

St Bede's Catholic Primary School

Howlett Hall Road, Denton Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7HS

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Headteacher: Mrs L Young

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Watanabe



February 24th 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break, I hope that you all had a bit of a rest and managed to enjoy some lovely family time.

Staffing Updates

New addition

We are delighted to congratulate Mr Boulby and his partner on the birth of their son just before half term.

Goodbye and good luck

In mid-March, we say goodbye to Mrs Howell who has been a member of our school team since 2013. Mrs Howell has worked closely with many of our children and their families and will be greatly missed. She will be continuing her nurturing work as she takes up a role with Children's Social Care, and we wish her every success in her new position. Mrs Howell has spoken to the children who she works particularly closely with today to help to prepare them for the coming changes.

Mrs Watanabe will be picking up any of the current pupil sessions and family liaison work in the short term whilst we develop a long-term plan, so there will be the least disruption to our families.

School news

Parents Evening

Thank you to all of those parents who attended the recent parent's evening, it is essential for your child's educational and emotional development that we work closely as a home-school team, sharing key information which impacts on your child's learning and wellbeing. Key information was shared during the meetings with regard to English, maths, RE and overall development which together we can build on to help your child to make progress moving forward.

If you were unable to attend and have not yet spoken to your child's class teacher, can you please make arrangements with them to have a discussion over the forthcoming weeks.

New EYFS Learning Space

You will have noticed that we are further developing our EYFS outdoor learning space. We are delighted with how the space is coming together and will continue to enhance the learning experience for our youngest children.

100 days Event

Prior to the half term break, our EYFS children celebrated their 100 days in school by dressing up as centenarians. Thank you to all of those parents who joined them for their Stay, Play and Pray event and took part in the workshop with the Trust speech and language specialist, Ellen Fleetwood. Ellen was very impressed with the level of engagement from parents and is hoping to run further sessions for us in the future.

Stay, Play and Pray sessions

Our Stay, Play and Pray sessions continue to be very popular with parents and are a great way of us working together as a home-school partnership. Last half term we held sessions for Year 4 and Year 5 and this week Year 3 and Year 6 led session – all of which have been well attended by parents, thank you for your support.

Enrichment activities

We continue to offer a range of enrichment activities including visits and visitors, here is a small flavour of some of the activities offered so far this academic year:

Visits:

Year 6 residential to Robinwood outdoor activity centre

Year 6 visited Safety Works

Year 5 residential to the Emmaus Village

EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, Year 5 have attended sessions at Scotswood Gardens Forest School

Mini Vinnie group attended the Net Zero event at the Civic Centre

Year 1 and Year 4 attended a performance at BalletLorent

Year 4 residential to the Sill

Visitors:

Anti-bullying workshop (whole school)

Anti-racism workshop (whole school)

More than Dance have worked with Year 6, Year 5, Year 4 and Year 3

BalletLorent have worked with Year 1 and Year 2

Year 3 and Year 4 weekly choir with Miss Hurley (Diocesan choir lead)

Breakfast Club

As you may be aware, we extended our morning breakfast club so that it now starts at 7.30am to further support working parents. The extended hours breakfast club is run by our own school staff and needs to be booked and paid for through Arbor and costs a very reasonable £4.00. The children can be dropped at the main entrance from 7.30am and will have their breakfast included in the cost. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the office for further information or log onto Arbor to book your child's space.

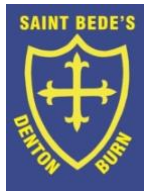
This is in addition to our normal school breakfast club which runs from 8.00am – 8.40am and costs £2.00 (breakfast is included in the price). Normal breakfast club does not need to be booked in advance and is paid in cash either daily or weekly.

Outstanding Balances

There are a number of parents with outstanding balances either for lunches or for educational visits. Please can you make every effort to pay your bills on time as any unpaid amounts are taken directly from the school budget and this reduces the amount of money that we have to spend on the children. If you have any difficulties making a payment on time, please speak to the school office and they will be happy to help to set up a payment plan for you.

Credit Union

We continue to run a Credit Union banking deposit system and many of our families have an account which they pay into regularly. As Mrs Howell is leaving, the office will be taking over the organisation of Credit Union. Any money which you wish to deposit into your account should be brought to the school office from mid-March (the day and time will be confirmed with you nearer the time).



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Packed Lunches

Can I politely remind parents about the guidance for children's packed lunches. Staff are increasingly concerned about the amount of sugar and unhealthy snacks that are included within children's packed lunches. Whilst we appreciate that some children have quite a limited diet, it is important that the food that we offer them helps to sustain them for the day. Unhealthy snacks and snacks that are high in sugar cause children to peak then crash shortly afterwards which does impact behaviour and their ability to learn. They can also greatly impact on your child's long-term health and well-being.

Chocolate, sweets and fizzy drinks are not allowed in packed lunches.

As a matter of health and safety can parents please refrain from sending any meat on the bone (e.g. chicken wings) and whole grapes – both of these are a choking hazards. Any meat should be removed from the bone and grapes should be pre-cut in half please.

Nuts are also not allowed in any form, this includes within chocolate spread. We have a number of children with nut allergies and any contact, even through touch transfer, could be life-threatening for them.

Online Safety

During February, we focused on online safety, looking at some of the potential online risks that our young people are exposed to. Can I politely remind parents that age-restrictions are set for a reason and children of primary age should not be accessing materials which are intended for young people of 13+. If you have made a decision to allow your child to access materials above their age, can you please ensure that you supervise the content carefully and are aware of who they are interacting with and what they are seeing – it is very hard to unsee or unhear something after the event.

This advice is also relevant for gaming and TV viewing, many of our children talk about games and films which they have seen which are 15+ or even 18+ - young minds, which are still developing, cannot process this type of information correctly and again this can impact on your child's emotional well-being and mental state.

Forthcoming information:

SEN Support Plans

Staff are currently in the process of finalising SEN Support Plan reviews and writing new targets. These will soon be sent home to parents. Following the plans being sent home, there will be an opportunity to make an appointment with Mrs Watanabe to discuss anything further.

Putting our Faith in Action – Lent

During this season of Lent, we try to pray more, fast and give to others less fortunate. We will soon be embarking on 'The Big Lent Walk' where we will be taking part in a national event to walk 200km over the course of Lent and raise money for CAFOD (Further information to follow regarding our donations page to contribute to this very worthwhile charity). Children will be taking part in a series of mini-walks during the school day over the next 5 weeks to work together to complete the whole 200km – each class will have a running total which we will add together to get our overall distance.

We are also supporting the Stella Maris charity which helps to support the lives of seafarers and fishers (people who spend long stints of time out at sea, away from their families). We are helping

in a small way by collecting donations of Easter eggs to send to the charity. If you would like to support by sending in an Easter egg, it would be very gratefully received.

World Book Day

Next Thursday, 5th March, is World Book Day. Mrs Coatsworth has already sent out information regarding our plans for the day. Children are invited to come dressed, either as a character from a book, a reader or a word (see flyer already shared). We look forward to a great day in school celebrating reading.

TTRS Day

On 23rd March, we will be having a fun maths day where children can come to school dressed as 'rock stars' (see flyer already shared for further information).

Easter Fun

During the last week of this half term, we will be holding our annual Easter egg and Easter bonnet competition. We always have lots of fabulous entries and cannot wait to see what the children create this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information about any of the points raised in this newsletter.

Kind regards
Mrs Young