

ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL
celebrates life and learning

14th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: END OF TERM INFORMATION AND UPDATES FOR 2023-2024

The staff and I are grateful for the support the community of pupils, parents/carers and other family members have given to the school. You are unwavering in your commitment to our school and the educational success of your son/daughter(s). Thank you for the feedback and comments about your children's reports. Every school year brings great challenges and greater successes. This year has been no exception; we are thrilled with the achievements of our pupils both in and out of school. We have a wonderful display in school which celebrates successes so please continue to email these in to the school.

We are living out our mission of 'journeying together' so please remember there is a Parent/Carer Suggestions section on the school's website. www.stbedesjuniorschool.co.uk if there is anything which could be discussed in 2023 – 24.

To celebrate the end of the school year, all classes will have a 'Games Morning' on **Tuesday 18th July**; board games are very welcome.

The school will close to ALL pupils on Thursday 20th July, 2023 at 3.15 p.m. and will reopen on Tuesday 5th September, 2023 at 8.50 a.m.

CLASSES FOR 2023 – 2024

Class	Year	Former Class	Teacher
1	3	Y2	Mrs. Horton
2	3	Y2	Miss Ramsey
3	3 / 4	Y2/C3	Mrs. Faulkner
4	4	C2	Mrs. Halliday / Mrs. Smith
5	4	C1	Mrs. Hulme
6	5	C3	Mr. Stalker
7	5	C4	Miss Hayes
8	5	C5	Mrs. Wainwright
9	6	C6	Miss Massey
10	6	C7	Miss Joynson
11	6	C8	Mr. Greaves

REMINDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

May I remind parents/carers and pupils of some key points to help ensure our pupils have the highest standards:

School Day Times

The school day begins at 8.50 a.m. This is when the register opens; it closes at 9.00 a.m. Pupils are marked late after 8.50 a.m. when the Pupil Entrance door closes. This **entrance opens at 8.40 a.m.** so pupils can come in to school and get ready for their day. Late minutes accumulate to lost learning so positive time management is considered a skill for life.

From September, the school day will end at 3.30 p.m. This will ensure that the end of day is less congested now the Infant School finishes at the later time of 3.15 p.m.

On Tuesday 5th September, teachers will meet and greet on the playground.

Attendance and Punctuality

Term dates are available on our website, including 2023 - 24 and even 2024 - 2025! May I remind parents/carers that we are not able to authorise term-time holidays unless there are extenuating circumstances. In 2022 – 23, Unauthorised Absences accounted for 0.88% of absence. The school's attendance target is 96% and, at the time of writing, we have attendance at 95.51%. Only four days left to get there.

Uniform Reminders

- **Plain black shoes:** no coloured symbols/bows/badges. Trainers or trainer style shoes are not allowed.
- **Trousers:** grey school trousers must be worn. Black and/or jeans style (which are often a 'skinny fit') are not suitable for school.
- From September, summer uniform is no longer worn.
- New to school pupils (our new Year 3 pupils) will receive their school tie in a '**Tie Giving Ceremony**' on Tuesday 5th, September, 2023. This means that 'new to school' parents/carers do not need to purchase a tie.
- **Full PE kit:** PE kits **MUST** be worn for all PE lessons. Pupils will be advised of PE days when they return. These will be written in their journals.
- **Hoodies** are worn with **PE Kit only** and remain optional.
- As we start a new term, we ask that pupils wear PE Kit and/or plain black tracksuit / joggers / leggings. No other colours or branded clothes should be worn.
- Please be reminded that PE Kit is still uniform so 'own clothes – non uniform' should not be worn.



Communication Reminders

- It is crucial we work in partnership to support your son/daughter. Ensuring we have open home/school communication is vital to success. Please **ensure your contact information is up to date** – including email address as this is the main form of communication. We are committed to communicating with you in a clear and efficient way. If you have new contact details, please collect an update slip from the School Office and return it when completed.
- We have invested in a comprehensive journal again this year that we expect pupils to take pride in throughout the year. These journals are a valuable tool of communication between school and home; we ask that you encourage your child to use it to its full potential.
Diaries must be signed weekly by parents/carers with regular reading comments too.
- A newsletter will be sent by email at the beginning of every month. This shares **essential dates, such as assemblies (class, date and time) for the whole year**, Prayer and Liturgy dates, fundraising such as Discos and Film Nights and other enrichment activities.



Equipment Reminders

Bag: large enough to fit Homework Books, reading books and diary (gigantic bags in which a child could be stored(!) are not needed and take up a lot of storage space).

Pencil cases: **ALL pupils will be provided with a clear pencil case** which will include a pen, pencil, purple pen, ruler and rubber. Colouring pencils, highlighters, etc are available in every classroom. No additional equipment is required.

Standards and Expectation Reminders

- **Mobile phones:** must be handed in to the Office by 8.50 am with a letter detailing permission. Phones must not be kept in bags / coats.
- **Nails:** must be kept free from nail polish, acrylics/gel nails.
- **Jewellery:** Jewellery should not be worn. If pupils do wear earrings they should be covered with tape on PE days. It is preferable for them to be removed for school.

- **Hairstyles and accessories:** the school is a

‘**fashion free zone**’ as much as possible. Therefore, hairstyles with cuts, zigzags etc. are not permitted. Likewise, long hair must be tied back. Large bows and hairbands are discouraged. They serve little purpose in school and are more of a distraction. On the whole, pupils are always smart and well presented with black, grey, white or green thin hair bands.

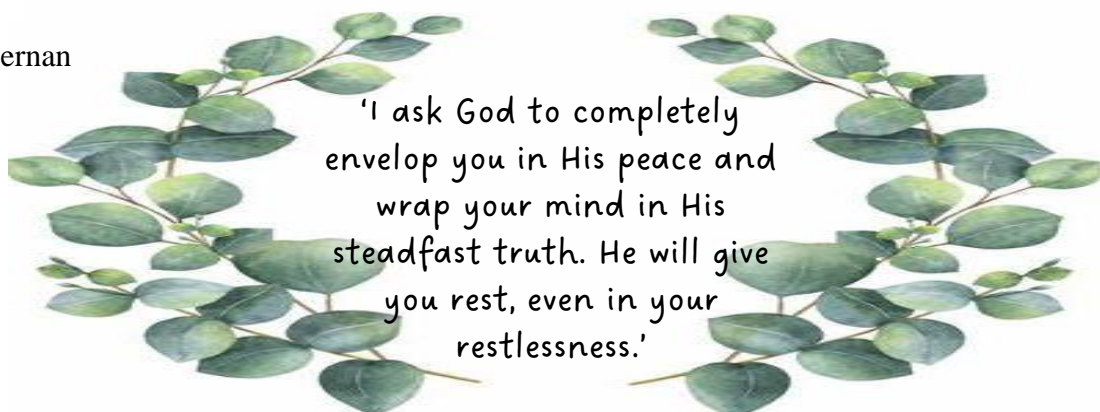
- **Plastic water bottles:** students must bring drinks in hard, re-usable water bottles. They are encouraged to drink water throughout the day.
- **Bikes:** pupils should not come to school on bicycles. The roads are very busy around school and are not suitable for young cyclists. Furthermore, there are no suitable storage facilities. Pupils are able to ‘Scoot to School’ as scooters are ridden on pavements.

We say ‘so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu’ to our Year 6 pupils, who continue their education at High School. Mr. Ray, who covered Mrs. Smith’s maternity leave, and Miss Canavan, who is returning to her ‘first’ home of Ireland, are also saying ‘goodbye’ next week. We hope that all the pupils and staff who leave us for new schools, and new adventures, remember that they always have a place of belonging at St. Bede’s Catholic Junior School.

On behalf of everyone here at St. Bede’s Catholic Junior School, we wish you and your family a happy and safe summer holiday. I look forward to seeing you bright and early on Tuesday 5th September.

Love and thanks,

Faith Tiernan



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CALENDAR 2023 – 2024

AUTUMN TERM - 2023	
Monday, 4 th September, 2023	Staff only. INSET day
Tuesday, 5 th September, 2023	School opens. Staff and pupils
Thursday, 26 th October, 2023	School closes for pupils
Friday, 27 th October, 2023	Staff only. INSET day
Monday, 6 th November, 2023	School opens. Staff and pupils
Wednesday, 20 th December, 2023	School closes for pupils
Thursday, 21 st December, 2023	Staff only. INSET day

SPRING TERM - 2024	
Wednesday, 3 rd January, 2024	Staff only. INSET day
Thursday, 4 th January, 2024	School opens. Staff and pupils
Friday, 9 th February, 2024	School closes. Staff and pupils
Monday, 19 th February, 2024	School opens. Staff and pupils
Thursday, 28 th March, 2024	School closes. Staff and pupils

SUMMER TERM - 2024	
Monday, 15 th April, 2024	School opens. Staff and pupils
Friday, 3 rd May, 2024	School closes. Staff and for pupils
Tuesday, 7 th May, 2024	School opens. Staff and pupils
Friday, 24 th May, 2024	School closes. Staff and pupils
Monday, 3 rd June, 2024	Staff only. INSET day
Tuesday, 4 th June, 2024	School opens for pupils
Friday, 19 th July, 2024	School closes. Staff and pupils

RETAIN FOR YOUR REFERENCE

In 2022 – 23, **31%** of pupils have taken a holiday in term time.