

# St Bede's Newsletter



**Welcome to St Bede's...**

Attendance up to 19/12/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
94.70	93.67	94.66	95.32	93.87	97.36	96.62	95.59	92.92

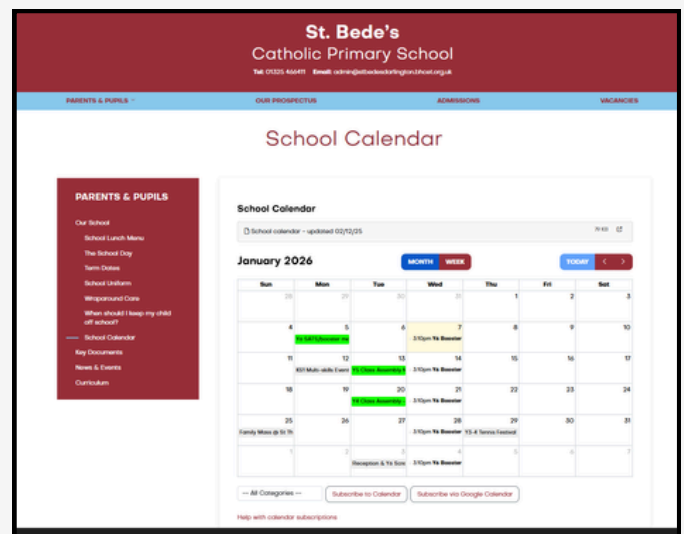
**Next week...**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan**  
Y1/2 Multi-skills @  
Dolphin Centre

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan**  
Mr Morgan Y5 Class  
Assembly 9.15am

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan**

- Y5 Mini Police session
- Y6 SATS Booster 3.10pm-4pm



Don't forget to keep up to date with upcoming events via our school calendar

<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/calendar>

Hit **SUBSCRIBE** to sync the school calendar with your personal devices

# Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

### 1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

### 2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

### 3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

### 4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

### 5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear, frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

### 6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

### 7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

### 8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

### 9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

### 10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

# SCHOOL UNIFORM

## EXPECTATIONS



Long hair tied back

No jewellery, earrings  
or watches

White Polo Shirt

Burgundy cardigan/  
sweatshirt

Grey trousers/ skirt

Black school shoes



At St Bede's, we believe that wearing the correct uniform helps every child feel a sense of belonging, pride, and readiness for learning. A consistent approach to uniform also supports a calm, focused school environment where children can thrive.

From this term onwards, we will be taking a firmer approach to ensuring our uniform policy is followed. If a child arrives in incorrect uniform, Miss Cuff will contact home, and parents may be asked to bring the correct items into school. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain high standards for all our pupils.



● Identity    ● Safety    ● Equality    ● Belonging