

# ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

*celebrating life and learning*

MARCH, 2024

## LENTEN PRAYER

Lord our God, we thank and praise you for the greatness of your love, shown to us in Jesus Christ, who was willing to die for us, to bring us into your family, and to bless us with the life that lasts for ever.

We thank you for the new life we celebrate at Easter; help us to keep growing in the life that never comes to an end.

We pray for our families, our friends, and all those we care about: fill them with hope and happiness.

We pray for people who are unhappy: those who are hungry, or homeless, those who fear violence or harm; may they find protection and peace.

We pray for those who are ill, or facing difficulties: may they find hope in the cross of Christ, and be strengthened by the knowledge of love.

Lord, accept our prayers, and be with us now and for ever.  
Amen.



Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

## CONTEMPLATION

*When hardship comes your way, will you tell yourself that it is a tool of God's grace and a sign of His love, or will you give in to doubting His goodness.*

## WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL?

The Spring Term has been incredibly busy and filled with lots of great news. This term we have focused on the Personal Development of our pupils, so as that they achieve their full potential socially and emotionally as well as academically.

The children have worked with school staff sharing their views on what it is like to be a pupil at St. Bede's Catholic Junior School. School staff and Governors have considered the 'Unique Selling Point' of the school and why parents and children choose St. Bede's.

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

The school places its distinct Catholic nature at the heart of all it does. The school's Mission drives decision making and children are placed at the centre of this. The whole school community embraces the mission and values of the school. Links between the Parish Priest and school are strong and well established, which benefits the whole school community. We are truly blessed.

The school's teaching and learning approach means that questioning within lessons is strong and supports the children's deepening of their knowledge and understanding of all curriculum areas. Teaching is excellent throughout the school and pupils engage in learning, and the wider life of school.

Relationships are incredibly positive, leading to excellent behaviour which is demonstrated by pupils each day. This is evident through the efforts of pupils (and families) whilst fundraising during Lent. By the end of day term, the whole school have raised over £2200 for those less fortunate, especially families experiencing war and conflict in Ukraine and Gaza. We are completely blown away by the support from you all.

*'A New Commandment, I give unto you, that you love one another'*

John 13:34

## OPAL STAY AND PLAY

During this half term we have had an OPAL 'Stay and Play' for every year group. This was to provide the children with an opportunity to share the play experience they have in school with a family member. Throughout the four afternoons we have witnessed children and parents riding on the bikes, skipping, playing a variety of sports and even making mud pies in our mud kitchen area. The four sessions have given 142 children across our school the chance to share this experience with their family. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who were able to attend.



### SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

As the school year has progressed, we have noticed an increasing number of pupils are bringing personal items in to school, such as pencil cases. Teachers and pupils are instructed that they do not need these. Some individual items are expensive and are then at risk of 'going missing'.

Please leave items that are not needed in school at home; we provide all the stationary a child needs for their learning. If a child does bring a pencil case to school, they will be asked to keep it in their bags until home time.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** School Journals for pupils are an essential school item and should be in school every day.



### FASHION FREE ENVIRONMENT

Parents/carers are requested to encourage their children and make certain that they wear the correct uniform while attending school. Summer uniform is able to be worn from Monday 15th April. Summer dresses must be green and white gingham (not stripes) and should be dresses, not shorts

The governors and staff are anxious to avoid the creation of a fashion-conscious environment. Expensive school bags, pencil cases and lunch bags are increasing significantly but are not a requirement for school. In addition we do not allow jewellery to be worn. SMALL STUD earrings are permissible – no novelty earrings or those larger than a small stud.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5

### YEAR 5 RIVER STUDY

The National Curriculum states that 'A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.'; that teaching should equip children with 'a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.' and 'deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments.' With online resources, high quality maps and Google Earth we can certainly go some way in doing this in the classrooms; however, a river visit gives a fully immersive experience of the topic that will undoubtedly inspire greater curiosity and enrich learning. The hands-on, fully interactive day will also allow the children to carry out the National Curriculum areas of fieldwork: observing, measuring, collecting and analysing real data. River dipping and other activities on the river, during our visit, ensures that every child – despite ability – can partake in the data gathering at some level and feel valued in their contribution to the fieldwork conclusions their team reach.

### NATIONAL CURRICULUM TESTS 2024 TIMETABLE

In May, schools are required to administer the following tests:

- English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- English Reading
- Mathematics: Arithmetic
- Mathematics: Reasoning Paper 1 + 2

The 2024 Key Stage 2 Tests will take place from 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. Schools are asked to keep this period free for administering the Key Stage 2 Tests and therefore expect that all Year 6 pupils are in school.

Pupils in Years 3 - 5 also have Summative Assessment Tests administered at similar time.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS - SUMMER TERM 2024 continued

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

12/07/24	Assembly: Class 3 'Malala Day'	10.05 am
18/07/24	Year 6: Leavers' Mass, St. Bede's Church	6.00 pm
18/07/24	Year 6: Leavers' Disco	7.00 – 8.30pm
19/07/24	Assembly: Year 6 'Leavers' Assembly'	1.30 pm
19/07/24	School closes for Summer Holiday	3.30 pm

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DATE(S)	EVENT/CELEBRATION	TIME(S)
15/04/24	Return to School: Own Clothes as a Special Treat!	N/A
16/04/24	School Health for Y6 Parents/Carers: Heights & Weights	3.00 - 3.45 pm
17/04/24	Sharing Learning: 16th Day	N/A
18/04/24	RSHE Meeting for Parents/Carers	N/A
19/04/24	National Curriculum Test Info for Y6 parents/carers	8.30 - 9.30 am
22/04/24	Y4 Peak District	N/A
23/04/24	Y4 Peak District	N/A
25/04/24	Feast of St. Mark	N/A
26/04/24	Assembly: Class 2 'Climate Change'	10.05 am
08/05/24	Y5 River Study Visit	N/A
09/05/24	Sharing Learning: 16th Day	N/A
10/05/24	Assembly: Class 4 'Building Bridges'	10.05 a.m.
13-16/05/24	Year 6: National Curriculum Tests	N/A
23/05/24	History Quality Mark Re-Assessment	N/A
24/05/24	Assembly: Class 11 'World Day of Cultural Diversity'	10.05 am
24/05/24	End of Half Term	3.30 pm
03/06/24	Staff INSET Day	N/A
04/06/24	School reopens for pupils and staff	8.40 for 8.50 am
05/06/24	Y4 Theatre Visit to Aladdin	1.00 pm
06/06/24	Sharing Learning: 16th Day	N/A
07/06/24	Rock Kidz	N/A
10/06/24	English Workshop for Parent/Carers and pupils	9.00, 10.30 + 1.30
11-12/06/24	Quidditch Days	N/A
13/06/24	Governor Day	
17/06/24	Sports Day (Y5+Y6 9.30 am and Y3+Y4 1.30 pm)	9.30 and 1.30
19/06/24	Induction Meetings for KS1-2 parents/carers	9.15 am, 1.30 pm and 7.00 pm
20/06/24	Children's University (Year 6 only - part of Y6 Leavers)	TBC
21/06/24	Assembly: Class 7 'Stewardship'	10.05 am
25+26/06/24	Y5 Stratford Trip	N/A
28 - 30/06/24	Y6 Lockerbie Outdoor and Adventurous Trip	N/A
01+02/07/24	Transition Days: Year 6 to Secondary schools, Year 3-5 new classes	N/A
03/07/24	Year 6 Theatre Visit to Wicked	TBD
04/07/24	Year 6 Leavers Photographs	N/A
05/07/24	Celebration of Sport Assembly	10am

