

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022



On our last day before the Christmas break it has been lovely to see the children come in, full of excitement. The Christmas spirit comes in many forms but the source of our Christmas remains the same.

We have been able to celebrate Jesus as we have gathered in the school hall and in Church for our Advent & Christmas celebrations. We have sung with joy and prayed in adoration. The celebrations have allowed the children and us as adults to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and the joy, hope and love that it can bring.

**On behalf of St Bede's, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope for a peaceful New Year.**



Once again thank you for your support over this term with our fayres.

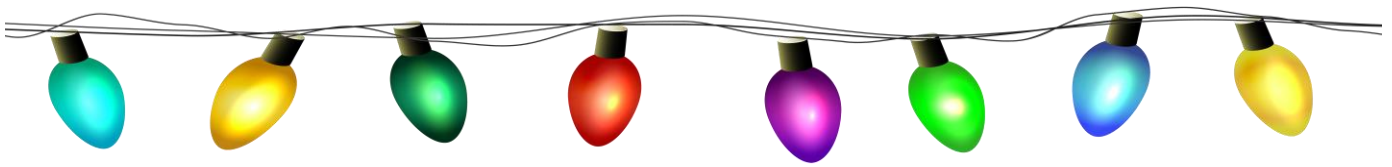
The main aim of the fayres was to bring our community back together after the lockdown period with any kind of fundraising as a bonus.

We have been blown away by the amount that has been raised especially at a time when many families are finding things tough financially.

In October we raised £759.24 and the Christmas fayre including the raffle raised **£992.91**. Thank you so much.

We are going to spend these funds on the children in the New Year by provided an enjoyable activity for the children. We will keep you updated as plans develop.

Thank you!  
♡



### Keeping safe online

As Christmas is not far away now and new devices and games may be bought, here is a very useful link that provides information to parents when setting up parental controls : <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

You just select the device and it explains how to ensure your child remains safe online.



### Attendance from 5 September 2022 - 9 December 2022

Whole School - 94%	National - 94%	Reception - 92%
Year 1 - 94%	Year 2 - 94%	Year 3 - 95%
Year 4 - 95%	Year 5 - 95%	Year 6 - 96%

Children need to attend school to be able to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind.

We know that there are times when children do need to stay at home due to illness, please ensure you let the School Office know of any absences via email, text or phone. This is for safeguarding reasons & for school to update the registers. Thank you.

*Thanks*

Thank you also for the donations made to The Matthew Project over this term, this again has been humbling for all of us in school and those who give their time to run the food bank.

We received an email from Mike and Doris Clark who were part of beginning the project way back in December 2011 and have volunteered since then.

Mike and Doris have decided to begin a new chapter in their lives and are stepping down from the project. I have, on behalf of St Bede's, thanked them for all they have done for the people of Bedlington.

The project is now moving to a new home and has a new name. It will now be called the Bedlington Food Bank and run from Trinity Church on Clovelly Gardens in the town centre. The volunteers can be contacted via [bedlingtonfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:bedlingtonfoodbank@gmail.com) should you wish to find out more.

I know that St Bede's will continue to support this much needed service.

We've designed a simple checklist to give you peace of mind regarding your child's safety on the internet.

Set your children's device up before you give it to them so you know they're safe online as soon as they start playing.



## Get started



Set parental controls on your broadband to prevent your children seeing things they shouldn't

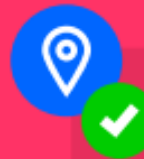


For smart phones check parental controls are also set up on the mobile network

## Set up the device safely



Use the device setting so you can only download age appropriate apps and games



Disable location services so your child doesn't unintentionally share their location with others



Set up password control or disable in-app purchasing so big bills are not run up accidentally



Download age appropriate apps you're happy for your child to use

## Talk about staying safe



If your children are 8-10 years old, download our parent / child Internet Matters app to help you talk about e-safety issues in an interactive way.



Be aware of key issues and how to discuss them with your children so they know how to stay safe online



If your child is using social networking apps check their profile and privacy settings, making sure they are not sharing personal or private information with people they do not know