter. Please discuss what this means with your child. Our children express their thoughts and views on a number of issues, being part of groups such as the Eco Warriors, Mini Vin-

nies, E-Cadets, OPAL team and the Mediators.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 1st May at 12.30pm**. If you have any ideas to share with us, please let our parent representatives (Mrs Ramshaw and Mrs Roberts), Cllr Liddle or our staff representative (Mrs Brady) know.

'All creatures are connected. Each must be cherished with love and respect.' Pope Francis

## Attendance and Punctuality

We are continuing to promote our new attendance policy at St Bede's and have enjoyed celebrating good attendance and punctuality. Last week our whole school attendance was **99.47%** which is incredible-thank you!

27 children received certificates for excellent attendance and punctuality in Spring term-well done! Our whole school attendance for Spring term was **97.68%**, which is an increase of over

1% on last term. This is above the national average-let's keep it up!

Punctuality has also improved. In Autumn term we lost 1383 minutes due to lateness. In Spring term we lost 1097 minutes, which is a **286 minute decrease**. However, we want to continue to significantly decrease this total. Please support us by ensuring your child is in school on time and attends as much as possible.

## Month of Mary



May is the month of Mary.

We will be saying a **decade of the Holy Rosary straight after school every Thursday during May** in order to honour Our Lady. It is a lovely way of celebrating the 'Year of Mary.'

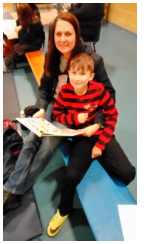
Please come to the school office with your child/children to take part. Those taking part will be given a set of rosary beads to pray with, or you may bring your own if you would prefer.

## 'To learn to read is to light a fire.' Victor Hugo

We adore reading at St Bede's and love nothing more than hearing children read and inspiring a love of books in our pupils. **Reading at home** to an adult is **the most beneficial activity** you can do with your child. Our accelerated reading programme from Year 1 ensures children read books that are based on their

reading ability and also allows them to take comprehension tests. Please ensure that every time your child reads you write this in their reading journal and also let us know when they are ready to complete a test. You can log in to see their results. A letter will be coming out in this week's mailing to remind you of their details.

This week we have our Scholastic Book Fair. It will be in the school hall every evening from 3.15pm -3.30pm. Please come along and have a look. You can order books whilst at the Fair or send an order in with your child. School receive a percentage of the profits to purchase new books.



## 'The Lion King' Comes to Sacriston!

Our Key Stage 2 children will be taking to the stage to perform 'The Lion King' at the end of term.

There will be two performances of

the show; one during the afternoon of Wednesday 11th July and another at 6pm on Thursday 12th July. All are welcome to come and see our rip 'roaring' show!



## Sports News



As a Silver 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 Simply Sport also support us in our mission.

We work hard to ensure that children achieve their 'Active 30' minutes per day. Some of the initiatives we use to do this are our daily 'St Bede's Sprint,'

our games with playground leaders and Mr Fortune, our 'Maths of the Day' lessons, our 'Change for Life' club, after school clubs, festivals and tournaments, plus exciting taster sessions like the cricket sessions we held for the Infants last week. Our SSOCs team are currently organising the 'Jump Rope for Heart' sponsored event.

Don't forget full PE kit for the summer!

We are also attending 'Durham Dash' for the first time this year on Wednesday 13th June. This is a fantastic event in Durham city centre in which children compete against other schools.

If you would like to see exactly how we spend our Sports premium funding from the government, please see our website or chat to Mrs Spratt, our PE Subject Leader.



## Careers Afternoon at Witton Gilbert Primary

On the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd May Class 4 are attending a **Careers Fayre** at Witton Gilbert Primary School. 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 they 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 wonderful way to help to raise aspirations amongst our pupils and is also a great opportunity to join together with Witton Gilbert Primary School, another wonderful school in our community.

Please let Mrs Alderson know if you are able to help by **Friday 27th April**. Thank you.

## Artsmark

Miss Fletcher and Mrs Maitland are leading our work towards achieving the Artsmark from the Arts Council. Miss Fletcher has completed an action plan detailing the work which will be carried out over the next two years.

Keep reading our newsletters and twitter account to see how we are inspiring our pupils through arts and culture.



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

Monday 23rd April	Scholastic Book Fair in all week. School hall 3.15pm-3.30pm.
Wednesday 25th April	Year 5 to Commonwealth celebration at Millennium Square.
Wednesday 2nd May	3.30pm: FOSB meeting. All welcome.
Thursdays in May	3.20pm: Rosary. All welcome.
Thursday 10th May	9.10am: Ascension Day Mass. All welcome.
Monday 14th May	SATs week-Year 6. Good luck to our children-you are amazing.
Friday 18th May	Y6 to Pizza Hut for Lunch as a reward for working so hard.
Monday 21st May	Bikeability for Class 4. A letter will be sent out about this in due course
Thursday 24th May	9.10am: St Bede's Feast Day Mass, then open visit to 'Garden of Curiosities.' All welcome
Friday 25th May	Break up for half term
Monday 4th June	Return to school
Thursday 7th June	9.15am: New Starters' meeting. C4 to Parish Mass. 3.20pm: First Holy Communion rehearsal..
Friday 8th June	Non-uniform for Fr's Day market.
Sunday 10th June	9am in St Bede's Church: First Holy Communion. All welcome.
Wednesday 13th June	Father's Day Lunch. 4.30pm-8.30pm: Durham Dash
Thursday 14th June	Non-uniform day for toiletries. Class 3 to parish Mass.
Friday 15th June	9.10am: Father's Day liturgy and Father's Day market
Wednesday 20th June	Year 6 to YMT Primary Festival .
Thursday 21st June	Y6 to St Leonards' for new intake day. Lunch will be provided and buses.
Friday 22nd June	Non-uniform for bottles. Classes 3 and 4-Tag Rugby Festival.
Monday 25th June	1.15pm: Sports Day.
Wednesday 27th June	'Jump Rope for Heart' sponsored event for British Heart Foundation. Reception class to Fyndoune farm.
Thursday 28th June	Class 2 to Parish Mass. Class 2 trip to The Sage for 'The Big Sing.' 3.30pm: Altar server training.
Monday 2nd July	Y6 to St Leonard's for new intake day. Need packed lunch/money and to get school bus/lift from parents. Changeover day for all..
Tuesday 3rd July	Years 4 and 5 to Cricket Festival at Sacriston Cricket Club.
Wednesday 4th July	Class 4 to Kingsway for 3 days.
Thursday 5th July	Reception class Sports Festival at Belmont Cheveley Park.3.30pm: Altar server training. 7pm-new intake evening at St Leonard's.
Tuesday 10th July	Y6 Leavers' Mass at St Godric's
Wednesday 11th July	1pm: KS2 performance of 'The Lion King.'
Thursday 12th July	9am-'Share the Journey' CAFOD walk. All welcome. 6pm: KS2 'The Lion King' performance.
Friday 13th July	2pm: Summer Fayre. All welcome.
Tuesday 17th July	9.10am: Leavers' Liturgy. All welcome.
Thursday 19th July	9.10am: End of Year Mass. All welcome. PM-Leaver's Disco.
Friday 20th July	1pm: Awards Assembly <b>BREAK UP FOR SUMMER AND RETURN TUESDAY 4th SEPT.</b>