



May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reminder:

School is closed from the end of the day on Wednesday 24th May until Tuesday 6th June (there are three training days for staff on Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Monday 5th June)

Attendance Update:

As you will be aware, our school target for attendance is 97%, currently our school attendance figure stands at 94%.

In line with Government guidance, we are closely monitoring attendance of individual pupils and we award termly prizes for those children who have attendance of 97%+, as well as awarding the attendance trophy each week to the class with the best attendance.

We also monitor low attendance and try to engage with parents to try to improve attendance. If your child's attendance is below 93% you will be part of our AStar Attendance monitoring programme.

Fact: Attendance of 93% means that your child has missed approximately 14 days of school which equates to missing about 70 lessons – lessons that cannot be retaught and knowledge that is lost.

In the Spring Term, we celebrated high attendance. There were 107 children (approximately 50% of our school) who had attendance of 97% or more. Of this 107, there were 59 children (approximately 28% of our school) who had 100% attendance and had not missed a day of school between January and the Easter break.

There are currently 19 children (approximately 9% of our school) who have had 100% attendance and not missed a day of school from September to the current date.

Safeguarding: Social media and online games – messages and group chats

A polite (and regular) reminder that parents must be vigilant in helping to keep their children safe on line and teach them how to safely use technology. As a school, we regularly receive concerns from parents regarding mobile phone use outside of school and whilst the behaviour is taking place at home, we do experience a knock-on effect in school as online arguments or unkindness can spill into the classroom or playground.

Last year we sent out some information about the National Online Safety Platform (free access through our school subscription).

The available resources include Parents & Carers courses (presented by Myleene Klass), online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

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| • Online Relationships | • Fake Profiles & Social Bots |
| • Online Bullying | • Online Grooming |
| • Child Sexual Exploitation | • Sexual Harassment & Violence |
| • Sexting | • Live Streaming |
| • Online Identity | • Screen Addiction |
| • Online Challenges | • Overspending |
| • Social Media Platforms | • Online Gambling |
| • Radicalisation, Terrorism & Extremism | • Age Inappropriate Content |
| • Copyright & Ownership | • Hacking |

- Fake News
- Online Reputation
- Pornography
- The Dark Web
- Online Fraud
- Personal Data
- Targeted Adverts & Pop-Ups
- Games & Trends

To create your account, please follow

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/st-bede-s-rc-primary-school-1>

and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device- including via our brand-new smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>

Alternatively, search for 'National Online Safety' in the App Store/Google Play Store.

Answers to frequently asked questions and customer service can be accessed at <https://helpdesk.thenationalcollege.co.uk/helpcentre>.

Reading book Amnesty:

Can I politely ask you to have a look around at home as we seem to be missing quite a few school reading books – please can you return any collections which you have as soon as possible.

Early collections:

We have a large number of children who are regularly collected early via the school office. Can I please ask that this only happens in the case of a hospital medical appointment (not a normal Drs appointment or dental appointment as these should be made outside of school hours) or in the case of an emergency, and the office staff must have been made aware prior to any collection.

NHS medical advice:

We have had a number of parents contacting the school office for medical advice. Can I signpost you in the direction of some very handy NHS help in the form of the NHS 'The Little Orange Book'

<https://newcastlegatesheadccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/08/Little-Orange-Book.pdf>

Outstanding monies:

If you have any outstanding payments to school can you please settle them as soon as possible as we are coming to the end of the academic year. If you have any queries regarding this, can you please contact the school office.

May Mass:

On Wednesday, we will be leading a Parish Mass linked to the 'Crowning of Mary'. Historically, during this Mass children brought flowers to school however this year we are asking that children do not bring flowers and school will provide any flowers required for the crowning. As it is a whole school Mass, Parishioners and parents are very welcome however there will be limited space for parents. Mass is at 10.00am. As it is the Feast of St Bede, the children will also be receiving an ice-lolly to celebrate our feast day and a bookmark from the PTA.



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PTA Update:

Thank you to the PTA for their continued support towards school. They recently held a quiz night to complement their regular bingo nights. All monies that are raised in such events go straight back to the children and help to support the activities which take place in school, including helping to contribute towards the cost of end of year visits to help to reduce costs to parents.

Forthcoming events:

16th June – Someone Special Stall

23rd June – Bingo Night

7th July – Family Fun event

Year 3 swimming:

Year 3 will be going swimming on a Friday morning during the last half term. Additional information has been provided to parents.

School photographs:

The photographer is coming to school on Monday 19th June. The children who have made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th June will be given the opportunity to have a photograph taken in their First Holy Communion outfit (information will be provided for these parents). The photographer will also be taking individual photographs of the rest of the children throughout school (further information to follow).

End of term visits

27th June – Year 6 visit to Whickham Thorns

6th July – Year 1 visit to Whitehouse Farm

13th July – Year 3 visit to Whitehouse Farm

18th July – Year 2 visit to Bamburgh

19th July – EYFS visit to Adventure Valley

20th July – Y4 and Year 5 visit to Adventure Valley

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you require any further information.
Have a great break when it arrives.

Kind regards
Mrs Young