

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our end of January update!

Reminders:

Coffee morning

Thank you to those parents who regularly attend our weekly coffee morning on Friday at the start of the school day – if you have not popped in yet, please feel welcome to join in. It is a lovely opportunity to take time out, make new friends and chat about anything that you want to share. Mrs Howell, our Parent Support Advisor, is always on hand if you have any queries.

The coffee morning is also an opportunity for us to arrange for speakers to come along if there are areas that you would like some further support. So far this year, Jill Sandeman, our Educational Psychologist, has delivered a session on managing worry and anxiety and a session on supporting better sleep.

Please let us know if there is an area / topic that you are interested in and we will try to get someone to come along.

Credit Union

As of next Wednesday, Mrs Howell will be located in the library for Credit Union deposits.

Moneywise Credit Union still operates in school every Wednesday morning between 8.30-8.50am.

Moneywise Credit union is a financial scheme that we run in school to allow children (and parents) to have a savings account.

A credit union is a financial co-operative which provides savings, loans and a range of services to its members. It is owned and controlled by the members and money saved in a credit union is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Any pupil and family members can sign up for an account. Many of our pupils already have accounts set up – these can be activated again if they have not been used for a while. If you have lost or misplaced your savings book, these can be re-issued.

There is currently an incentive for **opening a new account** (children and parents). Children who open an account and save £1 per week for 10 weeks will have their account credited with £10. Adults who open an account and save £25 over 3 months will have £25 credited to their account

Please contact Mrs Howell if you need any information, have any questions or want to open an account. It's a great way to teach children about the importance and benefits of saving and develop good money habits.

Uniform

At St Bede's we operate a uniform recycling scheme to support parents. We have good quality second-hand uniform should your child need any spare cardigans or jumpers. We are currently low on age **5-6 and 7-8 jumpers**. If you have any school jumpers, **in these sizes only**, please could you donate to school if they are no longer needed

Attendance

Just a polite reminder that attendance at school every day is very important. Regularly missing school can have a significant impact on your child's learning and their ability to succeed in the future. Government data shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils (Y6) who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across Y3 – Y6.

Our attendance target as a school is 97%. Current school attendance this year is 94.8%. Each week we celebrate the attendance of the highest three classes in our Celebration Assembly.

We celebrated 58 children achieving 100% in the Autumn Term (28%) and an additional 57 children achieving 97%+ (27.7%) – this is great news as it means that over half of our children are currently in the green zone for attendance.

We continue to work with a number of families where children's attendance falls into the red zone (below 90%).

If you have any concerns regarding attendance, or need any further support, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Howell.

Parking around school

Can I politely remind parents and carers to be considerate when parking in the neighbouring streets around school. I regularly have complaints from neighbours with regard to our parents preventing them from parking outside their own homes, accessing driveways or restricting access for larger vehicles by blocking roads. More concerningly, I have had numerous reports this academic year from residents of our parents being verbally abusive when asked to move their car to allow residents access.

Please can we remain thoughtful and considerate when parking to drop off or collect our children and do so in a safe manner, this may mean parking a little further away from the school gates however ultimately it will be safer for everyone.

Food bank

The Mini-Vinnies have continued with their food bank collection in school. Any donations of dried or tinned food are always very welcome and are always given to the local foodbank or asylum seekers project through the Parish Justice and Peace group.

School News:

Staff Update

Mrs Morris welcomed her baby boy at the start of the term, both Mum and baby are doing well.

Jubilee Year

In January, we launched the Jubilee Year, a special year assigned by Pope Francis and dedicated to working together as 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The logo shows 4 stylised people holding onto each other and holding onto the cross and represents unity, with people from the four 'corners' of the world coming together with faith as their stronghold and anchor.



All year we will be taking part in learning and activities which help us to develop our understanding of being 'pilgrims of hope' in our world.

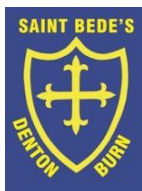
National Online Safety Week

Next week is National Online Safety Week so we will be increasing our focus on staying safe online. Online safety is an area which we cover continually in school and safe and appropriate use of social media and online platforms is one of our key learning areas. You will be aware from previous communication, that the use of social media and online platforms outside of school is the biggest cause of parental concerns which come to my attention and the biggest cause of pupil upset in school – particularly with the older year groups.

The majority of social media platforms and online games are not intended for primary school children however that is a matter for individual parents. If you do choose to allow your child access to online materials which are intended for an older audience, can you please ensure that you monitor what they are viewing, joining in with and the conversations which they are having. This includes social media chat groups like Whatsapp which has a minimum age range of 13 years. Even conversations between groups of friends who know each other in the 'real world' can cause issues within school as we often have reports of inappropriate language being used and some very inappropriate name calling.

EYFS 100 days

Today we celebrated our reception children's 100 day in school. To celebrate the children (and staff) came to school dressed as 100 years olds! See our school Facebook page for pictures.



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Y5 Stay, Pray and Play

Thank you to all of those parents who joined their children in Year 5's Stay, Pray and Play session this week. It is lovely to work alongside your children and it is a great way to engage in their school experience.

Forthcoming Events and Information:

Swimming

Swimming lessons will continue next term for Year 3 (running until Easter)

Y4 Stay, Pray and Play

Year 4 parents and carers will have already received information regarding the class Stay, Pray and Play which will be taking place next week on 13th February. All Year 4 parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Pink and Red Day

On Friday 14th February, children are invited to attend school in red or pink items of clothing.

Valentine's Disco

On Friday 14th February, the PTA have organised a disco after school, 3.30pm – 4.30pm for EYFS / KS1 and then 4.45pm – 5.45pm for KS2. Tickets are available through our PTA. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please send in any slips and monies in a labelled envelope to the office and we will forward them to the PTA.

Bikeability

Year 4 Bikeability will be taking place on Friday 21st February as planned.

Year 5 Bikeability has unfortunately had to be postponed until a later date (further information to follow once new date confirmed)

World Book Day

World Book Day is fast approaching! As a school we will be celebrating World Book Day through a variety of reading-based activities throughout the day. Children will be invited to dress up on the day as either a book character or a word (further information to follow).

We break up for half term at the end of the school day on Friday 21st February and return to school on Monday 3rd March.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or clarification about any item in this newsletter.

Kind regards
Mrs Young