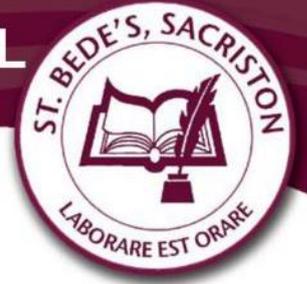


ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Front Street, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6AB. Tel: 0191 3710272
Email: stbs@stbs.bwcet.com



Mrs S Clarke
Headteacher

1st October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's hard to believe we're now in October; the last few weeks have flown over. The mornings are darker and there is definitely an autumnal chill in the air isn't there! It's also that time of year when coughs and colds are on the loose and that, combined with the added issue of Covid makes it all the more testing for everyone. We are very grateful to all of you for supporting us in our drive to keep the potential spread of Covid to a minimum and have been fortunate on the whole so far. Let's pray that this continues to be the case.

COVID-19 Information

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 16 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over).

From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school

if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school until they get the test result, as long as they have no symptoms. We will notify parents of positive case in their child's class in order to help keep you informed.

It continues to be important that if your child has to go for a PCR test, that you inform the school office of this at stbs@stbs.bwcet.com

We would also ask that that you let us know the result when you have this too. Although schools are no longer required to 'Track and Trace' we are still expected to have this information and may be contacted by Public Health to assist them.

Staffing changes:

You may be aware that Mr Gilbert has taken on the role of Class Teacher in Class 4 on Mondays and Tuesdays and Class 3 on Thursday afternoons and Fridays. He also covers Mrs Holtham's PPA. He is a very experienced teacher and we are fortunate that he has agreed to do this. Mrs Fortune is currently working with small groups in these classes, focusing on aspects of learning missed due to school closures as a result of Covid. Whilst we still have Mrs Fortune for a few more weeks, before she leaves to have her new baby – we thought it would make for a smoother transition for the children in these classes to make these changes now.

Mini Vinnies

Congratulations to our wonderful new cohort of Mini Vinnies from Class 3 who had their commissioning ceremony in school on Wednesday. Mr Wilcock; a prominent member of the SVP came into school to celebrate this with the children. He was highly impressed by them and the number of parents and grandparents who were in attendance. It was a lovely way to mark the start of their mission to help the less fortunate in society and we will continue to share the things that they do with you!

Celebratory Awards

In a change to the celebratory awards held on a weekly basis in school, I am introducing 'Wondrous Wednesdays'. Each teacher will nominate a child from each year group in their class, who has shone throughout the week for behaviour, work, good manners, sporting achievement etc. they will have time out of class during the afternoon and be treated to hot chocolate and a biscuit with myself or Mrs Holtham. In addition to this – we will have a new display in the front of school that will celebrate outstanding work from each class on a fortnightly basis. It's a lovely way to share their work with any visitors to school!

Sports

Class 4 have enjoyed netball sessions with the Schools Sports Partnership. It's great to see them outside, enjoying sport once more! The children are still coming into school wearing their PE kits on PE days – so thank you for this. It does help the issue of lost items of uniform etc – and also reduces time spent changing – so more time is actually spent doing PE. We would ask, however, that your child does wear their school PE kit and not alternative items of clothing. Any orders for uniform can be made via the link on our school website but feel free to ring the school office if you need any assistance with this.

Captain Chemistry

We welcome Captain Chemistry into school once again next week. He will work with all children across the school focusing on various aspects of science. The children will no doubt have a great day and will learn so much from him in a fun enjoyable way.

Open Mornings

We are gearing up to welcome prospective parents into our school on the 12th and 13th October. These visits are only for parents of children due to start in Reception next year. Pre-booking is essential even if you are an existing parent. Please contact the school office to book a slot (0191 3710272). Huge thanks to the Hudspeth family for our signage; we really appreciate your support!

Reception 2022 Admissions

For any children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, you will need to complete an application, stating which primary school you would like your child to attend.

You still need to apply even if you have an older child attending the same school. Each year we have a number of children who miss out on a place in our Reception class because parents have forgotten to apply for a place. The deadline for applications is midnight on Friday, 15 January 2022. The offer of school places will be made on 19th April 2022.

Please note that applications must be made via <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Secondary School 2022 Admissions

For any children born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011, you will need to complete an application, stating which secondary school you would like your child to attend. The application process opened on September 14th and you will have received a letter regarding this (sent to Year 6 parents). The deadline for secondary school applications is midnight on

Sunday 31 October 2021. Once again, it is very important to apply for a secondary school place by the deadline, as a late application greatly reduces your chances of getting a place at your preferred school.

Please note that all must be made via <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

If you are unable to apply online, please download the form from the website address above. Please note, we have been advised by Durham County Council that we cannot send in forms on behalf of parents.

Meet the Teacher

On 13th October – we are hosting an informal ‘Meet the Teacher’ session from 3:30-4:30pm. Please pop in and say hello to your child’s class teacher, and have a look in the classroom. I must stress that this is not a parent/pupil consultation – these dates will be coming up towards the end of November and will be shared with you in the very near future.

Harvest/Foodbank Donations

From 18th October, the Mini Vinnies will be collecting donations for Durham Foodbank. Many people within our community rely on this service and it has been stretched a great deal over recent years as a result of the pandemic. We really hope we can support them and would ask that you check cupboards for any non-perishable items that could be donated, or toiletries – soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and sanitary products. These are all essential items that the Foodbank struggle to get – so hopefully we can help them out. Donation boxes will be in the foyer next to the main reception from the week beginning 18th.

School Photographs

Our very own Mr Gilbert will be the school photographer on 20th October. The school office will be sending details out about this. Please note that there will be no Morning Club on that day as the school hall is required for photographs.

School Email:

Please note our new email address is: stbs@stbs.bwcet.com any correspondence should be sent to this mailbox, as we now have no access to the old mailbox.

As always, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy weekend from all of the staff at St Bede’s.

Kindest regards,

Mrs S Clarke

Headteacher