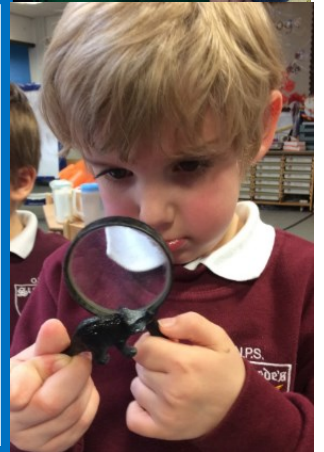




# St Bede's Catholic Primary School

Early Years Brochure  
2024-25



# Welcome to the St. Bede's Early Years Family

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your child to our St Bede's family. We will work tirelessly with you to ensure your child has an enjoyable and successful time with us. We want you to be involved with school life as much as possible to ensure your child's happiness, welfare and success.

This booklet is designed to give you some information with regard to the Early Years curriculum and also some general information about our school community.

*Yours sincerely*

*The Early Years Team*



## **ADMISSION OF PUPILS**

Our maximum admission number for Reception class is 45 and for Nursery is 26 children. In our nursery we offer 15 hours and 30 hours funded places. An application has to be made to the Local Authority for admission into St Bede's Catholic Primary School.

***Attendance at nursery does not guarantee admission to the school.***

CONTACTING SCHOOL

Tel: 01325 466411

Email: [admin@stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:admin@stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk)

## Checklist

- Please label all items of uniform including coats, hats, gloves and shoes.
- Please provide a pair of **wellies** to be kept in school at all times.



### **Reception:**

- Burgundy sweater/cardigan, white polo shirt, grey trousers/skirt/pinafore.
- PE kit is a white t-shirt, black shorts, leggings or joggers together with their school jumper or cardigan and black trainers. (Children wear their PE kit to school on PE day.)
- Please provide a change of clothes, even if your child is potty trained they can often need changing after outdoor play.
- Book bags should be brought to school each day.

### **Nursery**

- Blue sweater/cardigan and comfortable bottoms that your child can manage independently.

### **Reception:**



### **Nursery:**



## **Hours**

### **Nursery**

Morning Nursery – 8.40am until 11.40am (doors open at 11.30 for collection)

Afternoon Nursery 12.30pm until 3.30pm

All Day Nursery: 8.50am—2.50pm

Nursery offer flexible sessions and additional hours are available on request.

**Reception** 8.35am—3.00pm

## **Drop off and Home Time Policy**

We are responsible for ensuring the safety of each of your children in our care.

### **Drop off and Home Time:**

#### **Nursery:**

Nursery children are taken around the side of Reception Class and enter through their cloakroom. This is where they get collected too.

#### **Reception:**

Reception children enter through the green gate and first white door.

#### **Home Time:**

- The school staff must always know who is expected to collect your child
- Children should always be collected by a responsible adult who is known to school and to the child
- If it is necessary for any other adult to collect a child, staff must be informed and that person should provide identification if they are not already known to school staff
- A member of staff will supervise the door and children will only be given into the care of the known adult who is collecting them
- Children may not be collected by any other adult without the knowledge and permission of the parent/carer

## Snack Time

Every day, milk and water are put out at the snack table along with a selection of fresh fruit. Each child is able to come to the snack area throughout the session and help themselves to a drink and a piece of fruit.



## School Lunch

The government will fund schools in England to provide every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 with a hot, nutritious meal at lunch time. For Nursery children, school lunches are available on request and payable via the school's online payment system; MCAS, at £2.20 per day.

**Please let staff know if your child has any food allergies or special dietary requirements.**

## Breakfast Club

For Reception to Year 6, our school breakfast club is open from 7.45am until 8.30am, at the cost of £2.50 per day. Breakfast is served until 8.15am and consists of a selection of cereals, fruit and yoghurt and toast served throughout the week. There is also a selection of fresh fruit juices, milk and water for children to drink. If you would like your child to attend breakfast club please complete a registration form available from the office (it is a very popular service, so please apply as soon as possible).

Breakfast club is not available to children in our Nursery until after their first full term. If you would like your nursery child to be added to the waiting list please contact the school office for a form.

## The Early Years Curriculum

We understand your child is unique. Our teachers use the environment (both indoors and outdoors), their experience and their skills to help your child develop the characteristics of learning: playing and exploring; active learning; and creating and thinking critically. We plan our Early Years Curriculum around play. By using structured and unstructured activities, we encourage the development of crucial early learning skills and knowledge which will provide your child with a solid foundation to build on.

There are three prime areas which run through all other strands of our work. They are:

### The Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development



The specific areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas, and provide important contexts for learning.

### The Specific Areas:

- English (reading and writing)
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design





**Tapestry**

We produce an online 'Learning Journal' which records your child's learning and achievements during school. They represent both child-initiated activities and directed tasks. At the start of the year, we will ask you use your email address to send you a link. From this, you can download the Tapestry app and receive access to your child's learning journal which will be updated regularly with photos, videos and text.



## **Sharing your child's learning**

Tapestry gives you the opportunity to upload pictures/videos of what your child does at the weekend, what achievements they make and what learning they have done. For example, if your child's target is to identify numbers to 10, you may notice him or her using the remote control to change the channel correctly to channel 3. This is showing us that your child can recognise the number three independently. You will also be able to contribute life skills that are part of the Early Learning Goals (e.g. if they can fasten their coat correctly, use a knife and fork, use the toilet without help, write their name etc). We also love to hear about their achievements—Can they ride a bike? Do they attend dancing lessons? Do they know how to swim? We look forward to reading your contributions.



## **Special Educational Needs**

For children with additional needs, the staff work closely with the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator and in partnership with outside agencies such as Early Years Inclusion Support, health visitors and Speech Therapy.



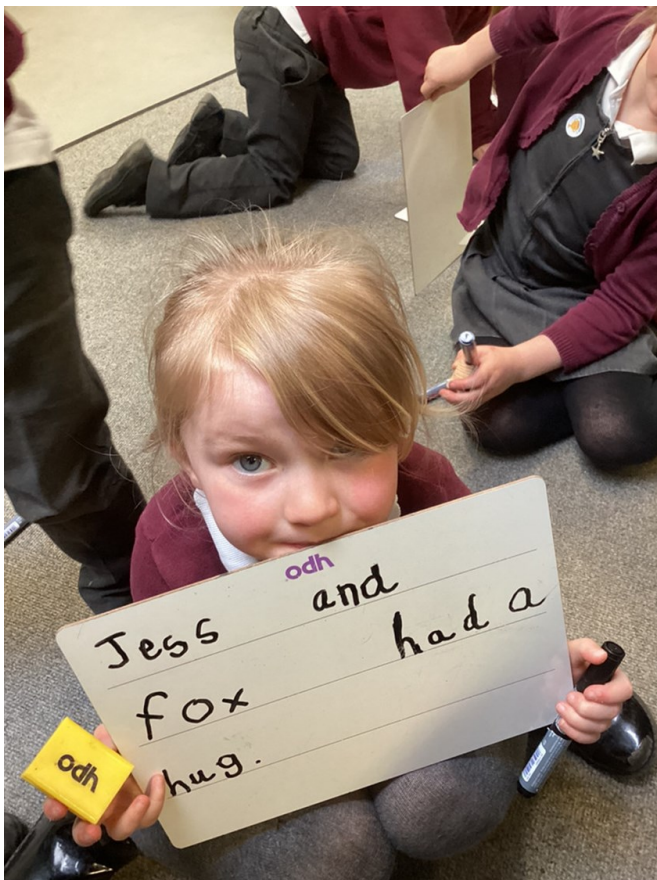
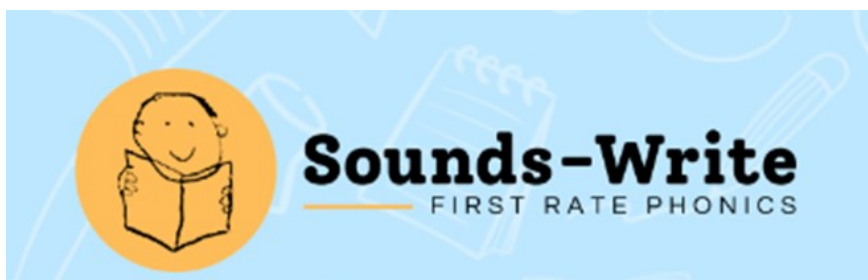
## Reading Books and Phonics

In Reception, your child will have daily phonics lessons following the Sounds Write scheme. Please practise the phonics sounds with your child frequently.

When your child is ready (this may take a few weeks), they will get a reading book. Please read with your child daily.

More information can be found here:

<https://sounds-write.co.uk/support-for-parents-and-carers/>



## Attendance

Good attendance is part of a winning combination that helps a child succeed. We want every child to succeed and have a **target of 95% attendance**. We need parents, especially parents of the under-5s to support this target.

Nursery attendance, and sometimes Reception attendance, is too often for individual children far less than 95% because some parents continue to believe that their child's absence doesn't matter and the children "only play!"

What we know is that it does matter – because poor attendance habits start in Nursery and Reception.

In the short time that they are in our Early Years setting, children who accumulate poor attendance are simply not here enough to fully access school life or to receive the full benefit of good teaching.

The cumulative effects of poor attendance mean that a child is on permanent 'catch up' and however conscientious their teacher, all efforts to help that child are undermined by the next absence because within days, that child is back on 'catch up' again through more missed time.

Confidence is soon lost when the child becomes old enough to realise that friends (with good attendance) are achieving more at a higher level. Academically-able children with poor attendance may do reasonably well but they do not achieve everything of which they would have been capable had their attendance been good. Less academically-able children with poor attendance, who might always have needed extra teaching time not less, are at a further disadvantage.

For many parents socialisation is one of the most important goals for sending their child to Nursery and that is why social skill development is one of our key priorities. Many of these skills are crucial in making and sustaining friendships.

Poor attendance may result in your child finding it difficult to become involved and form social relationships, regular attendance will ensure that all children have the greatest opportunity to develop these very important early skills and become lifelong learners.

Our target is 95% attendance from Nursery onwards – for us, it is not about whether a child is statutory school age or not – it’s about every child accessing their entitlement to a really good education, and building their learning year on year.

We complete ‘first-day calling’ even for Nursery children if your child is absent and we do not know why. The majority of parents ring us on the first day of their child’s absence and return them to school as quickly as possible. Of course, we understand about chicken pox and other infant ailments that must keep a child away from school, but “A day off!”, “Too tired!”, “Had a cough!” all accumulate. More information about when to keep your child home from school can be found on our website [www.stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/information/when-should-i-keep-my-child-off-school](http://www.stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/information/when-should-i-keep-my-child-off-school). Be kind but firm, and bring your child to school!

If you have a child ill at home, and you are struggling to get other siblings to school, please give us a call and we will try and help.

In this school, children are taught well and we care about their progress and well-being, but every child needs to have good attendance from Nursery onwards to get that full, winning combination.