

# ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

*celebrating life and learning*

Autumn 1: Issue 2

October, 2025

## HARVEST PRAYER

Loving Creator,  
We thank You for the  
abundance of Your  
creation,  
For the fruits of the  
earth and the work of  
human hands.

Bless those who labour  
tirelessly to provide for  
their families, And  
those who struggle to  
find enough to eat.

As we gather this  
Harvest season,  
May we remember our  
brothers and sisters in  
need.

Help us to share  
generously, to stand in  
solidarity with the  
vulnerable, and to  
work together for a  
world of justice and  
peace.

Lord, bless the efforts  
of CAFOD and all who  
serve, that their work  
may bring hope and  
healing to communities  
facing hardship and  
despair.

May we be Your hands  
and feet, bringing love  
and compassion to all.

We ask this through  
Christ, our Lord.



## OCTOBER HALF TERM DATES:

School closes on  
Thursday 23rd  
October at 3.30 pm.

School returns on  
Monday 3rd  
November at 8.50 am.  
INSET: 24.10.25

## WELCOME TO ST. BEDE'S NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-2025

The new School Council are now in place and are ready to really effect change in the St. Bede's school community.

The School Council is an identified group of pupils (one from each class) who act as representatives of their classmates in discussing school issues with the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and staff. Students are elected to represent the views of all pupils and also to improve their school. They help to make decisions about how the school is run and take on projects that support the children's learning and development, such as organising charity events, representing the school at outside events, or ensuring the school is environmentally friendly.

This year's School Council are:

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Class 1: Gabriela Antonopoulou | Class 6: Seth Rose     |
| Class 2: Olive Tansey          | Class 7: Iris Duffy    |
| Class 3: Aoife Bowe            | Class 8: Isla Davidson |
| Class 4: Pippa Massey          | Class 9: Theo Jones    |
| Class 5: Ollie Groenewald      | Class 10: Meg Borlase  |

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On Friday 10th October, our school will be joining people around the world in recognising *World Mental Health Day*. This special day is an important opportunity to raise awareness, start conversations, and remind one another that looking after our minds is just as important as looking after our bodies.

Throughout the day, our pupils will be taking part in activities that help them explore ways to support their own emotional wellbeing – from sharing what makes them happy, to learning simple strategies for managing worries. Together, we hope to continue building a caring school community where everyone feels safe, valued and supported.

As part of the day, we are also delighted to be hosting a 'Tea and Talk' event in school. Parents/carers, and family members are warmly invited to join us for a cup of tea, friendly conversation, and the chance to find out more about the support available both in school and in the wider community.

The 'Tea and Talk' will be a relaxed and welcoming space to connect, ask questions, and discover resources that can help us all look after our mental health and wellbeing. This is for adults only - your child is not able to join you.

We look forward to seeing many of you there, as we continue to work together to support the emotional wellbeing of our school community.

Feeling overwhelmed? You're not alone.

For this year's World Mental Health Day, we're focusing on the mental health impact of [repeated exposure to news coverage of crises and conflicts](#).

The world is going through a tough time right now and even if you're not directly affected by events, it can still feel like a lot to cope with. It's okay to ask for help, no matter what you, or anyone else is going through. [Read our advice on managing feelings of overwhelm](#).

We may not have the power to influence or change everything we'd like to on a global scale. But there are things we can do to protect ourselves and others from feeling overwhelmed and



APPLETON VILLAGE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE, WA8 6EL

Telephone: 0151 424 3386 Email: [head.stbedesjunior@haltonlearning.net](mailto:head.stbedesjunior@haltonlearning.net)



## NUT ALLERGIES

At St. Bede's Catholic Junior School we strive to provide a safe environment for all pupils. It has come to our attention that some of our children have a severe allergic reaction to specific foods.

This **allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock)** can occur through **ingestion** of these products, **cross contamination** and **breathing (nut) dust** in the air. Some pupils may only need to touch an area that is 'contaminated' to have an allergic reaction.

Since this condition can be life threatening, we are asking all members of the school community for their help in minimising the risk to these children by:

**Not giving children nuts or nut products in their packed lunches. This includes peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts;**

Asking children **not** to share their packed lunches;

**Not sending cakes or food items containing nuts into school for birthday celebrations, sales or events.**

Due to the severity of the problem, it is important that all parents/carers carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of allergic reaction to these children. All school meals provided by Mellor's Catering staff are nut-free and kitchen staff know which pupils have allergies.

As a school we endeavour to keep all of our children safe and well and ensure that pupils with allergies are kept away from the specific foods which can trigger anaphylaxis. We ask that parents/carers further support us with checking packed lunches.



## LIVE SIMPLY OCTOBER CHALLENGE

Since September, we have invested in more recycling bins and we have learnt about how we can recycle, reduce and reuse.

**In October**, we will 'Live Simply' by supporting the **Widnes Foodbank**. Items needed include: Tinned Spaghetti, Coffee, Pasta Sauce, Microwave Rice, Crisps, Biscuits and Soap.

If each child (and member of staff) donated **just one item**, we would have over 330 items to share with those in need.



## 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.



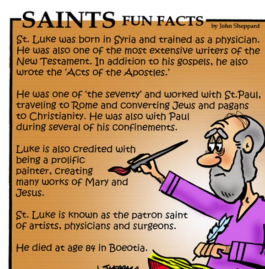
## FEAST OF ST. LUKE: 18th OCTOBER

On 18th October, the Church celebrates the Feast of St Luke, the patron saint of doctors, artists, and writers. St Luke is remembered as one of the four Gospel writers, who shared the life and teachings of Jesus with great care and compassion.

His Gospel is often called the "Gospel of mercy," because it shows Jesus' love for the poor, the sick, and those in need.

In school, we will take time to reflect on St Luke's example of kindness and service. We will remember especially those who care for others – doctors, nurses, carers, and all who bring comfort and healing. Children will be encouraged to think about how they too can follow St Luke's example by showing love, compassion, and generosity in their own lives.

We give thanks for St Luke and ask for his prayers as we continue to grow as a community of faith, hope, and love.



## AUTUMN TERM FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### Reminders for diaries:

|                                           |                      |                               |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November          | 'Blue Friday'        | School Day £1 donation        |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November          | Christmas Bingo      | 5.30 - 8.00 pm approx         |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 6.00 pm  | School Production    | Tickets only £2.00            |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 1.30pm | School Production    | Tickets only: £2.00           |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 6.00 pm | School Production    | Tickets only: £2.00           |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December          | Christmas Jumper Day | School Day £1 donation        |
| Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December      | Christmas Film Night | 3.30 - 5.30 pm Tickets: £2.00 |
| Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December      | Christmas PJ Day     | School Day £1 donation        |

### DOODLEMATHS & DOODLETABLES

A huge welcome to all of our Year 3 'Doodlers' – each and every one of you now have login details to join our school DoodleMaths and DoodTables apps. It is fantastic to see that the vast majority of you are using the applications daily and are already steaming ahead in the 'Greenzone'! I will soon be launching our 'Doodle Podium' again and hope to see lots of our Year 3s and other year groups achieving the 'Greenzone' level and achieving 'streak' certificates in assembly. Please can all parents encourage their child to use DoodleMaths often – 5/10 minutes a day is the recommendation – little but often shows to create greater progress and confidence in maths. If your child has forgotten their login details, please encourage them to ask their teacher for these.

Also, a huge well done to the children who completed the DoodleMaths Summer Challenge – they already have their certificates and pin badges are due to arrive soon.



### RESPECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

At our school, we are proud of the positive relationships we share with our families and the wider community. To keep our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone, we kindly remind parents and carers that we have a zero tolerance approach to any form of verbal or physical abuse towards staff, pupils, or other parents.

We understand that concerns may arise, and we are always here to listen and work together to find solutions. However, this must be done in a respectful and constructive way.

Thank you for helping us maintain a supportive and caring environment for all.

### CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

On Friday 3rd October, our school came together to support CAFOD's Family Fast Day, a special time when schools and communities across the country raise money to help people around the world who are living in poverty.

To mark the day, children and staff were invited to wear their brightest colours to school, showing joy, hope, and solidarity with families everywhere. The corridors and classrooms were filled with vibrant outfits, spreading smiles and reminding us all that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Alongside this, we held a cake and biscuit sale which was very popular with pupils (and staff!). Families generously donated delicious bakes, and children enjoyed choosing a treat while knowing their contribution was going to a worthy cause. Together, through our donations and fundraising, we are helping CAFOD to continue their vital work in supporting communities with food, clean water, healthcare, and education.

A big thank you to everyone who joined in, donated, and baked – your kindness really does help to change lives. The total amount raised was £555.75

*'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and will be repaid in full.'*

Proverbs 19:17



## IN TO WIN

During the month of November, we are running our free attendance raffle, to win a Christmas hamper, which consists of an advent calendar, selection box and other Christmas goodies. There will be one prize for each class.

For every day that your child is in school and on time, they will be given a raffle ticket to go into the draw for this great prize.

This means your child could have up to 20 chances to win if they attend school each day and arrive before 8.50am.

Regular school attendance is key to your child's academic success and personal growth. Every day in school is a step forward in learning, building friendships, and developing important life skills., and we want to reward our pupils with this free raffle.



## ILLNESS

As the weather is changing and the bugs are starting to do the rounds, if your child complains of not feeling well, please dose them up with some Calpol and we will happily top them up at lunchtime with a further dose if it's required. We recognise that from time to time, some children don't feel well with cold symptoms, but it's important that they still attend school. However we'd like to remind parents/carers that any child with vomiting or diarrhoea should remain away from school for 48hrs after the last bout of sickness, even if they are feeling better. It is important that we do not spread the germs.



## THANK YOU



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing £885.30 for Macmillan Cancer Support!

## RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

| YEAR   | DESTINATION   | DATE                  | COST | DUE DATE              |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| YEAR 4 | PEAK DISTRICT | MON 23RD MAR<br>2026  | £130 | FRIDAY 16TH<br>JAUARY |
| YEAR 5 | STRATFORD     | MON 15TH JUNE<br>2026 | £230 | FRIDAY 6TH<br>MARCH   |
| YEAR 6 | LOCKERBIE     | FRI 3RD JULY<br>2026  | £250 | FRIDAY 27TH<br>MARCH  |

If for any reason your child decides that they no longer wish to attend the residential trip for their year group then it is important to let the school office know as soon as possible to avoid further charges. Please remember that is your child does cancel after the deposit has been paid, it is non-refundable and you can incur further cancellation charges and outlined in the initial letter for the trip.

## Eco School

This year, our school has made the decision to work towards Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

With the world beginning to experience the effects of climate change - from different species of plant and animals becoming extinct, to micro-plastics being found in the most remote locations on Earth - now, is the time to take action.

The Eco-Schools programme empowers young people to create positive change by taking a lead on environmental actions and projects in their school and local community.

Within Eco-Schools' simple framework, young people have the freedom to decide on the environmental issues they would like to tackle, the actions they would like to take, and how they are going to involve their school and community. The seven-step process takes around one academic year to complete.

If you would like to support our work please contact Mrs Smith or Mrs Lloyd-Green.



| DATE(S)  | EVENT/CELEBRATION                           | TIME(S)      |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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          |
| 06/11/25 | Swimming (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          |

