

St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



This week...

Mon 13th to Wed 15th July

Class Transitions

Thursday 16th July

Pride of St Bede's Awards
(children only)

Friday 17th July

- Leavers Mass 9.30am
- Break up for the summer

After the holidays..

Wed 2nd Sep

Children Return to
School

Mon 14th Sep

Carmel Open Evening

Wed 14th Oct

Year 5 Residential YMT

Tue 3rd Nov

Class Photographs

Please help us
maintain the school's
high standards by
starting the next
academic year as we
mean to go on and
arriving in full, smart
school uniform with no
jewellery

You can view our latest curriculum Newsletters on our website

Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

EdTech SUMMER HOLIDAY GUIDE

It can be challenging to find holiday activities for digitally savvy young ones. There are plenty of edtech (educational technology) avenues to explore this summer, however, and we've compiled a rundown of our favourites...

For the gamer

There are some excellent free (or cheap) platforms out there which let budding programmers create their own games and characters. Children can discover the basics of game design as they learn how to build characters and make them speak, move and interact with each other. Young ones can construct a game from scratch and then share it with their friends.

Try: Play Lab at code.org • Toca Builders

For the photographer

If your child is an aspiring photographer or loves fine-tuning images before posting them on social media, there are options which young people may find less daunting than Photoshop. As well as editing and adjusting photos, making illustrations or converting between image formats, some packages are geared towards illustration while others let you work with raster and vector graphics.

Try: Photopea • Sumopaint • PhotoGrid

For the sports fan

Video games are usually seen as reducing the time young people spend exercising. However, there is a genre that encourages physical activity: from music-based games that get users up and dancing, to sports simulators where the controller becomes a tennis racket. Devices' ability to track movement in real time and translate it into a game can make physical activity less of a chore.

Try: Runkeeper • Strava • Zombies, Run! (12+)

For the coder

Online, you can find a selection of programming environments where users can learn to make simple apps. Young people can design an app, code it in JavaScript or work in text-based language, then share their newly created app with friends. With millions of aspiring coders in the world, the internet has an abundance of tutorials to get young ones started.

Try: App Lab at code.org • Dance Party at code.org • Flappy Code at code.org • Hour of Code

For the explorer

Young adventurers can discover the world from new perspectives – strolling Tokyo's streets or soaring over Yosemite. For those with virtual reality headsets, Google Earth VR puts the whole planet within reach, while – even further afield – youngsters can use their device to delve into the wonders of our solar system with virtual tours of NASA's labs and mission control centres.

Try: Google Maps Treks • Google Earth VR • NASA at Home: Virtual Tours

For the avid reader

Your child's smartphone or tablet can become an inspirational learning tool that fires their imagination while improving their reading, vocabulary, spelling and comprehension. Mobile reading apps and audiobook libraries are worth setting some screen time aside for. As well as developing young ones' language skills, they also encourage the unbridled bliss of enjoying a good story.

Try: Hoopla • Epic • Audible

For the musician

Learning to play an instrument and creating music electronically has become much easier thanks to technology. As the field keeps advancing, more software is being created – and there are many applications which are compatible with various devices, including mobile phones. For example, your child could start their journey to becoming a superstar DJ with real-time mixing and editing tools.

Try: Let's Play Kids Music: Summer Musical • GarageBand • Transitions DJ • YouTube music tutorials

For the historian

Virtual tourism boomed when the pandemic cancelled everyone's travel plans. Let technology transport you to jaw-dropping historical sites or inside some of the world's most inspiring museums. Explore the Colosseum or the Amazon rainforest in VR, take a virtual tour of the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park or step inside the British Museum without leaving your living room!

Try: HistoryView Virtual Library • The British Museum – Google Street View • The National Museum of Computing 3D Virtual Tour

For the artist

Unleash your child's creative streak over the holidays with these arts and craft activity ideas! Most are quick and easy to make with materials you'll probably already have at home. There are ideas for young artists of all abilities, so you're sure to find a few exciting projects to try out. Children could also take a virtual tour of some stunning galleries and art installations.

Try: Artist at code.org • Summer crafts for kids at Activity Village • Summer arts and crafts at Projects with Kids • Google Arts and Culture – virtual reality tours you'll love

Meet Our Expert

Gary Reddin is Leader of the Virtual Curriculum at All Bridge School, a specialist provision school in Liverpool. He has supported the integration of technology into the teaching practice across the curriculum to empower young people to reach their academic potential and prepare for life beyond school.



NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Keep up to date with upcoming events via our school calendar

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



Message from the Headteacher



As we reach the end of another successful year at St Bede's, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making it so special.

We have had many highlights, including another fantastic Colour Run and the launch of our first-ever St Bede's Fest, which have brought our school community together in celebration.

Our children have achieved great success beyond the classroom, winning the Choir of the Year Award at The Glasshouse and performing at the Gala Theatre in Durham. We have also enjoyed numerous sporting successes at school and county level, alongside excellent achievements in art, drama and across the curriculum.

Academically, this has been a very strong year, with excellent assessment and curriculum outcomes that reflect the hard work of both pupils and staff.

While these achievements are impressive, what makes me most proud is our children themselves. Their kindness, respect, resilience and compassion are evident every day, and visitors regularly comment on their outstanding manners and warmth. Their character and integrity truly embody the values of St Bede's.

I would also like to thank our exceptional staff team, whose dedication, care and commitment make such a difference to our children and families every day.

This year, we say farewell to Mrs Webb and Mrs Patrun. We sincerely thank them for their many years of service and the lasting contribution they have made to our school community. We wish them every success and happiness in the future.

A special mention goes to our wonderful Year 6 children as they prepare to move on to Carmel College. They have been excellent role models, and we are incredibly proud of the kind, confident and caring young people they have become. We wish them every success in the next stage of their journey.

Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support and partnership throughout the year. Together, we help our children thrive.

I wish all our families a happy, safe and relaxing summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at St Bede's.

With every good wish for a wonderful summer,

Miss Cuff

