

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL
celebrating life and learning

Autumn 2

18th December, 2020

REFLECTION

What is Christmas?

“It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future.

It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.”



THE HOLY FAMILY

May Christ grant us and all whom we love His peace, His presence and His grace each and every day of our lives.

May Mary pray for us, lead us to her divine Son and keep us under the mantle of her protection.

May Joseph watch over our homes as he watched over Mary and the Christ Child.

May the Holy Family illuminate our hearts and home with their presence and blessing.

Amen

STAFF INSET

The school staff will be involved in training on Monday, 4th January, 2021. Therefore the Christmas holiday for the children is: 18th December - 4th January inclusive. Children return to school on Tuesday, 5th January.

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING
7TH—18TH DECEMBER, 2020

ADVENT COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is an important part of life in our school as it is a time when the children can give thanks and pray to God in an atmosphere of peace and silence.

We wish to thank all the parents/carers and family members who have viewed the Advent Collective Worship video at home with their children. The children have enjoyed the different activities our school has participated in within bubbles and year groups.

ADVENT FUNDRAISING

It is always our mission to help those in need especially at Christmas time. We wish to thank all members of our school community who have given generously to support our chosen charities: Brennan Lodge, Widnes Foodbank and Widnes Residential and Care Homes.

We can only hope that our contribution to the above organisations will make a difference to some of the vulnerable members of society. The school community has shown commitment to help those in need and the children have shown great zeal fulfilling their Christian responsibility to those in need. Our commitment to help others in 2020 has been inspired by the words of Jesus himself which were written over 2000 of years ago:

‘Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, that you do unto me.’

A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to our parents/carers, grandparents and family members for your unwavering support and continuing loyalty to our school so far this term. The staffroom has been awash with biscuits and sweets and mince pies! All of the generous Christmas gifts and cards are greatly appreciated. To be a parent/carer during 2020 has seen challenges like no other. We are truly thankful to be blessed with such supportive and generous families in our school community.

The staff wish you a peaceful, happy and holy Christmas and a blessed new year.

‘Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.’



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

Unfortunately, there are occasions when the school was closed because of heavy snowfall and freezing conditions.

It is acknowledged that it minimises disruption if parents/carers are notified before setting off for school. Thus, if the situation arises again:

- ♦ visit the school website (www.stbedesjuniorschool.co.uk) and our social media pages for up-to-date information
- ♦ look at Halton Borough Council's website;
- ♦ listen to the radio (Radio City 96.7, Radio Merseyside 95.8 or Wire FM 107.2).

You will also receive a text or an email!

YEAR 6 REVISION SESSIONS

From Tuesday 12th January, the ICT Suite will be available from 8.10 – 8.40am on a Tuesday and Thursday for all Year 6 pupils to make use of the computers for revision purposes. It is a 'drop-in' session so pupils do not have to come to both sessions or every week. It is a good way to help the children to revise without pressure. These sessions are a great opportunity to 'brush-up' on specific skills or even to 'fine-tune' a piece of writing.



MESSAGE FROM ST. WILFRID'S PARISH RE: TICKETS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, we have been thinking about the best way to ensure that our churches are safe places so that Mass can be celebrated in them.

If you would like to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day you will **NEED A TICKET** (*think Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory!*) The tickets will be available **NEXT WEEKEND** at the Church you would like to attend over Christmas. If you intend to come to *St Bede's* tickets can be collected from St Bede's Presbytery on Saturday 12th December from 11am – 12:30 pm and Sunday 13th December from 2pm – 2:30pm.

PLEASE...

- Remember, one ticket is needed for each person who is coming to the Mass, there are no family tickets or plus 1's!
- Only take a ticket if you are sure you will be attending, do not take one for someone who 'might' come. To accommodate as many people as possible please attend *either* on Christmas Eve *or* Christmas Day.
- If you take a ticket and then realise you do not need one then please return it as soon as possible.
- On the ticket there is a space for your contact details, please fill them in before coming to Church, this will speed up the 'Track and Trace' process.
- Tell family and friends not to just turn up to Mass without a ticket as they will be unable to come in.
- If you forget your ticket you will be denied entry until the beginning of Mass and **IF** there are spaces you will be allowed in.



We know that this way of organising things feels strange, but we are doing the best we can in very difficult circumstances.

Christmas Eve 24 th December	8.00pm	St Basil's, St Bede's, St. John Fisher, St. Michael's
Christmas Day 25 th December	8.30am	St Basil's
	9.00am	St Bede's
	10.00am	St John Fisher
	10.30am	St Michael's
	11.15am	St Bede's

‘COME AND SEE’ TOPICS

During the spring term the children will study different topics in Religious Education.

LOCAL CHURCH/COMMUNITY:

The children will consider the importance of the local church community:

- Year 3 - Journeys
- Year 4 - Community
- Year 5 - Mission
- Year 6 - Sources

EUCCHARIST/RELATING:

The children will contemplate the importance of the celebrations of the Eucharist:

- Year 3 - Listening/Sharing
- Year 4 - Giving and Receiving
- Year 5 - Memorial Sacrifice
- Year 6 - Unity

LENT/EASTER/GIVING:

The children will focus on the importance of Easter as a great season in our Church:

- Year 3 - Giving All
- Year 4 - Self-discipline
- Year 5 - Sacrifice
- Year 6 - Death and New Life.



STAFFING NEWS

WELCOME

Miss Morgan joined our team of Teaching Assistants after the half term break. She previously worked at the school as an Admin Apprentice in the office and as a Midday Assistant before the birth of her youngest son. Miss Morgan is working with pupils in Class 2 and settled in straight away as if she'd never been away.

We have also appointed two new teachers: Miss Canavan joined the school on 9th November. She will be based in Class 3.3 on Wednesdays and work with Year 6 the rest of the week. Miss Canavan joins our school with a glowing reference from Mrs. Smith (our former Deputy Head). She originally hails from County Tyrone in Northern Ireland. She is passionate about Catholic education and is a great asset to the Year 6 team.



Mrs. Hulme is joining us as a Year 4 teacher in Class 3.4 when we return in January. She has many years teaching experience in Widnes and is a former St. Bede's pupil. As we like to say 'once a St. Bede's girl (or boy), always a St. Bede's girl! It has always been Mrs. Hulme's dream to work at 'her old school' and she is delighted (and excited) to join us. Mrs. Kaye will support pupils throughout the school who have experienced significant disruption to their education due to the pandemic; whilst Mrs. Lloyd-Green will return to her role as the school's SENDCo full-time.



ADDITION TO THE ST. BEDE'S FAMILY

I am pleased to announce the safe arrival of Mrs. Halliday's son, Teddy Jacob Halliday who was born on 14th December at 10.09 a.m. Teddy weighed in at a healthy 9lb 15oz. Big sister, Nell, is delighted to finally meet her baby brother. What a wonderful Christmas gift for the Halliday family.

ATTENDANCE

Last academic year, the children's overall attendance was 96.7%. From 2nd September - 15th December, 2020, overall attendance was 97.78%, not including any Covid-19 related absence.

Class 1:	98.93%	Class 2:	97.81%
Class 3.3:	97.64%	Class 3.4:	98.81%
Class 4:	97.92%	Class 5:	98.23%
Class 6:	97.60%	Class 7:	96.16%
Class 8:	98.15%	Class 9:	97.09%
Class 10:	97.09%		



TERM DATES 2021-2022

AUTUMN TERM - 2021

Wednesday, 1st September, 2021	Staff only. INSET day
Thursday, 2nd September, 2021	School opens for pupils
Thursday, 21st October, 2021	School closes for pupils
Friday, 22nd October, 2021	Staff only. INSET day
Monday, 1st November, 2021	School opens. Staff and pupils
Friday, 17th December, 2021	School closes. Staff and pupils

SPRING TERM - 2022

Tuesday, 4th January, 2022	Staff only. INSET day
Wednesday, 5th January, 2022	School opens. Staff and pupils
Friday, 18th February, 2022	School closes. Staff and pupils
Monday, 28th February, 2022	Staff only. INSET day
Tuesday, 1st March, 2022	School opens for pupils
Friday, 1st April, 2022	School closes. Staff and pupils

SUMMER TERM - 2022

Tuesday, 19th April, 2022	School opens. Staff and pupils
Friday, 29th April, 2022	School closes. Staff and for pupils
Tuesday, 3rd May, 2022	School opens. Staff and pupils
Friday, 27th May, 2022	School closes. Staff and pupils
Monday, 6th June, 2022	Staff only. INSET day
Tuesday, 7th June, 2022	School opens for pupils
Friday, 22nd July, 2022	School closes. Staff and pupils