St Bede's Catholic Primary School
Whickham View, Denton Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7HP
Telephone: 0191 2743430
Email:office@stbcps.co.uk Website: www.stbcps.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs L Young Deputy Headteacher: Miss R McTernan

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the summer break, I hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful summer. We are delighted to welcome our children back and are excited to begin our new term.

Important Reminders:

New lunch system: As you will be aware from information shared last year, we have a new catering company working with our Trust. All meals are cooked on site and are very nutritious and delicious! All meals must be ordered in advance, and parents must do this with their children at home using the Arbor app (guidance was sent out last term as to how to do this). So far only a handful of parents have signed up for meals. Please can you ensure that over the next few days you familiarise yourself with the system and make your meal selections. There is a choice of hot meal (meat or vegetarian), jacket potato (filling choices given as cheese, beans or tuna), or a sandwich (filling choices given as ham, cheese and tuna).

Curriculum Evening: Year 1 through to Year 6 will be holding a very important curriculum evening meeting next week (information has already been sent out to parents via Arbor). It is essential that you attend your child's class meeting as this is a wonderful opportunity to start the year, meet the class teacher, find out about the curriculum and how we can work together to help your child to succeed.

Home / School Agreement: We will be sending out our home / school agreement via Microsoft Forms this year to make it easier for parents (and more environmentally friendly). Please see below our key responsibilities:

Our School will:

- Support and work with parents to meet the needs of their children.
- Create a warm stimulating environment based on Christian values, where the child and family feels accepted and secure.
- Offer parents / carers opportunities to become involved in school life.
- Offer a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum, which addresses the children's emotional, spiritual, physical, social, and academic development.
- Encourage the children to reach their full potential and be the best they can be.
- Keep parents informed about general school matters and in particular about the progress of their child. Provide opportunities for parent's evenings and produce written reports to inform parents of their child's attainment, progress and involvement.
- Let parents/carers know if we have any concerns about a child academically, socially, emotionally, or with regard to behaviour.
- Take children to our Parish Church to be involved in Parish and school masses and encourage children to make prayer an integral part of their daily lives.
- Help children develop a good self-image to enable them to become confident, well-balanced and caring individuals.
- Contact parents as soon as possible in case of emergencies.

Safeguarding - Allergy Guidance: We will be contacting parents with regard to updating allergy awareness records. Please can you complete and return the forms as soon as possible to ensure that we have updated and accurate information.

Packed lunches / allergies: Can I politely remind parents that packed lunches should contain a balanced meal. They should not contain sweets or chocolate. Can I also remind parents that there should not be any meat containing bones and grapes should be cut in half, both to avoid choking hazards.
In line with supporting other children with allergies, can I remind parents that packed lunches should not contain any form of nut (this includes peanut butter and chocolate / nut sandwich spreads – can you please check the ingredients on chocolate sandwich spread to ensure that there are no traces of nuts as, in some cases, children can become very ill just by airborne or touch transfer).

<u>Safeguarding - Attendance:</u>
Did you know…?

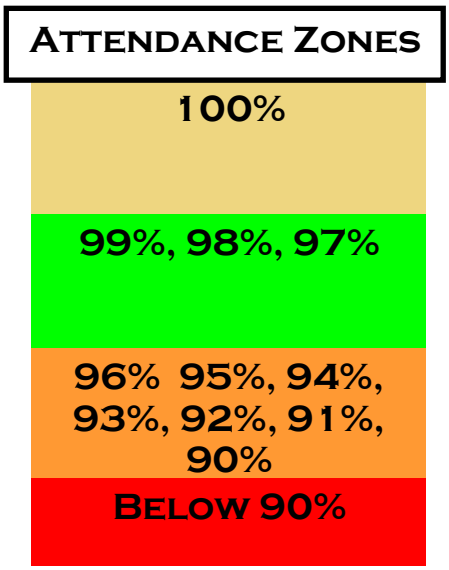
- School is open for 190 days of the year. This leaves 175 non-school days a year for holidays, cultural experiences and family time.
- 100% attendance offers greater opportunities for a child to be happy and successful in school.
- 90% attendance means that your child misses on average:
  - One half day every week
  - Nearly four weeks every school year
  - Over one school year in a school career

- 2 weeks holiday in term time every year with no other absences means that your child:
  - Can only ever achieve 95% attendance
  - Will miss about two terms in a school career

- Being 5 minutes late every day means missing about 3 days of school every year.

Strategies for promoting attendance:

- All of our pupils' attendance is colour-coded based on the number of days that they attend school. This is converted into a percentage.
- We expect all of our children to achieve 'gold' or 'green' attendance levels
- We will contact you if we are concerned about your child's attendance. This will be done either by telephone or a letter home.
  You may be required to attend an attendance meeting.
- If your child's attendance falls below 97%, we would like to support you to improve it.



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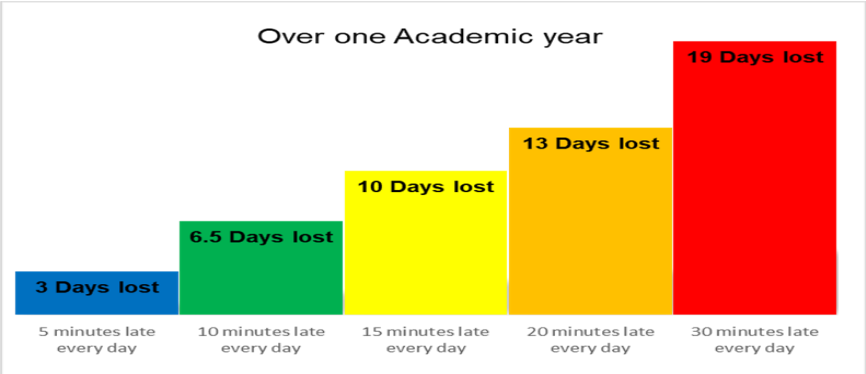
Punctuality:
The school operates a 'soft opening' from 8.40am to support working parents and reduce congestion in the neighbouring streets. Pupils can arrive from 8.40am, however the actual school day starts at 8.50am.

All pupil gates are locked at 8.50am. If your child arrives after this time, a parent or carer must bring them to the school office and sign them in on the electronic sign-in system.

Every minute counts and teaching begins straight away – being on time ensures your child does not miss any learning!



General Updates:
PE days: Children come to school dressed in their PE kits (clothing and footwear – please refer to uniform policy) on their PE day.
EYFS: Friday
Year 1: Monday and Wednesday
Year 2: Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3: Monday and Wednesday
Year 4: Tuesday and Thursday
Year 5: Tuesday and Thursday (whilst swimming lessons taking place PE will only be on Thursday)
Year 6: Tuesday and Wednesday

In addition to the above PE sessions, all classes from Y1 – Y6 can come to school in PE kits on Thursdays during the first half term as we have organised some additional Cricket coaching for all classes.

Forthcoming Events:
8th September – Year 5 and Year 6 Curriculum Evening 3.30pm
9th September – Year 6 leading the Welcome Mass at St Bede's Church – parents are welcome to attend
9th September – Year 1 and Year 2 Curriculum Evening 3.30pm
10th September – Year 3 and Year 4 Curriculum Evening 3.30pm
14th – 16th September – Year 6 residential to Robinwood Activity Centre
18th September – Jeans for Genes fundraising day (information to follow)

25th September – Macmillan coffee afternoon – parents with their children (information to follow)
30th September – Year 1 Forest School (information to follow)
30th September – EYFS / Year 6 Buddy liturgy (information to follow) 2.30pm
30th September – EYFS Curriculum Evening

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further clarification regarding anything shared in the newsletter.
Kind regards
Mrs Young