

NEWSLETTER

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, South Shields

Thursday 5th September, 2026



Welcome Back to a New School Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our children, families and staff as we begin another exciting school year at St. Bede's Catholic Primary School.

I hope you all enjoyed a happy and restful summer break and had the opportunity to spend precious time with family and friends. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school this week and see our classrooms once again filled with smiles, laughter and enthusiasm for learning.



**With Christ at our side to guide us,
we shine in all that we do.**

A Fantastic Start

I would like to say how incredibly proud we are of the children. They have settled exceptionally well into their new classes and have embraced the opportunities and routines of a new school year with confidence and enthusiasm.

Moving to a new class, meeting new teachers and support staff, and establishing new routines can sometimes feel daunting, but the children have risen to the challenge brilliantly. Staff have commented on the children's positive attitudes, excellent behaviour and eagerness to learn. It has been lovely to walk around school and see such happy, engaged learners already working hard and enjoying their time with their new classmates and teachers.

Thank You

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support in helping the children return to school so positively.

The children have come back looking incredibly smart in their school uniforms and taking great pride in their appearance. High standards in presentation help to create a positive learning environment and reinforce our sense of belonging to the St. Bede's family. We are very grateful for your continued support in upholding these expectations.



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A Special Welcome to Our New Families

We would also like to extend an especially warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined our school community this year, particularly those whose children have started in our Nursery and Reception classes.

Starting school is such a significant milestone, filled with excitement, anticipation and sometimes a few nervous moments too. We recognise the trust that families place in us when choosing a school for their child, and we are truly grateful that you have chosen St. Bede's to be part of your child's educational journey.

It has been a joy to welcome our newest learners into school and to see them already beginning to settle into their new surroundings, make new friends and explore the many opportunities that school life brings. We feel both excited and privileged to play a part in these important early years and to support each child as they grow in confidence, faith, knowledge and independence.

At St. Bede's, we pride ourselves on knowing every child as an individual and nurturing them to become the very best version of themselves. We look forward to working closely with parents and carers over the coming years and sharing in the many wonderful achievements, milestones and memories that lie ahead.

On behalf of all the staff and children, welcome to the St. Bede's family. We are delighted that you are here.



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Your Child's Learning Journey

Come and discover what's ahead for your child in their new class.

We would love for you to join us for our Year Group Parent information meetings, where teachers will share key learning themes, expectations, and ways you can support your child at home. All meetings will be held in the relevant classrooms and will begin after pick up at 3.15pm.

Reception (Mrs McVittie) – Wednesday 7th October
Year 1 (Mrs McHugh) – Thursday 24th September
Year 2 (Miss Dixon) – Wednesday 23rd September
Year 3 (Mrs Usher) – Wednesday 23rd September
Year 4 (Mr Maratty) – Thursday 17th September
Year 5 (Mrs Davis) – Tuesday 22nd September
Year 6 (Mr McVittie) Thursday 24th September

Arrangements

To ensure the safety of all children, on the evening of your child's year group meeting, staff will bring the class out to the yard as usual at home time. This is just in case any children are being picked up straight away.

After a few minutes, the children (and any siblings they have in school) will be taken back into school and looked after by staff while the meeting takes place. You will be directed to the correct place to collect your child once the meeting has finished.

Thank you for your support – we hope these arrangements make it easier for you to attend! If you are unsure of what to do on the day, please just ask a member of staff who will be happy to help you.



Attending More Than One Meeting?

If you have children in different year groups and their Curriculum Meetings are scheduled at the same time, please don't worry. Just have a quick word with Mrs. Devine, and she'll be happy to advise you on the best way to manage this.

We'll do everything we can to make sure you don't miss out!

PE Days – Autumn Term

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit (plain white t-shirt and blue shorts or navy/black jogging bottoms) on the following days:

Class	PE Day 1	PE Day 2
Reception	Monday	Wednesday
Year 1	Monday	Friday
Year 2	Tuesday	Friday
Year 3	Tuesday	Friday
Year 4	Tuesday	Friday (swimming)
Year 5	Wednesday	Friday
Year 6	Monday	Tuesday



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Welcome to New Members of Staff

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to our St. Bede's community this year.

Please join me in extending a warm St. Bede's welcome to:

Mr Gordon Veitch, our new Caretaker



Miss Heidi Wharff, Support Staff Member



Mr Jack Gray, Support Staff Member



We are very pleased to have them as part of our team and know they will make a valuable contribution to school life. We wish them every happiness and success as they begin their journey with us.

First Holy Communion Information Meeting

For parents and carers of children in Years 4, 5 and 6, there will be an information meeting in school on:

Thursday 1st October at 5.30pm

This meeting is for families who are interested in their child making their First Holy Communion during this academic year.

The meeting will provide information about the preparation programme, commitment required and next steps for enrolment. Further details regarding the time of the meeting will be sent home shortly.

Looking Ahead

There is already much to look forward to this term, with exciting learning experiences, liturgies, celebrations, educational visits and opportunities for families to come together as part of our wonderful school community.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support and partnership. Together, we ensure that our children are happy, safe and able to flourish in all that they do.

Guided by our mission:

"With Christ at our side to guide us, we shine in all that we do."

I look forward to working with you throughout the year and celebrating the many successes and achievements that lie ahead.

With every good wish,
Mrs Carol Devine



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Wraparound Care – A Warm Welcome Awaits!

As we begin a brand new school year, we would like to remind you about our Wraparound Care service – a safe, happy, and supportive space where children can start and end their day with a smile.



Early Bird Breakfast Club

7:30am – 8:15am (£3.00 per session)

Children can enjoy a healthy breakfast and a calm, friendly start to the day.



Free Breakfast Club from 8:15am

Thanks to funding from the Department for Education, we're pleased to offer a free breakfast club for all pupils from 8:15am, helping families with busy mornings and ensuring every child is ready to learn.



After School Club

Until 5:45pm

Our after-school sessions are full of fun! With games, crafts, outdoor play, and time to relax with friends, it's a great way for children to unwind and enjoy themselves in a caring environment.

Whether you need regular childcare or just the occasional session, we're here to support you. Places are filling up quickly, so if you'd like to register or find out more, please contact the school office or visit our website.

We'd love to welcome your child into our wraparound family!



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Next Steps

To stay informed and engaged with school activities, please:

Check our school website regularly for updates and announcements.

<https://stbedessouthshields.co.uk/>

Ensure your contact information is up to date with the school office.

Join us for the upcoming curriculum information meetings to find out how you can best support your child this year.

Working in Partnership

We strongly believe in working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. Your involvement and support are crucial, and we encourage you to engage with us regularly.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help and support you and your child throughout the school year.

School office: 0191 456 0108 or email at info@stbedessouthshields.co.uk

Safeguarding.

Our safeguarding team in school are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Carol Devine – Headteacher

cdevine@stbedessouthshields.co.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mr Paul Charlton – Deputy Headteacher / SENDCO

Just a reminder that you can access our safeguarding policies on the school website in the Key Information section. (Safeguarding Policies) If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of our safeguarding leads in school to share your concern.



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Dates for the Term

September

Tues 1	INSET	Tues 15	No More Sleeping - Full rehearsal at Beacon of Light - Choir (9.00am - 3.00pm) Y5 Library visit - The Word
Wed 2	Children back to school	Wed 16	
Thurs 3		Thurs 17	New school year Mass at St. Bede's Church (Y1 - Y6) - 10.00am Families welcome to join us Year 4 - Parent information meeting - 3.15pm
Fri 4		Fri 18	
Sat 5		Sat 19	
Sun 6		Sun 20	
Mon 7	No More Sleeping Rehearsal - Choir	Mon 21	No More Sleeping - Full rehearsal at Beacon of Light - Choir (9.00am - 3.00pm)
Tues 8	Y6 Library visit - The Word	Tues 22	Y4 Library visit - The Word Year 5 - Curriculum information meeting for parents
Wed 9		Wed 23	No More Sleeping - Event Day at City Hall - Choir (9.30am - 9.30pm) Year 2 - Curriculum information meeting for parents Year 3 - Curriculum information meeting for parents
Thurs 10		Thurs 24	District Cross Country Championships (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Cross Country Team) 12.00pm - 3.20pm Year 1 - Curriculum information meeting for parents Year 6 - Curriculum information meeting for parents
Fri 11		Fri 25	Y6 Regional Basketball Finals at Vertu Arena - Basketball A team 2.00pm
Sat 12		Sat 26	
Sun 13		Sun 27	
Mon 14		Mon 28	Year 4 residential to Youth Village
		Tues 29	Year 4 residential to Youth Village
		Wed 30	Year 4 residential to Youth Village (Children will be back by home time)

Dates for the Term

October

Thurs 1	5.30pm - meeting in school for parents of children in Y4, Y5 or Y6 who are interested in their child making their first holy communion this academic year.
Fri 2	
Sat 3	
Sun 4	
Mon 5	
Tues 6	Y2 Library visit - The Word
Wed 7	Parent meeting for children going to Robin Wood - 2.50pm Reception - Curriculum information meeting for parents - 3.30pm
Thurs 8	
Fri 9	
Sat 10	
Sun 11	
Mon 12	Assessment Period in school begins Robin Wood Residential (Y5 & Y6 pupils) Scholastic Book Fair in School
Tues 13	Robin Wood Residential (Y5 & Y6 pupils) Y1 Library visit - The Word tic Book Fair in School Scholastic Book Fair in School
Wed 14	Robin Wood Residential (Y5 & Y6 pupils) Scholastic Book Fair in School

Thurs 15	
Fri 16	
Sat 17	
Sun 18	
Mon 19	
Tues 20	Rec Library visit - The Word
Wed 21	Y5 Dodgeball Festival (Whole Class) Temple Park (9.00am - 12.00pm) Flu immunisation
Thurs 22	
Fri 23	End of assessment period Break up for half term at 3.15pm