

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Mrs S Clarke
Headteacher



22nd December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to begin by offering my personal thanks to each and every one of you for your support throughout this term. I never envisaged we'd still be in the grip of a pandemic when I joined St Bede's in September but we've dealt with all the ups and downs it has presented to us as a community and we will continue to do that into the New Year. It hasn't always been easy but I'm sure, that if we continue to work together as a close-knit community – we will see it through to the end and enjoy brighter times ahead.

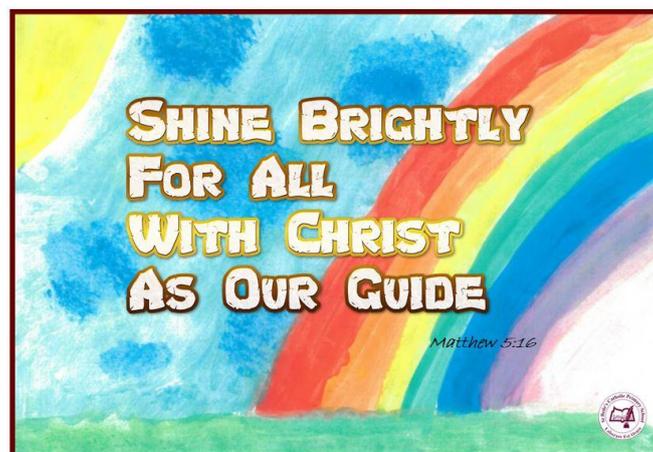
Pope Francis tells us that 'Children and young people are the future; they are our strength; they are what keeps us moving forward. They are the ones in whom we put our hope.'

These words certainly inspire me as a mother and as the Headteacher at St Bede's, as I know is the case for all of the staff who cross the doors of our little school each day. Your children certainly make our school a special place to be – each and every one of them unique in their own way and they are a credit to you.

We recently launched our new mission statement and children were invited to take part in a competition to design the 'backdrop' for it. '*Shine Brightly for all, With Christ as Our Guide*' (Matthew 5:16)

Mrs Reilley O'Donnell, Director of Ethos for Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, came into school to judge the entries. She was moved by some of the entries and there were 4 that came highly commended: A Bowers, C Bullerwell and A Bulmer in Class 4 and D White in Class 3, with 3 runners up from Class 2. Each of these children will receive a framed copy of their entry in recognition of their efforts.

I am delighted to share the winning entry with you; by F Wiecek, Class 2.



The winning entry was chose by Mrs Reilley O'Donnell, due to the distinct rainbow; a sign of eternal hope, inclusivity and of course our cherished NHS. It is demonstrative of all that we are going through at this time as we continue to make our way through a pandemic together. It gives us hope for the future, that we will work together to ensure your children can shine brightly, whatever happens; whilst reminding us all that we keep Christ as our guide in all we do and all we say.

'Shine Brightly for all; With Christ as Our Guide...'

The new mission statement will take pride of place in our school and we are currently waiting for it to come back from the printers. A very special thankyou to Ash Signs for producing these for us! We are very proud of the winning entry and the winner will receive a framed copy of it, along with a copy from the printers when we receive them in the New Year.

Feeding Britain

Well done to Noah in Reception who raised £220 last weekend for Feeding Britain; running one mile! It is always lovely to hear about activities children do in their own time to help issues linked to social justice. We are incredibly proud of him and his efforts!

Sarah McAllister

We had the absolute privilege of welcoming Sarah McAllister into school yesterday to work with all classes, making Christmas Treats. Class 4 were treated to a chocolate workshop and became young entrepreneurs for the afternoon as well. There was certainly a buzz in the air around the building yesterday. The children would love to have her back in school again – so it's fortunate that I've already scheduled dates in the spring and summer terms with her! I've worked with Sarah for many years and it was lovely to hear her feedback on how engaged the children were in what they were doing, as well as how well behaved they were. Great praise indeed!

A Special Visitor!

We had the pleasure of welcoming Santa to school this morning; despite his very busy schedule at the moment! He presented all children with a gift, helped by Miss Armstrong – which we hope they will be able to open on Christmas morning.

Nativity

Parents of children in Reception and KS1 will receive a copy of the Nativity production today. For those children who are not in school – a copy will be kept and sent home in the New Year. Thank you to Mr Gilbert for recording this and putting the DVD together.

Staff

We sadly say goodbye to Miss Barber today, who has been teaching in Reception for the past 10 weeks. We are so very grateful to her contribution to our school and we wish her every success as she moves forward in her teaching career. She will certainly be missed by all of us – and we hope she will remain in contact as she has very quickly become part of our St Bede's family.

After School Clubs

Please don't forget to sign your children up for clubs next half term. There are no spaces left in art club (Tuesday - KS1), but there is still availability in the sports club on Wednesday for KS2 children only. Please note that these clubs will start in week 1, as soon as we return to school in January.

Year 6 Booster

Year 6 booster sessions will start the week beginning 17th January. These will be led by Mrs Jones, myself and Mr Gilbert and will either be from 8am or after school depending on staff availability. Letters for this will be sent home in our first week back.

Class 3 – Swimming

Class 3 will continue swimming on a weekly basis from 11th January. Please ensure you send their swimming kits in on these days and remove any earrings before school. They will not be permitted entry to the pool if they have earrings in for health and safety reasons. If, for any reason swimming is cancelled due to staffing and/or reasons linked to covid – we will endeavour to let you know as soon as we can.

Family Wellbeing Co-ordinator

We are fortunate to have Gemma O'Brien working with us in her role as Family Wellbeing Co-ordinator. Many of you may know her from the Sacriston Youth and Community Project already – but she has indicated that if there are any families who

'Shine Brightly for all; With Christ as Our Guide...'

may be struggling over Christmas and need advice and/or support, that she is contactable via email. She will endeavour to get back in touch with you and will try and help out or signpost you in the right direction. Her email is:

gemma@sacristonyouthproject.co.uk

Covid Notification

Please can I remind all parents to continue to notify us by email of any positive PCR tests that your children may have up to and inclusive of the 29th December. I will check the school email daily until this date and, this early notification will enable me to let staff 'deemed close contacts' know, so they can begin the LFT process. Similarly, I will endeavour to notify parents if any member of staff tests positive during this period. Please note that this does not replace any obligation to notify NHS Test and Trace – but just means we can let people know as soon as possible to help prevent rising numbers in our own families and community. I hope you will continue to support us with this. The email address is: stbs@stbs.bwcet.com

Thank you

A huge thank you to all of you from all the staff here at St Bede's for the Christmas gifts and good wishes that have been received. We really appreciate your generosity – your kindness is very humbling.

The only thing left is to wish all of our families a blessed, peaceful Christmas. We pray that each and every one of you and your extended families remains safe and well throughout this time and we look forward to a much brighter 2022.

With every best wish as always,

Mrs Clarke

Headteacher