

St Bede's Catholic Primary School

Howlett Hall Road, Denton Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7HS

Telephone: 0191 2743430

Email: office@stbeeps.co.uk

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Headteacher: Mrs L Young

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Watanabe



6th December 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

The Christmas festivities are upon us and school is a very busy place. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the term and wish you a happy and holy Christmas once it arrives.

School News

Tiny Lives fundraiser:

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our recent 'Tiny Lives' fundraiser. Many of our children have directly benefitted from the wonderful work that the organisation does and it is a lovely way for us all to say thank you for all of the great work that they do. Louise, from 'Tiny Lives' came into school and worked with all classes, explaining the life-saving work that goes on before our pupils completed a sponsored event. Thanks to you all, we raised an amazing £1557.15 which will help more premature babies to be cared for.

Choir:

On Tuesday 26th November, our school choir joined other schools from Newcastle in a singing event at St Nicholas' Cathedral. Thank you to Mrs Armstrong who leads our choir and all of the children who sang beautifully and represented our school well.

Year 5 Carol Service:

On Wednesday 4th December, our Year 5 class joined all of the Year 5 pupils from the Newcastle Catholic schools in a joint carol service at St Mary's Cathedral. It was a lovely occasion and our pupils represented our school very well.

Christmas Lunch:

Thank you to all of those parents who were able to join us for Christmas lunch this week. As usual, it was a lovely event and a really lovely way to start our school Christmas celebrations. Photographs will be shared on our school Facebook page.

Safeguarding:

Following on from the work completed in school linked to National Road Safety, we recently spoke to all of the children about the importance of keeping safe outside on dark evenings. We shared general information about staying safe and the importance of an adult always knowing where you were but we also spoke to them about staying safe by being seen. We shared information about wearing bright or reflective items of clothing to help us to be seen on dark night by drivers and distributed small reflective badges, which were given as a gift from a local company.

As we approach the holiday season, can I respectfully remind parents of the importance of monitoring children's online activities to ensure that they are always acting safely and responsibly when online and also that they are kept safe from any of the online dangers that we are aware of.

Attendance Update:

As you will be aware, our school target for attendance is 97%. The Local Authority are really focusing on attendance as Newcastle schools have quite poor attendance rates compared to their neighbours.

Termly update (attendance for each class from September to current day)

Reception: 92.3%

Year 1: 96.7%

Year 2: 96.2%

Year 3: 96.2%

Year 4: 94.2%

Year 5: 93.8%

Year 6: 95.4%

Whole school attendance to current date: 95.4%

I appreciate that there have been a lot of quite nasty illnesses this term.

Staffing Updates

Mrs Morris will be leaving us at the end of this half term as she starts her maternity leave. We wish Mrs Morris and her family well and look forward to the safe arrival of her new little one at the end of December.

Miss Trow will be taking over as Year 4 class teacher whilst Mrs Morris is on maternity leave. Many of you will already know Miss Trow as she worked with us for a few years before leaving to complete her teacher training. Miss Trow knows the school and the children well, having worked in Year 3 last year during her training, and has been working alongside Mrs Morris this half term to aid with a smooth transition for the children. Mrs Cook will remain as the classroom support, again assisting with a smooth transition for the children.

Miss Young will be joining our school office team for two terms whilst Miss Cummings is on maternity leave.

Miss Whitehead Joel will be joining the staff as a classroom teaching assistant initially for two terms to provide classroom support and intervention support for Year 5.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Performances:

Year 2: 2.00pm on Tuesday 10th December (parents to be seated in the school hall by 1.55pm)

Reception: 2.30pm on Wednesday 11th December in St Bede's Church (parents to be seated in Church by 2.25pm)

Year 1: 1.30pm on Thursday 12th December in St Bede's Church (parents to be seated in Church by 1.25pm).

All of the children have been working really hard in preparation and I am sure that they will be lovely events for us all to share.

KS2 Carol Service:

On Wednesday 11th December, we will be holding our annual KS2 Carol Service in St Bede's Church at 5.00pm. We would love to have as many children from Year 3 – Year 6 coming along with their families to share in the service. Our choir and our singing club will also be performing one of their songs.

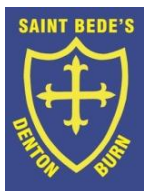
The children have been practicing very hard for the performance in their weekly music lesson and the singing is beautiful! Please try to come along and support us with this event, it is a lovely way to gather together to celebrate Christmas as one big St Bede's family. All are welcome!

Christmas Jumper Day:

On Friday 13th December, with a Christmas Jumper Day. Any contributions towards Save the Children will be gratefully received.

Christmas Raffle:

The Christmas raffle will be drawn on Monday 16th December – please send in any further donations of red, green, gold or silver gifts to add to the prize hampers before Friday 13th December. If you require any additional raffle tickets please contact your child's class teacher or the office.



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Christmas Party Days:

Monday 16th December: Year 3 and Year 4

Tuesday 17th December: Year 1 and Year 5

Wednesday 18th December: Reception and Year 6

Friday 20th December: Year 2

Children to come dressed in their party / own clothes and bring along a small plate of wrapped party food (please ask your child's class teacher if you require any further information).

Additional information

I have had a few parents who have been enquiring about childminders in the area. If you are a registered child-minder or know someone who is, could you please contact the school office to share contact details.

Parent feedback is always helpful and nice to receive, please could you complete the quick end of term parent survey that we will be sending out electronically next week.

Uniform reminder:

Polite reminder that children need to be wearing the correct uniform for school, this includes black school shoes and school jumpers. Can I remind parents that there is no jewellery allowed in school for safeguarding reasons and no nail varnish or make-up.

PTA Events

Christmas Market:

The PTA are hosting a Christmas Market in the school hall on Thursday 12th December from 3.00pm – 6.00pm. Please come along with your children to support the PTA. This is the first time that they have organised a Christmas Market and I am sure, that with all of your help, it will be a great success.

PJ and Movie Day:

On Thursday 19th December the children can come to school dressed in their pyjamas and enjoy a relaxing, classroom day including a Christmas movie. The PTA will be supplying the children with cookies and a drink.

PJ Christmas Disco:

On Thursday 19th December, the PTA have organised a Christmas disco for Reception / KS1 at 2.00pm – 3.00pm and for KS2 at 3.20pm – 4.20pm (KS2 children will go straight from their classes to the disco, if they are attending).

We look forward to all of the festivities in school over the next couple of weeks, and look forward to sharing them with you. On behalf of all of the staff and governors, I wish you all a happy Christmas when it arrives.

If you have any questions with regard to any of the information shared in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact either myself, Mrs Watanabe or the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs Young