

# St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



Attendance up to 04/07/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
95.71	93.63	96.92	96.44	97.36	94.10	97.39	94.88	96.60

Coming soon...

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Class transition week

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Durham Police – Inclusion,  
Diversity and Equality assembly.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Pride of St Bede's Awards

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

End of term

## This week's events...

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

- Y6 Leavers Presentation & Talent Show
- LKS2 Trip to Gibside

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

- Thanksgiving Mass @ St Thomas 1.30pm
- EYFS Seaside Day

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Summer Fayre 3pm-4.30pm

We need parent helpers to walk to church with the children on Thursday. Please contact the school office if you are able to help



# Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**PEGI 18+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**PEGI 18 RATING**

Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

**IN-GAME PURCHASES**

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

**VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING**

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'social' tab.

**FRUSTRATION TRIGGER**

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

**LACK OF ACCESS**

The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

**GIVE IT A GO FIRST**

Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

**SET EXPECTATIONS**

At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

**CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES**

If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

**KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS**

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

**MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS**

Thanks to an in-game 'Ping' system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including iDn, TechRadar and many more.



## #WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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>



A vibrant summer fair poster with a light blue background. At the top, there are yellow and pink triangular bunting flags. Below them, a cluster of yellow and pink balloons is tied together. In the center, a large yellow rounded rectangle contains the text 'ST BEDE'S' in pink, 'SUMMER FAIR' in large white letters, and 'FRIDAY' in white letters on a pink banner. Below the banner, the date '11th July' and time '3PM-4.30PM' are written in pink. To the left of the central rectangle, the words 'CAKES' and 'TOMBOLAS' are written in pink. To the right, 'GAMES' and 'HOT DOGS' are written in pink. At the bottom of the central rectangle, there are three illustrations: a cupcake with yellow frosting and a strawberry, a smiling hot dog with arms and legs, and a pink teddy bear.

ST BEDE'S

# SUMMER FAIR

FRIDAY

11th July

3PM-4.30PM

CAKES

TOMBOLAS

GAMES

HOT DOGS

**WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT  
YOUR HELP!**

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DONATIONS**

**EYFS - TEDDIES    KS1 - BOTTLES**

**LKS2 - TOYS/GAMES**

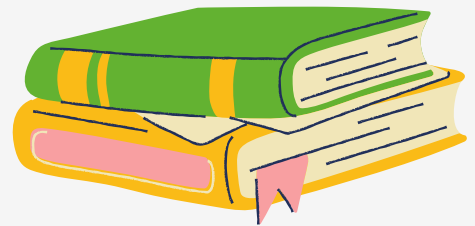
**UKS2 - SWEETS/CHOCOLATES**

**CAKE DONATIONS FROM ALL KEY STAGES PLEASE**



## CLASS TRANSITION WEEK

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> to Wed 16<sup>th</sup> July



Children will come in as normal on Monday to their ordinary classes. They will go to Celebration of the word with their current class and current teacher and leave the hall with their new class & teacher.

On transition days please collect your child from their new class pickup as below

EYFS – Early Years  
Courtyard

KS1 and LKS2 (Y1–Y4)  
Upper playground

UKS2 (Y5, 5/6, 6)  
Lower playground

