

Spring Term Dates-for more details see our website calendar

Thursday 16th January	9.10am: Family Mass-all welcome. 3.20pm after school: Kingsway residential trip meeting for parents/pupils of Class 4
Wednesday 22nd January	3.20pm: Friends of St Bede's meeting Dance Festival tickets for Durham Gala go on sale-Class 3.
Wednesday 29th January	Year 6 to Northumbria University Yr 1 to Gymnastics carousel at Durham City Gymnastics, Sherburn-please come in PE kit.
Thursday 30th January	Class 4 taking part in 'Go Ride' cycling session 1. Please bring bikes and helmets if possible. 4.30pm-5.30pm: First Holy Communion Session 4-Liturgy of the Word
Thursday 6th February	Class 4 taking part in 'Go Ride' cycling session 2. Please bring bikes and helmets if possible. Juniors to Parish Mass
Tuesday 11th 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 13th February	Class 4 taking part in 'Go Ride' cycling session 3. Please bring bikes and helmets if possible.
Friday 14th February	Break up for half term.
Monday 24th 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.
Tuesday 25th February	All Stars cricket roadshow for Classes 2 and 3 in school. Be sure to ensure your child has PE kit in school.
Weds 26th February	9.10am: Ash Wednesday Liturgy.
Thursday 27th February	4.30-5.30pm: First Holy Communion Session 5-Offertory.
Wednesday 4th March	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 5th March	World Book Day-children to bring pyjamas or a onesie and bring their favourite bed time story. They will be sharing these stories in the afternoon with their reading buddies with cookies and some juice.
Wednesday 11th March	Mother's Day lunch: Infants. Letters will be sent out for this in due course.
Thursday 12th March	Infants to attend Parish Mass.
Friday 13th March	Non-uniform for donations of gifts for Mother's Day Market
Wednesday 18th March	Mother's Day Lunch: Juniors. Letters will be sent out for this in due course.
Thursday 19th March	Infant Agility Festival: Class 1 at Framwellgate School. Children to come in their PE kits. 4.30pm-5.30pm: First Holy Communion Session 6 after school-thanks.
Friday 20th 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.
Wednesday 25th March	Dance Festival at Durham Gala-Class 3. Details regarding tickets to follow.
Thursday 26th March	1.30pm-6.30pm: Parent Consultation Afternoon-letters will be sent out for this in due course.
Friday 27th March	Non-uniform for Easter eggs.
Thursday 2nd April	Family Mass. Easter egg competition, tombola and refreshments in hall straight after. All welcome.
Friday 3rd April	Break up for Easter holidays. Children return to school on MONDAY 20th APRIL 2019.



Head Teacher News

January 2020

'Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.'

Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



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Happy New Decade!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Happy 2020! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and wish you all the very best for this new year and decade. May I take this opportunity to **thank you on behalf of myself and all of the staff for your kind wishes, cards and gifts.** Thank you, too, for your contributions to our fundraising efforts in the run up to Christmas; we were once again overwhelmed by your generosity. We raised an amazing £1530.29 from our school fundraising last term!

Our autumn term was very productive. 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. We also have a **no jewellery** policy, which includes earrings. You can find our uniform policy on the school website.

As usual, we have some exciting and informative 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 **fortnightly dates letter or website** for any other events/trips which arise during the term. We also use twitter to update you with things happening in school; follow us at **@StBedeSacriston**

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

Inside this issue:

RE Inspection	1
Academies	2
Attendance	2
Reading	2
Eco News	3
Artsmark Award	3
Dates	4

Tremendous!

Thank you to those who contributed to our Woodland Trust collection before Christmas and signed the school Christmas card. We raised £31.50 and bought trees for bees and also trees for wildlife to nest in.

YMT

We raised £93 for the YMT-thank you!

'Outstanding' RE Inspection!

We are delighted to have been judged as an **'OUTSTANDING'** Catholic school in our recent RE inspection!

The report is now available on our website and we are very proud of it.

The report stated that St

Bede's is, **'an oasis of calm where children are able to develop their faith and their sense of moral and ethical purpose.'**

Thank you to all involved; the children, staff, parents and governors involved were all fantastic! Special thanks to Mrs Spratt, our RE Co-



Ordinator, and Mrs Maitland and Mr Gillingham, our RE governors.

To see the full report visit <http://www.stbedesacriston.co.uk/information/school-performance/> and it is under the 'Diocesan Report' heading.

Academies News

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle have recently announced the following:

The **Diocesan Academy Policy** has been revised with the aim that our diocesan schools will become academies within one of four Diocesan education trusts by July 2022. Underpinning the Diocesan Academy Policy is the desire and need to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle so that it is fit for the mission of the Church. There are 156 schools in our diocese educating 53,600 children. 45 of our schools are currently academies. The implementation of this policy will happen in two stages:

Stage 1: consolidation of existing academies and trusts into one base trust

Stage 2: conversion of voluntary aided schools to academy status within their regional trust

Whenever voluntary aided schools convert to academy status, they will join their single regional trust as equal partners with all schools within the trust. All schools in the region will be included in the process from the outset. In establishing these trust structures and having a single system in our Diocese, we aim to ensure that the children and young people in our schools will continue to receive the very best educational opportunities and life fulfilling experiences, within communities which have the teachings of Christ and his Church at the very centre. A Catholic trust model where every school has its place will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulner-

able in a rapidly changing environment. It will ensure that the uniqueness of each individual school is celebrated and the unique contribution of each is recognised and appreciated. In order for this policy to be fulfilled, the Bishop expects all schools to continue to work together as a Diocesan family for the good of Catholic education in our Diocese. Through the trust structures the aim is to facilitate greater sharing, adding strength and capacity to our system and ensuring that all schools are supported and included. In this way we will better fulfil the mission of Catholic education within the Church.

We will keep you informed of any developments in the academisation process. To see the policy and the new proposed structure, see http://edurcdhn.org.uk/school/support_docs/support_schpolicies.php

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 **94.9%**. This is below the national average of 96%. We hope 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. If a parent does not inform us and we cannot contact them, we then must follow our **missing child procedures** to ensure their safety.

Ensuring your child is punctual also helps their education greatly. There were **1586 minutes lost** in total in the autumn term due to late-



ness. If your child is late after registration this could result in an unauthorised absence.

Please also try to be prompt for pick up at the end of the day. This also applies to **after school clubs**. Adults running clubs are employed only until the time the club finishes and it is unfair to expect them to supervise your child after this time. Children can also find it upsetting.

Reading at Home

Our new reading reward scheme this year is proving very popular with our pupils! Children can win a variety of prizes for reading at home so don't forget to initial and date the square in their reading diary.

Reading at home every day has a hugely positive impact for your child. Research has shown that reading **just 15 minutes a day** can expose children to over 1,000,000 words per year.

We see first hand at school **the difference regular reading at home can make our pupils**. It helps their confidence, exposes

them to a much wider range of vocabulary, speeds up their progress and equips them with a skill which can help them achieve their full potential in all subjects.

It is important to continue reading with even the most fluent reader right up to Year 6 in order to assist with understanding.

To help with questioning at home, we have uploaded some **print out and cut out book-marks with helpful questions** you may wish to use when reading with your child. You will find these in the parent section of our website.



Cashless Office

Just a gentle reminder that we are **no longer taking cash payments** in the office. All payments (aside from fundraising) will be made through Eduspot School Money. Please see Mrs Daynes or Mrs Brady if you need any help with this.

We are hoping this should save school up to £500 a year as we should no longer need money collections and it will also aid staff workload in the office. We also hope it will make it easier for all parents to keep track of payments and alleviate queues at the office.

'Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.'

Award Winning Eco-Committee!

Our Eco-Committee continue to go from strength to strength and are working hard to 'be just, be green, be kind and be peaceful.'

We were absolutely thrilled to **win the Schools award at the Durham LA Environmental Awards** in October and two of our Eco-Warriors attended the beautiful event at Hardwick Hall.

The Eco-Committee have been working hard this year to reduce our carbon emissions. They have been working with Alice Evans, Carbon Reduction Officer, to reduce carbon emissions around school.

The children looked around school and thought of ways to save energy, such as ensuring lights are off when classes aren't being used and switching off monitors



when not in use. They then shared these ideas in an assembly to the whole school.

Class 3 also worked with Gemma O'Brien to produce a beautiful piece of art—a butterfly created from recycled bottle top lids. The butterfly will be displayed outside soon.

The Eco-Committee, led by Miss Mason, are now working towards becoming a **'Green Flag' Eco-school** in the summer.

Year of the Word

This year we are celebrating the **'Year of the Word.'** Every month there will be a different theme and children will hear different stories from the Bible.

Plea for Reception Items

Mrs Spratt has asked for any donations of early years age **scooters or bikes** for their outdoor classroom. Reception are also studying the topic of **'People Who Help Us'** so we would be be also grateful for

donations of suitable **child dress up items** or any toys relating to this topic e.g. **play garages, post offices, police equipment etc.** We are also always grateful for consumables e.g. pasta, oil, flour, rice etc. Please send any donations to the office. Thank you.

SATs Success!

Whilst we firmly believe that education is about developing the whole child at St Bede's, we aim to ensure that all children reach their full academic potential during their time with us.

Children worked incredibly hard and achieved excellent results last year in both KS1 and KS2.

In KS1 80% of pupils achieved at least expected standard in reading, writing and maths.

In KS2, 100% of pupils achieved age related expectation in reading, writing and SPAG, whilst 88% achieved ARE in maths.

Progress scores were positive in all subjects, with progress in maths being +1, writing being +3.7 and reading being +5.1. This has resulted in St Bede's being 10th in Durham in the 2019 primary school league tables.

A huge well done to all our children for such excellent results and to all our hardworking staff for helping them to achieve them.

Silver Artsmark Award!

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the **SILVER Artsmark Award!** Mrs Jones and Mrs Maitland (Art Subject Leader) led the award and we received incredibly positive feedback from the assessors who stated that we are, **'positively increasing the emphasis on arts and culture...which is having tangible results on staff, and wider teaching and learning.'**

We would like to thank Mrs Jones and Mrs Maitland for their hard work in achieving this.



'Nut Free' School

We aim to be a completely 'nut free' school due to allergies. Please ensure any cake donations for fayres are nut free and that your child does not bring any nut products in to school.

We would also like to politely request that parents **do not send cakes or sweets** in to school for other children to eat on their child's birthday. Please do not think we are trying to spoil anyone's fun as we fully understand how exciting birthdays are for

children, but it is becoming increasingly more difficult to manage in school due to the range of allergies we have in school and also time constraints.

Birthdays are always celebrated in school by singing in assembly, giving your child a birthday card and also a dip in the 'birthday box' so there really is no need for cakes and sweets as well. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.



Friends of St Bede's

Our Friends of St Bede's do an incredible job helping us to fundraise but we would love to see some new faces. Please join us on **Wednesday 22nd January at 3.20pm** if you can.

We also have a weekly '100 club,' which costs £1 a ticket. half of all monies raised each week go to our school fundraising and half to our winner. Please speak to the office if you would like to buy a number.