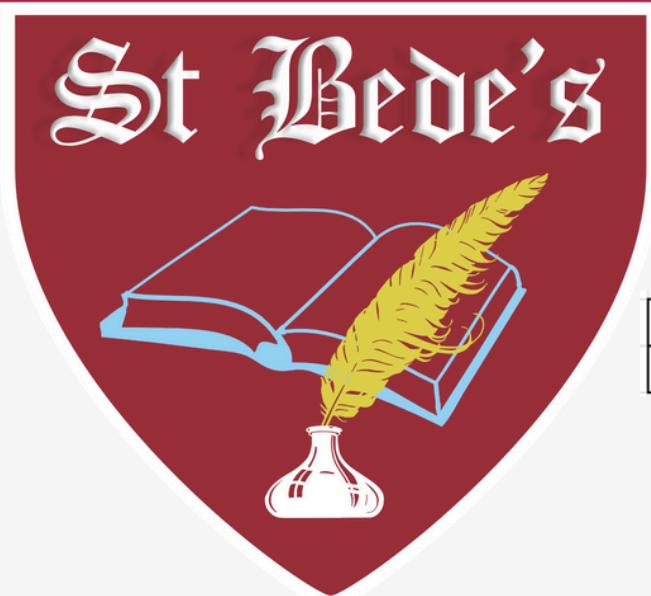


St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



Coming up...

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th Feb

National Storytelling Week

Monday 2nd Feb

Primary Choir of the Year Competition at The Glasshouse Gateshead

Wednesday 4th Feb

- Year 3 We Eat Elephants workshop
- Y2 Feelings workshop

Y6 SATS Booster

Attendance up to 23/01/26

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
95.11	94.51	94.95	95.38	95.40	97.28	96.63	96.14	92.80

This week...

Wednesday 28th Jan

- Y5 Mini Police
- Y6 SATS Booster
3.10pm-4.15pm

Thursday 29th Jan
Y3-4 Tennis Festival

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...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning, where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 16-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures group, Vice Chair of the ISCo Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

National Storytelling Week

Soundtrack your story

2–8 February 2026

In partnership with

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026

Supported by Amazon

The theme for **National Storytelling Week 2026** is **Soundtrack your story**. Everyone has their own musical story – whether it's in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world.



You can now view our latest Art Newsletter on our website
<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/curriculum/subjects/art-and-design>

ART NEWSLETTER
 ST BEDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING TERM 2026

OUR AIMS

AT ST BEDE'S, WE BELIEVE THAT A HIGH-QUALITY AND IMMERSIVE ART AND DESIGN EDUCATION EMPOWERS SOME OF THE MOST FORMATIVE HUMAN CREATIVITY. A HIGH-QUALITY ART AND DESIGN EDUCATION SHOULD ENGAGE, INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE PUPILS, EQUIPPING THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO EXPLORE, INVENT AND CREATE THEIR OWN WORKS OF ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN.

OUR CURRICULUM THIS TERM

KS1	Painting
LKS2	Printmaking
UKS2	Painting

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON?

In Early Years, the children have been busy building their own structures using white 3-D shapes. They correctly added eyes, ears, and tails to turn the bodies into animals and objects, and then used various out-objects to also been creating their own winter scenes. The children have also been exploring this year's space theme by painting landscapes, the children created interesting and wonderful landscapes with suns, rings, stars, glowing atmospheres. They have been learning about space and the planets, and talked about what life might be like on their new planets. A wonderfully creative way to bring our space topic to life.

ART NEWSLETTER
 ST BEDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING TERM 2026

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON?

Year 1 and 2 have been learning how to use paintbrushes like real artists! They explored different brushstrokes and practised careful rinsing and dabbing between colours. Inspired by picture books like *Where the Wild Things Are*, the children painted large curved strokes and experimented with dots, circles, and short lines.

They learned how to handle brushes gently, avoid scrubbing and reflect thoughtfully on the marks they made. A joyful start to our painting unit!

Year 3 and 4 have had a brilliant start to their painting unit. The children have explored experimental mark-making with rollers and point, trying out short and long rolls, stamping, using the roller edge, twisting, stretching, cross-hatching, and a roll-stop technique. They then reflected on how each method created different textures and effects, helping them think like artists and talk confidently about their work.

Year 5 and 6 have been exploring clay art through the vibrant style of Hundertwasser. Pupils used viewing techniques to look at the artist's landscapes, then recreated them using colours and strong black lines.

Year 5 and 6 have been exploring art inspired by Shackleton's *Secrets of a Sun King*. Learning about the artist's style, colour, line, and movement, collaborative pieces celebrate imagination.

ART NEWSLETTER
 ST BEDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING TERM 2026

ART AT HOME...

Looking for fun, colourful, and imaginative art projects to try at home? We've got you covered! Scan the QR code to unlock a treasure trove of Art Ninja-inspired activities—perfect for rainy afternoons, weekend creativity, or just when you're feeling arty. From recycled sculptures to animated flipbooks, there's something for every budding artist.

What You'll Find:

- Step-by-step videos and ideas from BBC Art Ninja
- Easy makes using everyday materials
- Creative challenges to spark your imagination
- Get creative with your scissors, glue, and ninja spirit—and get making!

We're always excited to see the creative things you've been working on at home. Feel free to bring your masterpieces into school, or share photos with us through the office email so we can celebrate your hard work. Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Oliver

JOIN OUR SCHOOL FAMILY AS A PAID LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR!

Do you have an hour to spare at lunchtime?

 INTERESTED? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU 01325 466411

Why you'll love this role:

- Short, manageable hours — just one hour a day!
- Flexible days — join us for as many days as you can commit to.
- A wonderful opportunity to feel part of school life.
- Spend time with children in a joyful, positive environment.
- Make a meaningful difference to their day.

What you'll be doing:

- Helping children enjoy their lunch safely.
- Supporting play, friendship, and positive behaviour.
- Being a friendly, familiar face that children can look up to.
- Working as part of a warm, supportive lunchtime team.

Who We're Hoping to Welcome



- Caring Nature
- Friendly smile
- Dependability

Retired? Semi-retired? A grandparent with time to spare? Someone who just loves being around children? You could be perfect!