

St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



Attendance up to 24/01/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
96.03	93.70	96.72	95.86	97.91	92.85	97.12	93.96	96.21

This Week's Events

Thursday 30th Jan
Y5/6 Walking to church

Coming soon...

Tuesday 4th Feb
Reception and Y1 School
Nurse - Dental Hygiene
Thursday 6th Feb
Y3 class care home visit
Friday 7th Feb
Y6 Puberty talk School
Nursing team visit



Don't forget to book your tickets for the Valetine's disco via MCAS



Farewell and best wishes to Mrs Lamb who leaves us this week to have her baby.

Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the Internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself, from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are Internet-enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

CENSORED

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.



CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.



SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.



CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.



Celebrating Excellence in Education!

BHCET proudly announced that it is home to several of the top performing schools in Darlington, including St Bede's!

These exceptional schools are dedicated to fostering academic achievement, creativity, and personal growth. Join us in celebrating our dedicated educators and inspiring students who continue to shine brightly in our community!



A Proud Member of
**BISHOP
HOGARTH**
Catholic Education Trust

We have some of the **TOP PERFORMING** *Primary Schools in Darlington!*

for pupils achievement in Key Stage 2 SATs results 2024



*84% of students achieved the expected standard in Maths.



*1ST In Darlington for Reading, Writing and Maths Combined.



*91% of students achieved the expected standard in Reading.



*86% of students achieved the expected standard in Reading.