

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrating life and learning

DECEMBER, 2024 REFLECTION

As we enter this season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome the light of Christ into our lives.

In the midst of the busyness and anticipation, help us to pause and reflect on the true meaning of this season.

May the hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent represents fill our hearts and guide our actions.

As we await the celebration of Christ's birth, remind us of His humble entry into the world and His invitation to bring healing, grace, and compassion to all.

May the light of His love shine brightly in our hearts, so that we can share it with those around us—especially those in need, the lonely, the suffering, and the forgotten.

Lord, as we celebrate Christmas, help us to see Your presence in the simple moments, in the faces of loved ones, and in the beauty of Your creation.

Fill our homes with warmth and peace, and may we be ever mindful of the true gift of Christmas—the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

We offer this prayer in His name.

Amen.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

School closes on
Friday, 20th December 2024
and reopens on
Monday, 6th January 2024 at 8.40
am

CHRISTMAS SHOW: WONDERFUL OZ

Following three magnificent performances of Wonderful Oz, we have received much praise and congratulations. After his debut when he oiled, and freed, the Tin Man, Father Mark said '*Just FANTASTIC! I was in awe of the talent and the confidence and the sheer hard work...*'

The cast were marvelous in every performance, but especially so in the recorded final evening. They sang their hearts out, used their wonderful brains to ad-lib and showed great courage standing in front of their families, special guests and their friends.

Miss France, who left the school in 2022, returned to the school to watch the show. She was in awe of the children's performance and said that she really misses this time in school... though she doesn't miss the stress of directing a production!

Congratulations to the staff and pupils who organized and performed in Wonderful Oz - it was truly wonderful!

FAREWELL TO MR. COOPER

On Wednesday 18th December, Mr. Cooper will say goodbye to the school - its pupils, staff, parents and governors. He has worked as a Specialist PE and Sport teacher and a Teaching Assistant since 2014. Mr. Cooper's passion is PE and Sport so he is looking to support more schools by working as a PE Consultant (a role he had before joining the school). Mr. Cooper has led many a St. Bede's Junior School team to championships and is a massive advocate for practice, training and sheer hard work being key to any success. We wish him well in his future endeavors.



OPAL PLEA!

As the weather continues to be cold and wet, 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.

Father Christmas will soon be here and you may be clearing away some unused toys and equipment that we could put to good use at play times. We are always in need of toys/ equipment such as:

- Small world figures, cars, pots and pans etc.
- Scooters, Skateboards, Balance bikes
- Toy cars (the red and yellow little tikes cars)
- 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. Please follow us on our social media page:

X: @StBedesJunOPAL



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

The following assemblies have been arranged for the Spring Term. Parents/carers, other family members and friends are very welcome to join in these celebrations. Assemblies begin at 10.00 a.m.

17.01.25	SOURCES	CLASS 8
31.01.25	GOD'S KINGDOM: GALILEE & JERUSALEM	CLASS 2
14.02.25	UNITY	CLASS 10
14.03.25	SACRIFICE	CLASS 6
28.03.25	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE	CLASS 9
04.04.25	EASTER MEDITATION	CLASS 7

MOBILE PHONES

Some children are expecting Father Christmas to bring them mobile phones. However, they are inappropriate in school and need to be left in the Headteacher's Office at 8.50 am and collected at 3.30 pm. They are only permitted for safety reasons on the journey to and from school. If parents/carers need to give an urgent message to a child, then the school office should be contacted as usual.

Some mobile phones are expensive, they are personal property and are not insured on school premises. They can be easily damaged too. If a mobile phone is not required on the journey to/from school, it is advisable for it to be left at home.



CHRISTMAS BINGO BONANZA

The school staff and I were delighted with the amazing turn-out for the annual Christmas bingo. It was certainly a full house!

Thank you to everyone who bought bingo tickets (our biannual opportunity to really test our teachers arithmetic whilst under pressure!) and raffle tickets. The total raised was £2319.

ARTS NEWS

Recently our pupils have taken part in art workshops with the artist Gill Taylor. Year 3 created some polystyrene press printing based on Widnes architecture, Year 4 worked on oil pastel drawings inspired by the artist David Hockney, Year 5 completed some wax batik work based on Native American art and Year 6 worked in groups to create silk paintings based on Japanese art. The amazing art work has been displayed around the school.



Once again we have been blessed to have been selected to take part in the Knights of Columba Christmas Card Competition. The entries have been taken away to be judged; the winner will be selected by the Knights and we hope to announce the winner next week.

'COME AND SEE' TOPICS

SPRING TERM 2025

During the Spring Term the children will study different topics in Religious Education.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY:

Year 3 will continue to study the new Religious Education Directory. The Spring Term topics begin with God's Kingdom: Galilee to Jerusalem

LOCAL CHURCH/COMMUNITY:

The children will consider the importance of the local church community, through the following topics:

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

EUCHARIST/RELATING:

The children will contemplate the importance of the celebrations of the Eucharist through the following topics:

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, through the following topics:

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

The children will study the same theme in each year group, from Year 4 to Year 6, but the topic through which they learn about the theme is different throughout the school.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY

EPIPHANY MASS

We return to school on the 6th January. Father Mark will be saying an Epiphany Mass for the Junior School at 2.00 pm that day. Parents/carers are welcome to attend. The Mass will take place in School so space is limited. A separate email will be sent for parents/carers and family members to request a place at the Mass.



YEAR 6 REVISION SESSIONS

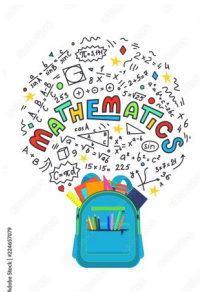
From Tuesday 7th January, Classroom 10 will be available from 8.10 – 8.40am on a Tuesday and Thursday for all Year 6 pupils to make use of iPads, laptops and resources for revision purposes. It is a 'drop-in' session so pupils do not have to come to both sessions or every week. Y6 teachers will be available to help and encourage. 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. Whilst equipment is available for pupils, there are also other revision strategies being deployed so I encourage the pupils to attend. Don't forget that each session is half a credit for your son/daughter's Children's University graduation. Many Year 6 pupils are going for gold!



DOODLE MATHS WINTER CALENDAR

Well done to all those pupils who have recently achieved 'streak milestones' on our DoodleMaths app – I've certainly been busy with certificate writing over the past weeks! We have had many children – including our younger Year 3 Doodlers - achieving their 50-day streak certificates and some of our older children reaching their 750-day streaks! (That's 750 consecutive days of using DoodleMaths!). Just five to ten minutes a day on DoodleMaths will help consolidate and extend some essential maths skills and ultimately increase confidence in lessons.

With many festive distractions it may be difficult to keep on track with DoodleMaths so why not try and encourage your child to partake in the Doodle Winter Calendar? The Winter Calendar commenced on 1st December and motivates children to log in daily to complete exercises which unlock seasonal rewards. This is a great way to consolidate knowledge and prevent learning loss during the holiday season. Aim to get a 'streak' going and they'll soon become motivated to keep it up and receive a certificate and/or prizes in our celebration assemblies.



SLEEP SUPPORT

We often have comments from parents about their child having sleep problems. A few websites have been recommended by professionals to support families with this:

- <https://cerebra.org.uk/uncategorized/sleep-tips-and-techniques>
- Sleep and young children - NHS
- Common Sleep Problems in Children - The Sleep Charity



TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Thursday 28th November a group of Year 6 pupils were selected to represent our school at the Halton Table Tennis Championship. After a very competitive afternoon, the boys came second in the Under 11's Boys Competition and the girls became Under 11's Halton girls champions again! The girls will also represent our school and local area at the next round in the new year to try and become North West champions.

Well done to all of the children who represented our school at this event.

