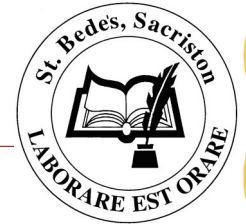


Weekly Letter



Week Commencing 12th October 2020 Autumn Term week 7

Mental Health Support

Last Saturday was mental health day, we will be sending a letter out today detailing the support available to your children, should they need it, from the Mental Health Trailblazer Team. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Dogs on School Grounds

We have sought advice from the Health and Safety Team at DCC on this matter following some queries and they have said:

'We advise that all parents and extended family member are informed that dogs are not permitted on the school site (with the exception of guide dogs). Dogs on the school site pose a number of hazards to the school community which pose a continuous battle for schools to manage. Schools are expected to have all hazards on the school site clearly managed.

The health and safety of the children is our utmost concern. Children of all ages access school sites at the start and end of the school day, many younger children can be scared and intimidated by dogs and not always know how to react to them. We feel it is important that the school site is a safe place for all children.

There are also children in the school community that are allergic to dogs and contact with a dog could exacerbate their condition.

The school site can be a very busy, noisy and an unpredictable place and therefore extremely stressful for the majority of dogs. Studies show that environmental and social stress lead to increased irritability in dogs, and that a dog bite is most likely to occur as a result of anxiety in the animal (*Arhant et al, 2016*).

We also advise that dogs are not tethered to railings or located adjacent to access gates into the school as this also poses a risk to adults/children walking past a dog to access the school site and may be a source of anxiety for the dog.'

Thank you for your support and co-operation with this.

St Leonard's Year 6 Virtual Open Evening

St Leonard's are hosting a virtual open evening for those children in Year 6 who would like to attend in September. Please go to the link below and you will be able to take a virtual tour of each department at a time that suits yourselves. Just a reminder that applications for secondary school must be completed by Saturday 31st October 2020.

<https://www.st-leonards.durham.sch.uk/year-6-virtual-open-evening-2020-1/>

School Office

Please don't hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions. The best way to reach us is via the parent e-mail address—

stbedescvparents@durhamlearning.net

Office staff are often covering duties around school at present and may not always be available to answer the phone. We would ask that parents avoid coming to the office without prior notice and all visitors must always wear a mask in school if they have to come to the entrance.

As we are sending out all of our letters etc by email could you please let us know if you have changed your email address as soon as possible so you won't miss out on any communications we send.

Thank you.

Head Teachers Award

Daniel C

Stars of the week

Joel, Hannah L, Daisy-Mae B, William H, Daisy D, Lydia, Leah B

Gospel Values

Molly, Harrison, Bella, Jessica D

Maths Award

Liam RB, Jessica B, Olivia, Hollie

Writing Award

Harper, Ollie, Charlie R, Lennie

Reading Award

Charlie S, Daisy C, Anna, Preston

Wednesday Word of the week is:

'Invitation'

In our virtual whole school Collective Worship this week, the word discussed was 'invitation.'

Could we also remind parents of the need for social distancing and the good practice of wearing a mask whilst waiting to drop off/ collect your child from school each day. Please see below the start/ finish times for each class and we would also ask that you keep to these times as closely as you can to avoid mixing of classes/bubbles. Please also remember that only ONE parent/carer is to be present at these times. Thank you.

Class	Location	Morning Drop Off Time	Afternoon Collection Time
1	Main entrance	9:00am -9.15am	3pm-3.10pm
2	Hall entrance	8.55am-9.05am	3pm-3.10pm
3	Main entrance	8.45am-8.55am	3.10pm-3.20pm
4	Front door-queuing in the prayer garden	8.45am-8.55am	3.10-3.20pm