

St Bede's Newsletter



Welcome to St Bede's...

Attendance up to 02/05/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
96.29	91.54	97.02	96.48	97.38	93.64	97.28	95.03	96.61

This week's events...

Tuesday 6th May

- Bikeability Y5/6 (5's only)
- Y6 SATS Booster 8am

Wednesday 7th May

- Y1/2 Class Assembly 9.15am
- Building confidence Y5's

Thursday 8th May

Y1 Care Home Visit

Coming soon...

Monday 12th May

KS2 SATS

Tuesday 13th May

- KS2 SATS
- Bikeability Y5/6 (5's only)

Wednesday 14th May

- KS2 SATS
- Building confidence Y5's

Thursday 15th May

KS2 SATS

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>



View our latest curriculum newsletters
<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/curriculum/subjects>

Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

Although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the "police" emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

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



The
National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Congratulations to Eibhlinn & William who made their First Holy Communion this weekend.

Your St Bedes family are so proud of you both. May this be the beginning of a beautiful and fulfilling life of faith.



National
Smile
Month



**Oral Health
Foundation**

National Smile Month

Between 12 May and 12 June 2025, the Oral Health Foundation will raise awareness of important oral health issues.

Join the nation's biggest oral health campaign and help bring a smile to millions of people.

This year the theme for National Smile Month is Feed Your Smile.