

# St Bede's Newsletter



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

Attendance up to 16/05/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
96.09	93.67	97.03	96.66	97.54	93.9	97.36	94.52	96.72

**Coming soon...**

**26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May - HALF TERM BREAK**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Y4 Multiplication checks

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

- Bikeability Y5
- Building confidence Y6
- Reception 2025 New Starters meeting 3.30pm
- Festival of Choirs at Carmel 5pm

## **This week's events...**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

- Y5/6 Custard & Cake Coffee Morning - parents invited
- Building confidence Y6's

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

- UKS2 Football League Match
- Tempest First Holy Communion photos

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

St Bede's Feast Day

- KS2 walk to church 9.30am
- KS1 & EYFS celebration in school



<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/news-events/newsletters>

# Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about X

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon (Elon Musk). That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 550 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**A BLOCK ON BLOCKING**

X has announced plans to remove its blocking features. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. It's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

**BLUE TICK SALE**

**VERIFICATION FOR SALE**

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification, certifying someone as authentic by posting a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall. This caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

**LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES**

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

**CENSORSHIP**

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

**PROTECT PRIVACY**

Unscrupulous characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

**DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT**

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Impulsive that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

**STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS**

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

**ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS**

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account (i.e. say they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions).

**BE READY TO TAKE ACTION**

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

**Meet Our Expert**

Rory Coleman is Editor in Chief of parenting and experts site SafeSociety and has worked in the gaming industry for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games & technologies, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Having made what he learned from his experiences have been published in influential sites and magazines aimed at children.

**NOS National Online Safety®**

**#WakeUpWednesday**

Click here to view our school calendar and make sure you are up to date on upcoming activities and events until the end of the school year

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





Congratulations to the children who made their **First Holy Communion** this weekend  
We are very proud of you all.  
May this be the beginning of  
a beautiful and fulfilling life of faith







Children in Year 5 & 6 had a fabulous time at **Beamish** yesterday. They especially enjoyed riding the tram.

They represented the school beautifully, Well done UKS2!

KS2 children will walk to mass on **Friday morning** straight after registration to celebrate St Bede's Feast Day. We would be very grateful for any parent helpers who can volunteer to walk with us.

KS1 & EYFS will be having their own celebration in school



May 25th

**ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE**

"I was no longer the centre of my life and therefore I could see God in everything."