

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrating life and learning

Autumn 1: Issue 1

4th September, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bede, patron of our school, wrote:

"It was always my delight to learn and to teach".

We are a celebrating community, living the Gospel Values, committed to educating children in the light of the Catholic Faith.

We journey together so that we

"Might have life - life in all its fullness".

John 10:10

PRAYER FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Lord God,

At the beginning of this new school year teach us to be your hands and feet where we are.

At the beginning of this new school year teach us to love as you love us.

At the beginning of this new school year teach us to pray for those in need
So that You are honoured and glorified.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome back to school and to our September newsletter. It is certainly good to be back; we are all looking forward to the next academic year. To ensure that information is shared in a timely fashion, the newsletter will be published once a month. All up and coming events will be advertised in the newsletter; however, the school website is an excellent source of information. All dates for the Autumn Term are in the calendar at the bottom of the Home Page. Please remember to check it regularly as the list will be updated as new events are organised.

There are a number of events taking place in September starting with the parent/carer Curriculum Meetings. They begin with Year 6 on Tuesday 19th September at 9.00 am. Year 5 is on Wednesday 20th; Year 4 on Thursday 21st - both at 9.00 am. Year 3's meeting is following the Parent/Carer Lunch on Friday 22nd.

We have changed the time of these meetings as we have held them at 2.15 pm for a long time, and even introduced an evening meeting; however, they were not well attended. Hopefully, first thing in the morning will mean higher engagement from parents/carers.

You will note from the calendar of events that the first School Disco is from 3.30 - 5.00 pm for Year 5 & 6 on Tuesday 12th September. Year 3 & 4's disco is on Wednesday 13th September from 3.30 - 4.30 pm. Pupils who are attending the disco can wear non-uniform on the day. All other pupils wear school uniform as expected. There will be no other clubs and all children can attend on the respective day. Tickets will go on sale on Thursday 7th September and are priced at £2.00. Refreshments are available to purchase.

All parents/carers are welcome to join the staff and children at ANY Prayer and Liturgy. They take place in the school hall every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00 - 9.25 am. It is a wonderful way to start the school day and gives an insight into the Catholic Life of the school.

We are excited to meet our new pupils, most of whom have had the opportunity to meet their class teacher and other pupils at the end of the last academic year, and look forward to another fabulous year at St. Bede's Junior School.
Love and thanks,

Mrs. Faith Tiernan

BIRTHDAY NEWS



From the start of the academic year, we invite pupils to wear non-uniform on their birthdays. This way, they will be instantly recognised as celebrating their own special birth day, although we often have a number of children on the same day! We know that sometimes a birthday falls on a weekend or even in the holidays, therefore, pupils can celebrate in non-uniform on the Friday before or the Monday after. Hopefully, our special pupils, will feel extra-special on their birthdays!

UNIFORM: A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you for the efforts that parents/carers have made with purchasing the uniform and PE Kits. Remember that the children wear a school PE Kit on their class PE Days, not ANY sportswear. School hoodies are for PE days too; not for wearing with the school uniform.

The school T-Shirt is black and green and includes the school badge. Black shorts or UNBRANDED black joggers, tracksuit pants or leggings can be worn. I know that sometimes children may grab a pair of navy or grey bottoms and think that is ok, but we insist that pupils wear a uniform of a school PE Kit on PE days too.

Remember that we have a 'Pre-Loved Stand' for donated uniform too which is all washed and ready to be picked up. If any parents/carers need support with uniform, please let me know as I will be happy to help.

PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM AND PE KIT.



APPLETON VILLAGE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE, WA8 6EL

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CHILD - PARENT/ CARER - TEACHER CONFERENCES

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

9th and 10th October, 2023

Monday 3.30 - 5.30 pm.

Tuesday 3.30 - 6.30 pm.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Parents/Carers, family members and friends are most welcome to share the celebrations at 10.00 am. The following assemblies have been arranged for this academic year, though they are subject to change.

DATE	CLASS	TOPIC
15.09.23	10	LOVING
29.09.23	8	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
13.10.23	5	OTHER FAITHS
26.10.23	1	PROMISES
10.11.23	9	REMEMBRANCE
17.11.23	4	ANTI-BULLYING
01.12.23	7	HOPE
20.12.23	3	CHRISTMAS MEDITATION
12.01.24	2	JOURNEYS
26.01.24	6	INTERNATIONAL LEGO DAY
09.02.24	11	UNITY
23.02.24	1	CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
08.03.24	5	SELF DISCIPLINE
15.03.24	10	WORLD ART DAY
28.03.24	8	EASTER MEDITATION (Maundy Thursday)
19.04.24	9	WITNESSES
26.04.24	2	CLIMATE CHANGE & EXTREME WEATHER
10.05.24	4	BUILDING BRIDGES
24.05.24	11	WORLD DAY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY
21.06.24	7	STEWARDSHIP
05.07.24	6	CELEBRATION OF SPORT
12.07.24	3	MALALA DAY
19.07.24	Y6	LEAVER'S ASSEMBLY (1.30 pm)

ABSENCE

If your child is too ill to attend school, please ring and leave a message on the answerphone, preferably before 8.30 am.

If you have not contacted the school on the first day of absence by 9.15 am, then a member of the school staff will try to contact you. This is not a good use of resources but your child's well-being is of paramount importance. If school staff are not able to make contact, a home visit will be carried out as routine. Staff wish to ensure that your child is safe with you and has not been abducted or involved in an accident on the way to school.

If the school has to make contact on three occasions, rather than the person with parental responsibility informing the school of the reason for absence, then the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) automatically visits the home to ascertain the reason for non-compliance with school policy.

If a child is absent for 5 days or more, then some form of medical evidence must be provided, e.g.: medicine prescribed by a medical practitioner.

When attendance falls below 90% the EWO is routinely involved with the situation. No further absence is authorised without some form of medical evidence.



PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM

Persistent absence is regarded as 90% or below. Consequently, if your child's attendance falls to 93% you will be requested to provide some form of medical evidence, for example, a prescription or prescribed medication, for the absence to be authorised by the school.

It should be the exception that attendance falls below 90% over a full year. 90% attendance means in effect that the child has missed, on average, half a day per week over the year! If 10% of absence is unauthorised, parents/carers may receive a penalty warning letter. If there is no improvement a penalty notice can be issued which is £60 per parent per child.

REDUCING LATENESS

In the last academic year, there were 664 late marks in total. It is recognised that children are occasionally late due to traffic issues or simply a forgotten alarm call; however when children are late, it does impact on their learning and their well-being. It can be embarrassing walking into a room late especially if it is at a crucial time such as during registration and prayers. This academic year, in an attempt to reduce lateness, children who are late will participate in intervention sessions with Mrs. Harrington so we can ensure that they don't miss any learning time.

AUTUMN TERM FUNDRAISING EVENTS

A 'Back to School' Disco will be held for Year 5 and 6 on Wednesday 12th September, 2023 and for Year 3 and 4 on Thursday 13th September, 2023. The discos begin straight after school so pupils can wear non-uniform IF THEY ARE GOING TO THE DISCO. Pupils without a ticket wear their uniform / PE Kit (on PE Days) as normal. Tickets cost £2.00 and are purchased in school. There is also a Tuck Shop available at each event. Please note that Wednesday's Disco (Y3&4) finishes at 4.30 pm.

Tuesday 12 th September	Year 5 & Year 6 Disco	3.30 - 5.00 pm
Wednesday 13 th September	Year 3 & Year 4 Disco	3.30 - 4.30 pm
Friday 22 nd September	'Express Yourself'	School Day
Friday 17 th October	'Blue Friday'	School Day £1 donation
Thursday 30 th November	Christmas Film Night	3.30 - 5.30 pm
Saturday 2 nd December	Christmas Craft Fair	10.00 - 2.00 pm
Monday 4 th December	Christmas Bingo	6.30 - 9.00 pm approx
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	School Day £1 donation
Tuesday 12 th December 7.00 pm	School Production	Tickets only: £2.00
Wednesday 13 th December 1.30pm	School Production	Tickets only: £2.00
Thursday 14 th December 7.00 pm	School Production	Tickets only: £2.00
Wednesday 20 th December	Non-Uniform Day	School Day £1 donation

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Proudly wearing the St. Bede's uniform is something that our school community feels very strongly about. It unites us and creates a sense of identity and belonging. Additionally, as a school, we celebrate the individual beneath the uniform. God has given each of us our own unique personalities, skills and talents that make us special. Some of us like to express this individuality in the way we dress and wearing a uniform each day, does not always give us this opportunity.

With this in mind, we are going to be holding an 'Express Yourself Day' on Friday 22nd September. This day coincides with London Fashion Week which concludes on the Friday. 'Express Yourself' will give children (and staff!) the opportunity to express themselves by wearing whatever they want to. For some, this may be their favourite football kit but for others it may be something much more creative and extravagant.

In addition to wearing their own choice of clothing, we would like the children (and staff, again!) if they can, to wear something they have made or 'pimped.' This could be as clever as making a piece of clothing for those future 'Great British Sewing Bee' contestants or simply 'pimping' a headband, hat, t-shirt, pair of old shoes etc. At the end of the day, we will be holding our own St. Bede's Fashion Week assembly where the children can 'show-off' their individuality and express themselves on the catwalk (should they wish to). Prizes will be given for the best examples of creativity and/or homemade outfits. Don't worry, photos will be shared with you on the school's social media.

HAPPY NOT PERFECT

A gentle reminder to our parents/carers and wider community that St. Bede's Catholic Junior School is not a perfect place filled with perfect people. Should a problem arise, we respectfully request that you contact the school to discuss the issue with school staff. Social media is fantastic and is used to celebrate success and good news. Airing opinions about decisions made by the school on social media is unhelpful and could potentially damage the reputation of the school as others begin to comment. We have a Parent/Carer Working Party. All parents/carers are invited so please, if you have a suggestion to make, do so in a manner which is helpful and affords the school the respect it deserves.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS (LIST OVERLEAF)

It is hoped that there is an extra-curricular club for everyone so that every child has an opportunity to earn credits for Children's University. Every hour counts as one credit towards graduation (30 hours). Presently, all clubs are delivered free of charge and by school staff. However, despite the 'free' nature of the clubs, we ask that pupils show commitment and attend every week. Clubs are no longer allocated on a first come, first served basis to ensure every interest expressed is respected. It is a time consuming task to sort 307 letters so please be prompt with replies. This term there are a whopping 25 different clubs!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS LIST

YEAR 3	DAY OF CLUB	TIME OF CLUB
THE GREAT OUTDOORS	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DRAW ALL YOU CAN	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
GAMES CLUB	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
CRAFT CLUB	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
COMPUTING CLUB	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
OUTDOOR ART	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DIAMOND ART (invite)	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.15
FILM CLUB	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.15
YEAR 4	DAY OF CLUB	TIME OF CLUB
CHOIR	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DRAW ALL YOU CAN	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
GAMES CLUB	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
FRENCH	WEDNESDAY	LUNCHTIME
FILMCLUB	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
GAMES CLUB	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DANCE	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DRAMA CLUB	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DIAMOND ART (invite)	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.15
YEAR 5	DAY OF CLUB	TIME OF CLUB
CHOIR	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
CHESS CLUB	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
CRICKET	TUESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
TABLE TENNIS	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.30
DOT-ART	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
PHOTOGRAPHY	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DANCE	WEDNESDAY	3.30 – 4.15
DRAMA	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.15
NETBALL	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.15
FILMCLUB	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.15
RUGBY	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.30

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS LIST continued

YEAR 6	DAY OF CLUB	TIME OF CLUB
CHOIR	TUESDAY	3.30 - 4.15
CHESS CLUB	TUESDAY	3.30 - 4.15
CRICKET	TUESDAY	3.30 - 4.15
TABLE TENNIS	WEDNESDAY	3.30 - 4.30
DANCE	WEDNESDAY	3.30 - 4.15
PHOTOGRAPHY	WEDNESDAY	3.30 - 4.15
FOOTBALL	WEDNESDAY	3.30 - 4.15
DRAMA	THURSDAY	3.30 - 4.15
NETBALL	THURSDAY	3.30 - 4.15
FILMCLUB	THURSDAY	3.30 - 4.15
RUGBY	THURSDAY	3.30 – 4.30

REQUESTS MADE TO PARENTS/CARERS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

1. Please ensure that your details are up-to-date with the school office: phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts and primary contact. The school office communicates with parents/carers via email and the School Spider App. We note that 326 parents/carers DO NOT use the app. We would love to use this as the main source of communication, but cannot do so due to under-use from parents. Each year, communication is flagged as an area to improve, but we need your help! ALL parents/carers should download the School Spider App. Then, we can use this as our main communication method.
2. OPAL Resources: Mrs. Lloyd-Green and Mr. Stalker ask again for any spare items which would be suitable for Outdoor Play and Learning. The children love dressing up, and this is the type of items which becomes consumable as it gets damaged more easily; small world items, such as animals, dinosaurs, action figures, cars. We need these as they tend to be lost / misplaced. If you are not sure if something is suitable for OPAL, simply ask Mrs. Lloyd-Green who will be happy to help.
3. Parent/Carer Book Club: the school staff are launching a book club which will be on a Tuesday evening from 5.30 pm once a fortnight, beginning on 19th September. Books and refreshments are provided. All are welcome. It is a good way to meet other parents/carers in an informal setting, to get 'back into reading' if this is something you don't seem to have the time for, or simply to have an hour to yourself chatting about the chosen books and life in general. Refreshments will be available so pick up a book and unwind... (school will be providing all books free of charge).
4. Lost Property: On behalf of all school staff, can we please ask you to name uniform and PE kit please; lunch boxes also benefit from being labelled. Please use labels or a Sharpie (biro fades and/or washes away). Any items left at the end of the last academic year, have now been washed and added to the pre-loved rail or disposed of.

READING STRATEGY: 'READING REMARKABLY: TOGETHER!'

We are 'reading' high on the wave of well-deserved success for our Year 6 22/23 cohort in their Reading National Curriculum test results with 84.2% of pupils attaining the Expected Standard.

This success is, of course, also due to the unwavering efforts of our teachers and teaching assistants at every stage of our pupils' reading journeys and because of the support and commitment our parents/carers make to their children's reading progress and so it felt fitting to adopt a strategy of 'Reading Remarkably: Together!' as we work harder yet to foster an unquenchable thirst for reading in our children, alongside our inexhaustible efforts to develop confident and competent readers.

How can our parents/carers support their child's reading progress?

Recent EEF research indicates that parents/carers have the power to support and improve their child's growth in reading by an additional 4 months per year and so, when we ask for your support it is so much more than the signing of a diary. Just by sitting with your child and listening to them read or reading aloud regularly to them, you have the power to make a positive impact on their reading capabilities: remarkable, right?

There are 10 ways that the government states that parents/carers can support reading at home:

1. Encourage your child to read;
2. Read aloud regularly;
3. Encourage reading choices;
4. Read together;
5. Create a comfortable reading environment;
6. Make use of your local library;
7. Talk about books;
8. Bring reading to life;
9. Make reading active;
10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them.



What will the school be doing to support remarkable reading?

Teachers already deliver content from bespoke curriculum maps for reading that are progressive, engaging and exact to statutory requirements. Reading is aligned very closely to writing skills and a range of carefully selected texts serve as the focus of each unit, supplemented by thematic books as part of our Reading Spine. Feedback from our children shows us that they really enjoy the texts we choose for them in each year!

Our Teaching Assistants support the reading development of children identified as needing supplementary support. We have a number of specialist staff certified to deliver our SoundsWrite phonics programme too and training in this scheme continues. Teaching assistants also facilitate the changing of library books each week.



To support our parents and carers further we will be implementing the following for 2023/24:

Reading Remarkably: Together!' Drop In Sessions: every Monday from 3:00 to 3:30pm.

On these afternoons, Miss Massey will be available for support, should a parent or carer require such. If you find yourself in need and wish to discuss your child's reading choices or strategies to support at home, then email Miss. Massey on our dedicated reading email address so she can assign you a timeslot: reading@stbedesjuniorschool.co.uk

Further to this, we will be offering support via our social media with a monthly 'Reading Remarkably: Together! Round Up' for those parents/carers who are not able to access the Monday sessions, so keep an eye out for these.

For our parents/carers in Year 3, we will be offering a Phonics Workshop on our 'SoundsWrite' programme (date to be determined) as this differs to the Jolly Phonics programme utilised in St. Bede's Infant School. It is beneficial to understand how we use this supplementary scheme to ensure our children flourish in reading.



READING STRATEGY: 'READING REMARKABLY: TOGETHER!'

How does completing a reading diary support my child in reading?

Without doubt, reading is an essential skill for life but it is also an opportunity to really enjoy yourself too! Your continued effort is hugely imperative to the success and growth of your child's capabilities as we work together to ready our children for the rigours of everyday life. We therefore ask you to ensure that your child reads as often as possible across their busy weeks; it can be 10 minutes in the car or whilst they are waiting for their swimming lesson! They can read on the bus or whilst dinner is being prepared. The notion of a 'bedtime story' should continue as your child gets older and not be for younger children only.

By encouraging your child to write high quality comments about their reading in their diaries each day, it supports our teachers and Teaching Assistants with daily dialogues around remarkable reading and strengthens our efforts to 'Read Together'.

To encourage our readers further with this essential aspect of school routines, we will be rewarding our children for their routine record-keeping of 'Remarkable Reading' on a half-termly basis and so, children need to be in it to win it! Please ensure that children write their own high-quality comments - signatures in the boxes will not suffice!

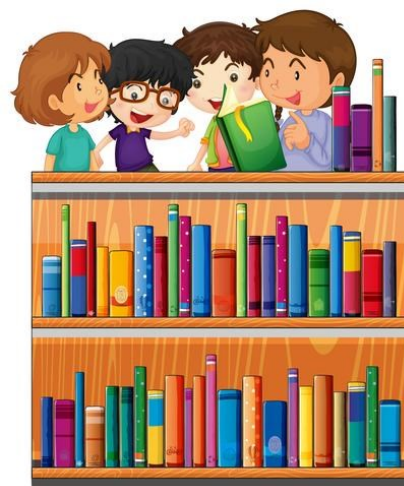
When will children change their library books?

As part of our promise to parents and children, we have also taken the time to review our library routines to ensure that routine time is assigned to books.

The schedule will be as follows:

Monday - Year 3
Tuesday - Year 4
Wednesday - Year 5
Thursday - Year 6

There will be some flexibility afforded to pupils; however, they are encouraged to swap books on the designated day.



If your child has been assigned a book band within our Collins scheme, we ask that you support us by ensuring their book selection remains within their assigned level.

Where can children read beyond the classroom?

We already have a really comprehensive library in school and some quiet, cosy book-nooks where children can sit and enjoy a book. As part of our continued growth and in response to our children's requests, for 2023/24 reading at playtime and lunchtime we will be offering an outdoor book-nook so that, as part of our OPAL evolution, our children can enjoy a book amongst nature. Exciting times!

Can we still submit entries for the Summer Reading Initiative?

The short answer is yes! Thank you to those parents/carers who have already submitted but be mindful that the closing date for entries is very close so be sure to email: reading@stbedesjuniorschool.co.uk with final submissions.

How does 'Reading Remarkably: Together' support parents and carers?

We already have an extensive selection of books available for free - mostly gifted by Mrs. Tiernan given that she is also a remarkable reader - situated by the pupil entrance so, if you are looking for a new book to enjoy, be sure to take a look on our Parent Library shelves!

If anyone has books they'd like to contribute toward this book swap library then please pass to the office.

What about our book fair?

Our much-loved annual Book Fair is scheduled for the month of October so be on the look out for further information - we have it on good authority that there is a card machine this year too! Your support in sales is ever-appreciated as a percentage of sales serve to supply new books within school across the year.

World Book Day 2024: A heads Up!

Finally, whispers are already circulating that it might well be the year we dress up for World Book Day in March 2024 and so, let's get inventing early as there will be prizes for the best crafted costumes!

Here's to a remarkable year of reading together for all of our children!