Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our school newsletter for the end of our first month of the new academic year.

**Staffing Update:**

Miss McNally gave birth to a little girl last week – we wish her congratulations on behalf of our whole school family.

**Genes for Jeans Fundraiser:**

We recently held a ‘dress down’ day to support the ‘Jeans for Genes’, helping a charity which supports individuals and families who suffer from genetic disorders. Thank you to all those who gave a voluntary donation. We raised £143.60.

**Curriculum evening:**

Thank you to those parents who attended the curriculum evening last week. Sadly, some of the sessions were not very well attended.

Curriculum evenings are a very important opportunity to find out all of the key information that will help us to work with you to help your child to achieve their full potential this year. I appreciate that some parents would have been unable to attend due to work commitments - thank you to those parents who contacted school, prior to the sessions, to explain their struggles to attend.

When scheduling such an event, it is very difficult to accommodate all personal circumstances as some parents prefer an early meeting to fit in with their personal / family commitments whilst others prefer a later meeting to accommodate theirs. If you have any suggestions as to how we can adapt this session to try to engage more parents, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Copies of materials that were shared during the session will be shared with parents this week.

**MacMillan coffee morning success!**

Many thanks to everyone who helped to organise and those who supported the event, either through cake donations or through attendance. Together we raised over £300 for this wonderful charity which supports families through some very difficult times. The event proved very successful, with lots of parents / grandparents attending with their children / grandchildren.

**RSE/ PSHE consultation:**

Each year we consult with parents to share information regarding our Relationships and Sex Education / Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum. The consultation letter with linked resources will be shared with parents next week.

**Home and School Agreement:**

Each year, we send home a reminder of the home and school agreement that we each sign when your child starts our school. The agreement sets out what you can expect from us as a school and, in turn, what we expect from you as parents who support our school. Once a child reaches Year 3 the agreement is re-issued for the child themselves

This week, staff are reviewing the pupil section and the school section of the Home School Agreement in class as a reminder of the expectations.  We will soon be sending home a new contract with EYFS children, as new members of our school community, for parents to read, sign and return.  We will also be sending home a copy of the Home School Agreement with our Year 3 children for them to read (with you), sign and return.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents of their agreement to school and our agreement to you and your child(ren):

**Home School Agreement: Parents / Carers**

* Ensure that my / our child **attends school every day**, **is punctual and is collected on time**
* Ensure that my / our child **is dressed in correct uniform** (labelled) and **sensible black school shoes**
* **Contact school on the first morning that my / our child is** absent and provide updates when necessary
* Keep the school informed with **up-to-date contact details** e.g. address, telephone number and emergency contact numbers
* **Inform the school if there are any factors that may affect my / our child’s work or behaviour**
* **Support the school’s policies and guidelines for behaviour**
* **Support my / our child with work at home and other opportunities for home learning**
* **Encourage my / our child to read by providing opportunities for him / her to read to someone and ensure that someone reads with him / her**
* **Attend parent’s meetings to support my / our child and his / her progress**
* **Endeavour not to arrange holidays during school time,** particularly during key assessment times e.g. phonics screener, End of Key Stage SATs
* **Support all staff in their efforts to create a caring community which values children**

**Home School Agreement:  School Agreement**

* Support and work with parents to meet the needs of their children
* Create a warm, stimulating environment based on Christian values, where child and family feel accepted and secure
* Offer parents / carers opportunities to become involved in school life
* Offer a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum, which addresses the children’s emotional, spiritual, physical, social and academic development
* Encourage children to reach their full potential and be the best that they can be
* Keep parents informed about general school matters and in particular about the progress of their child
* Provide opportunities for Parent’s Evenings and produce written reports to inform parents of their child’s attainment, progress and involvement
* Let parents / carers know if we have any concerns about a child academically, socially, emotionally or with regards to behaviour
* Take children to our parish church to be involved in parish and school masses and encourage children to make prayer an integral part of their daily lives
* Help children to develop a good self-image to enable them to become confident, well-balanced and caring individuals
* Contact parents as soon as possible in case of emergencies

**Safeguarding reminder:**

Can I politely remind parents that if children are bringing grapes to school as part of their packed lunch, breaktime snack or pre-club snack, that they **must** be cut in half to prevent a choking hazard.

**Forthcoming events:**

**CAFOD Family Fast and Harvest Festival**

In October we reflect on one of our Catholic Social Teaching principles and consider our option to support those less fortunate than ourselves. This year, our Mini Vinnie group have decided to collect throughout October and to run two separate collections:

Firstly, they would like us to collect money to send to CAFOD to support overseas development - this will be a collection of ‘change’ (1p, 2p, 5p, 10p and 20p coins) each class will have a recycled Pringles tube and a challenge to see which class can fill it!

Secondly, they would like to continue our harvest festival tradition of collecting tinned and dried food to help to create small food parcels to be given to the elderly of the Parish and provide food for the People’s Kitchen and local food bank.

Wednesday, 1st October, marks the first day of our collections which will run throughout October. Please give generously to support those in need.

We will end our Appeal with a closing Harvest Festival Mass lead by Year 5 on Wednesday 22nd October.

**Year 6 and EYFS Welcome liturgy**

On Wednesday 1st October at 2.30pm, our Year 6 class will be leading a welcome prayerful gathering for our new EYFS children. Parents, and family members, of both EYFS and Year 6 are invited to attend.

**Year 4 Stay, Pray and Play**

On Thursday 2nd October, Year 4 are leading our first ‘Stay, Pray and Play’ of the year. Year 4 parents and family are invited to come along and share this lovely family time.

**House team afternoon**

As you will be aware, our school mission statement is ‘As One, we learn together, play together, pray together, As One’. We see ourselves as one big family here at St Bede’s who, though we are many, work together in unity. Each year we revisit our mission statement with the children to consider what it means to them and they are very clear that they understand it to mean that we are united together, and that together we are stronger than when we are apart. They understand that we each have gifts and talents and that we should use these for the good of each other.

Part of this unity is reflected through our house team system whereby children from Year 1 through to Year 6 are all part of four house teams - St Aidan’s, St Cuthbert’s, St Hilda’s and St Margaret’s. Each house team is a mixture of children from Year 1 to Year 6 and is led by our Year 6 house captains and deputy house captains. Our house captains and deputies have just been elected for the year – congratulations to:

St Aidan’s – Stella and Maham (HC), Alfie and Nancy (DHC)

St Cuthbert’s – Olivia and Sara (HC), Haroon and Divine (DHC)

St Hilda’s – Sofia and Micaela (HC), Harsh and Alexis (DHC)

St Margaret’s – Bhakti and Helga (HC), Imogen (DMC)

Throughout the year, we get together in our house teams to learn together, play together and pray together. Our first house team activity will take place on **Friday 3rd October** and children are invited to come dressed in their house team colours or wearing something in their colour (St Aidan’s- yellow, St Cuthbert’s - blue, St Hilda’s - green, St Margaret’s -red). Children will join together in their house teams and spend some nice time together – learning, praying and playing together

Please ask your child’s teacher if they are unsure of which house team they are part of.

Thank you, as always, for your support for our school.

Kind regards

Mrs Young