

# ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

*celebrating life and learning*

SPRING 1 1: Issue 1

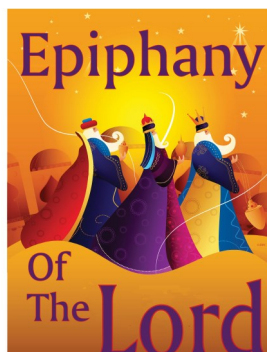
## THE EPIPHANY

On Saturday, 6th January, we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany.

- ◆ We heard of the Wise Men being guided through the darkness by the light of a star;
- ◆ We had the star was a sign that led the Wise Men to Christ;
- ◆ We had the revelation of God to Gentiles, not just Jewish nations, which points to the reality that Christ came for all people;
- ◆ We focused once again on the mystery that God revealed His very self in human flesh.

The prophecy is fulfilled as the Wise Man from the east journeyed to Bethlehem to worship the Christ child and offer Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh—gifts which reflected the kingly status of the new-born child.

Like the Magi, over 2000 years before us, we offer worship and homage to Jesus Christ, God's gift of love to our world. As the Christmas season has drawn to a close, may each of us throughout this new year, remain close to Christ. He who is forever the light of the world, the one who will not leave us in darkness, the one who guides all who follow in the ways of peace.



## SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to focus on online safety with your child, whatever their age. This year's theme is all about change and influence online and school staff will work with our pupils and discuss how they can remain safe online and any issues they have.



UK Safer Internet Centre

Safer Internet Day 2024 is celebrated on 6th February 2024, with thousands of people across the UK working together to champion youth voice and engage in conversations about how we can all work together to make the internet a great and safe place.

Staying up to date with what children are doing online can feel like a challenge sometimes. However, you don't have to be an expert in every new app or service. Simply having conversations with your children about their lives online, and what to do if they need help or something goes wrong, is what's most important. More advice can be accessed here: [Parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents-carers)

We are planning a workshop for parents/carers, and information will be sent out soon.

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

St. Bede's Catholic Junior School will again be supporting Children's Mental Health Week this year. This will take place on 5th – 9th February, with the theme of 'My Voice Matters'.

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. We feel it is important to empower children and young people, and provide them with time, space, and opportunities to express themselves.

Empowering children and young people can have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. For example, children and young people who feel that their voices are heard - and that what they say makes a difference - have higher levels of self-efficacy and self-esteem. They also have a greater sense of community – and as people become empowered, they can work together to create positive changes for themselves and for others.

Throughout the week the children will be taking part in an assembly and lessons which endeavour to encourage them all, whoever they are, to believe that their voice matters.

Talking about our mental health, and removing any taboos, is key for children's wellbeing, so here are some suggested conversation starters to try out with your child:

- Tell me about your day.
- What has been the best thing today?
- What is your online life like?
- What is your biggest worry right now?
- What could I do to help you?



### CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Class assemblies are just one way in which parents/carers and family members can share in the religious life of the school. We are delighted to host our families for these wonderful celebrations at 10.00 a.m.

12.01.24	Class 2	JOURNEYS
26.01.24	Class 6	INTERNATIONAL LEGO DAY
09.02.24	Class 11	UNITY
23.02.24	Class 1	CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
08.03.24	Class 5	SELF-DISCIPLINE

### LENTEN FUNDRAISING

Throughout Lent, the school fundraises for The Good Shepherd Fund. This year, our school staff will begin the school's journey with their fundraising in the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Each year group will have one week to fundraise as much as they can to support Nugent Care's work.

Nugent look after children who are not able to live with their families in their children's homes, they find forever families through their adoption work, and look after older people including those living with dementia in their care homes, and they support children and adults who are living in poverty with practical and financial support.

Children create lots of great activities and competitions as well as having raffles and stalls. Small amounts of change are all that is needed. There are cakes and sweets available to purchase; games such as 'guess the name of the teddy' and activities such as 'beat the keeper'.

This year, the school staff will lead the way with some innovative ideas and lots of tasty treats to enjoy at playtime. I am sure that there will also be some sporting events to participate in!

**REMEMBER:** WE are a NUT FREE School so be mindful of cakes and chocolate! Although the children (and staff) love sweets, chocolate and cake stalls during Lent as we know these treats

04.03.24	Year 6
11.03.24	Year 5
18.03.24	Year 4
27.03.23	Year 3

### WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEARNER?

During this short half-term, our students have been considering their progress and learning. They have discussed this with each other, their teachers and even a visitor from the LA, who was incredibly impressed! Perhaps this is something that you could talk about at home as a family. How does a student know what they are doing well? How could they improve? What does progress look like? All our pupils are Visible Learners and can tell you how and why!

Please ask them about their learning.

There is Coffee Morning on Friday 2nd February 8.15 - 9.00 a.m. for parents/carers, pupils and teachers to explore what makes a good learner alongside our School's Expectations of Respect, Love and Achieve. How are these interlinked?



### ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL BUILDING FUND

We need to preserve Catholic education for future generations and one of the ways that we can do this is by ensuring that Catholic schools are maintained and supported. A payment of £10 per family for the Archdiocese of Liverpool Building Fund enables the Archdiocese to do approximately £5 million worth of building work each year, when Government grants are taken into account. Every £150 shortfall, however, means £1,000 worth of work cannot be undertaken.

Parents/carers are requested by the Diocese to make a contribution of £10 per family per year. This year we need a total of £2,620. This can be paid in the usual way of the School Gateway. Please contact the office if you have any trouble with this. Previously we have organised the Easter raffle to raise this amount and we are thankful for every contribution and for each raffle ticket purchased. However, we realise that this is not always an easy ask for families to sell £10 of raffle tickets; therefore, this year, we will move the fundraising event to the Summer Term and intend to organise a sponsored Colour Run in Victoria Park following the success of the Santa dash in December. The Parent/Carer Forum discussed this event at the last meeting and have some fantastic ideas which pupils and parents/carers will love!

## LENTEN PRAYER & WORSHIP

Father Mark will say a mass for the start of Lent on Thursday 22nd February. As we are not in school for Ash Wednesday, Father Mark has offered to support the children on their journeys through Lent. The Mass starts at 2.00pm and all parents/carers are welcome.

Prayer and worship plays an important part in the life of our school community. It is through this act of daily worship that we are able to give thanks for the wonderful gifts with which we are blessed. It provides us with an opportunity to look with awe and wonder at the world and all of the good people who do so many amazing things.

Parents/carers, grandparents and other family members are invited to join our Prayer & Worship for Lent in school. They will be able to share this special time with us as it gives our wider community a glimpse of the spiritual journey presented to our children. These acts of worship begin at 9.05 am.

Year 6	Tuesday 19th March
Year 5	Wednesday 20th March
Year 4	Thursday 21st March
Year 3	Friday 22nd March



## LOST PROPERTY

We do have a large amount of items in our lost property area. Packed lunch boxes, water bottles, coats, Christmas jumpers, you name it, we have it! If you're child has misplaced anything, please feel free to pop in at the end of the school day, once you have collected your child and have a look for your items. They are along the corridor at the pupil entrance.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS ON EVERY ITEM** they bring to school and we suggest that expensive items, such as 'Air Up Bottles' are kept at home.

## Residential Trips

Year 4 - Ashbourne - 22nd April 2024  
Total cost £95 due by 08/04/24

Year 5 - Stratford - 25th June 2024  
Total cost £160 due by 19/04/24

Year 6 - Lockerbie - 28th June 2024  
Total cost £210 due by 22/03/2024

If you are unable to meet these deadlines, please speak with the office to make arrangements

## Year 6 Heights & Measures

Every year in England, children in reception and Y6 have their height and weight checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. Measurements are used to calculate weight status. This information builds a picture of how children are growing and helps plan better health and leisure services for families. Your child's class will take part in this year's programme on Wednesday 24th January.

## WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?

We realise that there may be times when you need to speak to a member of school staff. To help parents/carers know who is best to speak to, we have devised a quick overview. There is a 'graduated approach' in school as many queries can be dealt with by the school office and/or class teachers. This means that queries can be resolved by the right person effectively and efficiently. Staff are always available at the door and pupil diaries should be used to record quick messages. Teaching staff are not always able to respond to emails each day as they have a full teaching timetable; moreover, senior staff, such as Mrs. Geoghegan, Mrs. Lloyd-Green and Mrs. Tiernan are not always the first—nor the best—people to speak to regarding issues such as extra-curricular or specific classroom issues.

Issues related to learning, friendships/fallouts, homework, minor pastoral needs	= Class Teachers
Queries regarding absence, appointments, dates, extra-curricular	= School Office
Pastoral Needs: On-going friendship problems, family changes, bereavements	= Mrs. Harrington
Behaviour, Safeguarding and additional support (non-SEND) for learning	= Mrs. Geoghegan
SEND queries specific to a child; concerns re: learning and potential SEND	= Mrs. Lloyd-Green
Concerns that have not be remedied/addressed; bullying; complex problems and any concerns regarding the curriculum; teaching/learning and school staff.	= Mrs. Tiernan

## **WORLD BOOK DAY: CHANGING LIVES THROUGH A LOVE OF BOOKS**

Wondering what book to pick up next? Keen to try a new author? Looking for a book to inspire a reluctant reader?

Have a look on the World Book Day website: [Families - World Book Day](#)

We encourage parents/carers and family members to read for pleasure too—we are the best role models for our children. The school staff are currently reading:

Mrs Tiernan	‘One More Day’ by Mitch Albom and ‘When the Parents Change’ by Paul Dix
Miss Joynson	‘She & her Cat’ by Makoto Shinkai and Naruki Nagakawa
Miss Massey	‘Pippi Longstocking’ by Astrid Lindgren
Mrs Kelly	‘While She Sleeps’ by Arlene Hunt
Mrs Hulme	‘Verity’ by Coleen Hoover
Mrs Geoghegan	‘The Figurine’ by Victoria Hislop
Mrs Halliday	‘We’re going on a Bear Hunt’ by Michael Rosen
Mr Stalker	‘How to be an Ex Footballer’ by Peter Crouch
Mrs Williams	‘Older & Wider’ by Jenny Eclair
Mrs Barron	‘The Velveteen Rabbit’ by Marjery Williams
Mrs Faulkner	‘Harry Potter & the Philosopher’s Stone’ by RK Rowling
Mrs Wainwright	Mathew Perry Autobiography and ‘Fool Me Once’ by Harlan Coben
Mrs Lloyd-Green	‘The Last Devil to Die’ by Richard Osman
Mrs Lawton	‘The Smeds & The Smoods’ by Julia Donaldson
Miss Jones	‘The Magic’ by Rhonda Byrne
Miss Hayes	‘The Lost Bookshop’ by Evie Woods
Mr Greaves	‘Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief’ by Rick Riordan
Mr Ortiz	‘Thelma The Unicorn’ by Aaron Blabey
Miss Campbell	‘Run Mummy, Run’ by Kathy Glass
Mrs Smith	‘The Boy Who grew Dragons’ by Andy Shepard
Mrs Horton	‘Dragon Post’ by Emma Yarlett
Miss Ramsey	‘The Story of Mars Rover’ by Makus Motum

**‘ If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book. ’**

*J.K Rowling*



## WORLD BOOK DAY FUN: GET YOUR OUTFITS READY!

Our reading strategy is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every pupil the opportunity to have a wide range of books to read. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see all children develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

We will next be celebrating World Book Day on 7 March 2024, and I am sure you will be delighted to know that this year pupils are able to dress up as their favourite book character. There will be a whole school assembly when pupils can show their outfits and books; however, the focus of the day will be on six special elements to create one special reading superpower!

- 1: Being read to regularly
- 2: Having books at home and at school
- 3: Having a choice in what to read
- 4: Finding time to read
- 5: Having trusted help to find a book
- 6: Making reading FUN!



## PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL MEALS

Please remember, school meals must be paid for, in advance, via the School Gateway app. This is because the school is charged, on a daily basis, by Halton Borough Council for every meal provided. As you will appreciate, if each outstanding payment of **£2.70** is multiplied by the number of children who take a school dinner, the DAILY arrears could exceed £500.

In line with Halton Borough Council's policy, you may be contacted daily by the school office when arrears reach **£13.50 (five dinners)**. A letter will also be sent at the end of the week to any parent/carers whose account is in arrears, regardless of amount outstanding.

Whilst I realise that letters and telephone calls regarding smaller arrears can be seen as a nuisance I hope we can rely on your co-operation to minimise the work that this entails by ensuring that all payments are received in advance. I appreciate that this may be an oversight.

The school currently has arrears totalling **£1471.21**. This equates to approximately 500 school meals unpaid for.

Note that any child with an outstanding balance over **£13.50**, will need to be provided with a packed lunch, until the arrears are settled. If this is not the case, we will only be able to provide them with the HBC minimum requirement of a sandwich and a piece of fruit and you will still be charged £2.50. Please maintain contact with the school office as we are here to help you and ensure that your child receives a quality meal every day. If any parent/carers is in need of support, please contact Mrs. Tiernan who can assist in dinner money arrears and any other issues impacting on this area.

If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals please click on the link below to register with Halton Borough Council

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

Once you have completed an application we will be able to check your child's status. The system will regularly check the status of all pupils not entitled to FSM so, if your circumstances change, the school will be advised without you having visit Halton Direct Link to make an application.