

# ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

*celebrating life and learning*

2nd September, 2025

## 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 NEW 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 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to school and to our first newsletter of the year. 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.

There are, as ever, numerous events taking place in September. Class 8 and Mr. Stalker will be leading the school in our first Class Assembly on Friday 12th September. Our Year 3 Parent/Carers are also invited to join us for lunch at 12.00 noon. Further information is available from the school office.

Our first fundraising events: the Welcome to School Discos take place on Tuesday 9th September for Y5 and Y6 (3.30—5.00 pm) and then on Wednesday 10th September for Y3 and Y4 (3.30—4.30 pm). Tickets are available on School Gateway ONLY and must be purchased by Monday 8th September. NO tickets will be sold after Sunday 7th September. Children are able to wear their own clothes on that day ready for the disco. There will be no extra-curricular clubs so all children can attend. Tickets will go on sale today and are priced at £2.00. Refreshments are available to purchase at the discos.

The Curriculum Meetings begin with Year 6 on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 9.00 a.m. Year 5 are on Tuesday 16th, Year 4 on Wednesday 17th and Year 3 on Thursday 18th September. All meetings begin at 9.00 am and usually last for 30 - 45 minutes.

Dates and times of events and celebrations scheduled for the autumn term are available on the school website and are in the newsletter. Please remember to check it regularly as the list will be updated as new events are organised.

We are delighted 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. We all look forward to a productive and fruitful school year where everyone works together so we all live: 'life in all its fullness'.

Love and thanks, Faith Housley



## UNIFORM: A HUGE THANK YOU

Firstly, the children look fantastic in their new uniforms: super smart and so very proud to be St. Bede's pupils! Secondly, thank you for the efforts that parents/carers have made with purchasing the uniform.

The Governors and I appreciate that school uniform is a large expense, and therefore, we will continue to ask that pupils wear their PE uniform on PE days. PE uniform is the school black and green t-shirt with either black and green school shorts or plain black shorts, leggings or joggers. Pupils must not wear branded kit - it must be the school PE kit OR plain black. Moreover short cycling shorts should not be worn. As with most aspects of school life, this will continue to be monitored.



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# Welcome Back to School Newsletter

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## CHILD - PARENT/ CARER - TEACHER MEETINGS

Monday 6th October, 2025 3.30 - 6.30 pm.

Tuesday 7th October, 2025 3.30 - 6.30 pm.

Information will be sent regarding appointments soon; however add the date to your diary now.

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Parents/Carers, family members and friends are most welcome to share the celebrations at 9.00 am. The following assemblies have been arranged for this academic year.

DATE	CLASS	TOPIC
12/09/25	8 (SS)	OURSELVES
26/09/25	6 (JJ)	WORLD TOURISM DAY
10/10/25	1 (VF)	WORLD MENTAL HEALTH
23/10/25	10 (MG)	VOCATION & COMMITMENT
14/11/25	2 (MH)	SAY NO TO BULLYING
25/11/25	4 (AH)	PROPHECY & PROMISE
07/12/25	9 (JM)	EXPECTATIONS
19/12/25	3 (AH)	CHRISTMAS MEDITATION
16/01/26	7 (JW)	MISSION
30/01/26	5 (MH)	GALILEE to JERUSALEM
13/02/26	6 (JJ)	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE
06/03/26	1 (VF)	DESERT to GARDEN
13/03/26	9 (JM)	DEATH & NEW LIFE
26/03/26	4 (AH)	EASTER MEDITATION
24/04/26	10 (MG)	WITNESSES
01/05/26	5 (MH)	MARY: the month of May
15/05/26	2 (MH)	TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
12/06/26	8 (SS)	FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY
26/06/26	7 (JW)	STEWARDSHIP
10/07/26	3 (AH)	DIALOGUE & ENCOUNTER

Please note the earlier time for class assemblies. Following discussion with staff, pupils and parents/carers, the time is now 9.00 a.m.



## 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. 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 a child is absent for five days or more, then some form of medical evidence has to be provided, for example, 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! This is no recommendation to take forward into the future.

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 1992 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 morning prayer.

This academic year, in an attempt to reduce this, and limit the negative impact of 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. Please also ensure that when your child is late, you sign them in at the office.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUTUMN TERM 2025

Please remember to check our website  
([www.stbedesjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.stbedesjuniorschool.co.uk))  
as new events are constantly being added  
to the schedule.



DATE(S)	EVENT/CELEBRATION	TIME(S)
01/09/25	INSET: Staff Training	N/A
09/09/25	Welcome to School Children's Disco Y5&6	3.30-5.00pm
10/09/25	Welcome to School Children's Disco Y3&4	3.30-4.30pm
11/09/25	Swimming at Halton Leisure Centre (1st weekly session of 7: Class 6)	9.30-10.15am
12/09/25	Year 3 Parent/Carer Taster Meal	12.00pm
15/09/25	Year 6 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
16/09/25	Year 5 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
17/09/25	Year 4 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
18/09/25	Year 3 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
22/09/25	Feast of St. Matthew	N/A
22/09/25	Mass for the new school year	2.00pm
23/09/25	Sharing Learning (16th Day)	N/A
23/09/25	Partnership in Neurodiversity (PiNS) Coffee Morning	9.30 – 11.30am
24/09/25	M&M Production of Treasure Island	9.15 am
26/09/25	NSPCC Workshops: Y6	9.00am
26/09/25	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon: parents/carers & pupils *	2.30pm
02/10/25	Full Governing Body Meeting (Autumn 1)	3.45 for 4.00pm
03/10/25	CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day	N/A
06/10/25	NSPCC Workshops: Y5	9.00am
06/10/25	Child – Parent/Carer – Teacher Meetings	3.30-6.30pm
07/10/25	Child – Parent/Carer – Teacher Meetings	3.30-6.30pm
10/10/25	World Mental Health Day Tea & Talk	2.30pm
15/10/25	Sharing Learning (16th Day)	N/A
17/10/25	Feast of St. Luke	N/A
24/10/25	INSET: Catholic School Staff Training	N/A
	* ticketed for Macmillan charity	

DATE(S)	EVENT/CELEBRATION	TIME(S)
06/11/25	Swimming at Halton Leisure Centre (1st weekly session of 6: Class 7)	9.30-10.15am
13/11/25	Flu Vaccines for all year groups	N/A
14/11/25	Blue Friday in aid of Anti Bullying Week	N/A
14/11/25	Anti Bullying Coffee & Catch Up	2.30pm
20/11/25	Full Governing Body Meeting (Autumn 2)	3.45 for 4pm
24/11/25	Christmas Bingo	6pm
2/12/25	Christmas Production (ticketed event)	6pm
3/12/25	Christmas Production (ticketed event)	1.30pm
4/12/25	Christmas Production (ticketed event)	6pm
4/12/25	Advent Mass—School Hall	2pm
8/12/25	Year 6 Advent Celebration of the Word	9am
9/12/25	Year 5 Advent Celebration of the Word	9am
10/12/25	Year 4 Advent Celebration of the Word	9am
11/12/25	Year 3 Advent Celebration of the Word	9am
12/12/25	Christmas Jumper Day	N/A
12/12/25	Class Christmas Parties	N/A
15/12/25	Festive Family Read	TBC
17/12/25	Christmas Pyjama Day	N/A
17/12/25	Christmas Movie Night	3.30-5.30pm



As the weather gets colder, it is essential that children are coming to school in warm coats and other appropriate clothing such as hats and scarfs, if required. We are an OPAL school, this means that we will be outside at playtimes even during inclement weather.



Thank you for your continued support with:

- Donating to school small world figures, cars, pots and pans etc. for the creative play;
- Supporting the OPAL ethos by asking your child about their play and accepting that they may get dirty, occasionally.

You can still help us more by donating any unwanted wheeled items at home such as Scooters, Skateboards, Toy car (the red and yellow little tikes cars), Balance bikes. Also, any garden toys such as pogo sticks.

Thank you for your continued support. Our Opal journey is ongoing and we appreciate all of your help.

To check out the OPAL philosophy go to [www.outdoorplanandlearning.org.uk](http://www.outdoorplanandlearning.org.uk)

Please follow us on our social media pages:

X: @StBedesJunOPAL



## PARENT/CARER TEA & COFFEE EVENTS

Join Us for Parent/Carer Events – Tea, Coffee, and Connection!

We are delighted to invite all parents/carers to a series of friendly, welcoming events at school this term. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while connecting with other families, gaining valuable information, and supporting school initiatives.

Our first session will take place on:

- Tuesday 23rd September 2025
- 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- Focus: Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

Whilst more information will follow soon regarding this initiative, I wanted to bring it to your attention as soon as possible. The Halton SEND Parent Carer Forum (PCF) will attend the coffee morning as they will play a key role in the PINS programme. They are supporting schools in the development of co-production – working with parents to share understanding how best to understand needs and make reasonable adjustments for individuals.

Other events planned for the Autumn Term:

- ⇒ Friday 26.09.25 2.30 - 3.30 pm: Macmillan Coffee Afternoon (tickets will be available soon).
- ⇒ Friday 10.10.25 2.30 - 3.30 pm: World Mental Health Day Tea and Talk.
- ⇒ Friday 14.11.25 2.30 - 3.30 pm: Prevention of Bullying with Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.
- ⇒ Monday 15.12.25 Festive Family Read (time to be confirmed)



Attending these events is a wonderful way to:

Build strong partnerships between home and school thus helping us work together to support every child's success.

Access helpful resources and information from staff and guest speakers.

Take part in fundraising opportunities that directly benefit our pupils and/or charitable organisations.

Meet other parents/carers, share experiences, and strengthen our school community.

We would love to see as many of you as possible. Your involvement helps us create a more supportive and connected environment for our children.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

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 not allocated on a first come, first served basis to ensure every interest expressed is respected. It is a time consuming task to sort 305 letters so please be prompt with replies.

DAY	EXTRA-CURRICULAR
Monday	No clubs
Tuesday	Y3-Crochet Y4-Film, Arts & Crafts, Lego Y5-Film Y4,5&6-Production, Digital Leaders
Wednesday	Y3&4-Debate, Wellbeing Y3-Great Outdoors Y5&6-Netball, Table Tennis, Art, Wellbeing Ambassador
Thursday	Y4,5&6-Production Y5&6-Football, Debate, Bible Journaling Y3,4,5&6-Handwriting (lunchtime)
Friday	No clubs

## PLAYGROUND AT THE END OF THE DAY

The gate will open a couple of minutes before 3.30pm. While waiting, please can we ask that you monitor any younger children, and they refrain from pressing the call buttons and climbing on the gate. The gate is incredibly heavy and if the safety function fails, due to misuse, then it could cause a serious accident or worse.

If you allow your child to play on the play equipment, they do so at their own risk and should be always supervised.

Please can we ask all parents/ carers and children to leave the playground by 3.40pm, as the gates will be closed. We still have children on the premises until 6pm, so we need to ensure that our security remains high during this time.