

St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



Attendance up to 03/10/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
97.55	96.69	97.5	97.17	95.78	98.06	97.38	95.25	93.99

Next Week...

Monday 13th October

Y6 Residential Initial Meeting
3.15pm

Thursday 16th October

- First Holy Communion Initial Meeting 3.15pm
- SEND Parental Drop-ins (bookable)
- LKS2 Trip to Hopetown

Friday 17th October

- Show Racism the Red Card Day - children invited to wear red
- Harvest Mass @ St Thomas Aquinas 1.30pm

This week's events...

Tuesday 7th October

Reception 26' Parent's Open Evening 3.30pm

Wednesday 8th October

~~SENDIASS Parental Support Meeting 2-3pm~~

Re-scheduled to Wed 15th Oct 2-3pm

Thursday 9th October

- Tempest Class Photographs
- SEND Parental Drop-ins (bookable)
- KS1 Multi-skills @ Eastbourne Sports Complex

Friday 10th October

World Mental Health Day - children invited to wear something yellow with uniform

Other Important things coming up in October to be aware of...



21st Y5 Miss Wilson's class assembly

21st -22nd Parental consultations

23rd Autumn Discos

24th PD Day - children not in school



Our SENDIASS drop-in session
has been moved to
Wednesday 15th October
2-3pm

Remember you don't need an
appointment. Just turn up and
we are here to help

We also have
Darlington Parent
Carer Forum on
Wednesday 22nd
October
2-3pm



DARLINGTON
PARENT CARER FORUM

Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION **13+**

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak has been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

Please remember to check our school calendar regularly for important dates

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





Harvest Festival Donations
As we prepare for our Harvest Festival, we'd love your support in helping us create some beautiful hampers to take into church. These will be shared with members of our local community who could use a little extra kindness this season.

If you're able to donate any non-perishable food items, please send them in with your child by **Thursday 16th October.**

Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference!

We also need parent helpers to walk with the children to church. Please contact the office if you are able to support.
Thank you!



Remember you can view our latest curriculum newsletters on our school website

<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/curriculum/subjects>



KS1 children had an amazing day at Beamish. Travelling back in time on a vintage bus and exploring a 1950's town and a town from the 1900's!



A huge thank you to our amazing parent volunteers for helping make the day so special. It was truly memorable for all



Autumn DISCO

23rd October 2025

EYFS - 3:30 - 4:15

KS1 - 4:30 - 5:15

KS2 - 5:30 - 6:15

£5

Includes a drink, crisps
and sweets.

**seasonal costumes /
clothes encouraged**

