

ST. BEDE'S BUGLE

ISSUE 1: March 2024



A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, LOVE AND RESPECT INSPIRING US TO ACHIEVE.

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

I am very excited and proud to welcome you all to our very first edition of the 'Bede Bugle.' It has been an extremely busy term in school and so much has been achieved. It has been delightful to welcome parents and carers into school for parents evenings, as secret readers, to enjoy breakfast with a book and to see you supporting your children at sporting events and our Easter services. Whilst staff have been keeping you updated on what is happening in your child's class via See-Saw, the Bugle will give you a flavour of some of the learning activities which have enhanced our curriculum, brought our school together and created a sense of awe and wonder for pupils to really enjoy their learning right across the school.

This term, we have spent some time developing our curriculum and the changes can be seen in the environment, the outcomes in pupils' books and the educational visits the children have been part of this term including: visits to the George Stephenson Railway museum and the Life Centre. We are delighted to be working with Newcastle United Foundation, who deliver 1 of our 2 PE lessons weekly as well as delivering a PSHE curriculum to Y5 and Y6 this term entitled 'United as One' where they have explored the themes of diversity, equality and unity. Alongside the work undertaken by Mr Schofield, our music teacher, we have deployed Rocksteady music lessons to provide additional music lessons.

In addition to our taught curriculum, we have been committed to developing the extra-curricular and wider opportunities we offer our pupils. We have made an excellent start and are delighted with our initial offer which includes: football, choir, fitness, Eco-club, Mini Vinnies and music. This is an excellent example of the staff's commitment to the pupils and community of St Bede's. Equally committed are our school's Parent/Teacher Association, who have already had such an impact with raffles and the fabulous February discos.

The children appear to be very excited and motivated by our new approaches to acknowledging and celebrating positive behaviour and rewards. Not only are children recognised daily for their ongoing commitment to their learning and their beautiful acts of kindness and compassion to others through house points, DoJos, stickers and postcards; they are celebrated each week in our Friday celebration assembly. It is an absolute joy to see the pride the children have when being recognised by their peers and staff but quite remarkable to see the joy and pride they have for celebrating those receiving awards. Additionally, the House with the most points receives a celebration afternoon of pizzas and movies each half term. Whilst it's a nice treat for the staff in the winning house too - what they are most humbled by is the way the children interact with others from all year groups, spending time together in their Houses, talking about how they can be advocates for their values, learning about their saint and watching children support and challenge each other, and staff, to be the very best versions of themselves.

Father Peter and Deacon Stephen continue to support us in our mission. This term, all children have been welcomed to attend mass, and a number of children from across KS2 have been supported and prepared to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We are so blessed to have a great team of catechists who give up their time each week to lead the children on this journey. Additionally, Father Peter has been instrumental in supporting the school to welcome new members to our governing body - a group of volunteers who support schools to develop and progress. You can meet some of them in this edition.

On behalf of all staff and governors, I would like to thank our whole parent body for your ongoing support to our school and wish you all a very happy and holy Easter.



MEET THE FRIENDS OF ST BEDE'S

INTRODUCING THE TEAM!



Hello from the Friends of St Bede's! We would love to introduce you to some of the team and what better way than in this fab magazine! We are a group of parents, carers and staff who re-established the Friends of St Bede's in September 2023.

Our aim is to raise funds to provide resources and experiences for our pupils. We collectively set a group of objectives our team would like to achieve, the first being to provide more materials for OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning).



We will meet once a term to discuss fundraising ideas, events and experiences we can host for everyone to enjoy! It has been an amazing experience so far and we are grateful for everyone's support. We would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved or if you feel you could help at one of our events.

We are separate from the staff, although we are lucky enough to have Mr Fletcher, Mrs Craik and Miss Craik on our team. If you are

interested, then please email us or check out our Facebook page. Keep your eyes peeled for updates and exciting plans.



EMAIL: BEDEPTFA@GMAIL.COM

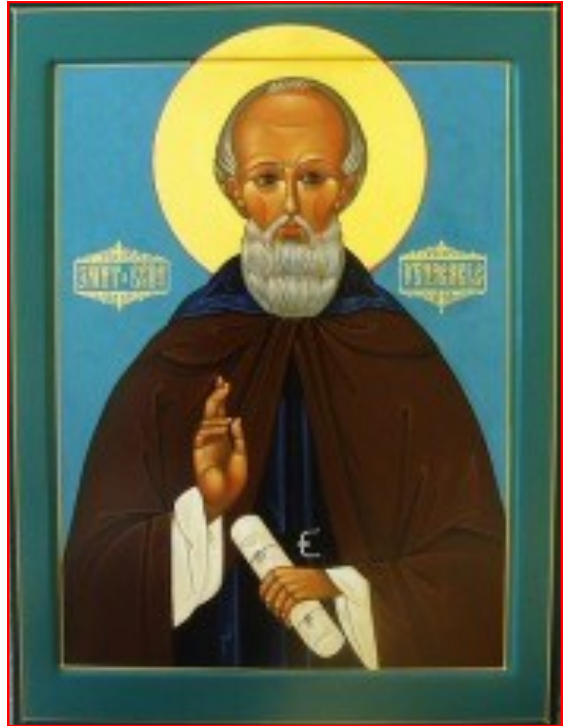


FRIENDS OF ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST BEDE

As the Patron Saint of our school, St. Bede's teachings are at the heart of what we do. St Bede, also known as Bede the Venerable, was a renowned scholar and theologian of the Anglo-Saxon period. He was born in Northumbria in 672AD and is widely regarded as one of the greatest historians of the early Middle Ages.

Bede's early education began at the age of seven when he was sent to the monastery of Monkwearmouth. There, he studied a wide range of subjects, including Latin grammar, poetry, and biblical studies. Recognized for his exceptional intellect and passion for learning, Bede's education continued at the nearby monastery of Jarrow.



Bede's most notable work is "Ecclesiastical History of the English People", written in Latin. This historical masterpiece provides crucial insights into the early Christian period in England, as well as details about the conversion of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to Christianity. His meticulous research and attention to detail make this work an invaluable resource for historians and scholars to this day.

In addition to his extensive knowledge of history, Bede was also well-versed in astronomy, mathematics, and music. He wrote treatises on these subjects, further demonstrating his diverse interests and intellectual curiosity.

Throughout his life, Bede remained committed to his monastic duties, devoting himself to prayer, study, and teaching. He became a revered figure in the church and was known for his humility and kindness.

Bede's influence reached far beyond his lifetime. His writings inspired future generations of scholars and had a significant impact on the development of medieval Christianity.

MEET THE GOVERNORS

WELCOME

Hello and welcome! We are delighted to introduce ourselves as your school governors. Our role as governors is crucial in shaping the future of the St Bede's and to ensure that every child receives the best possible education.



**Christine
Mills**
Chair



**Mary
Carter**
Foundation
Governor



**Stephen
Boulter**
Foundation
Governor



**Helen
Burke**
Parent
Governor



**Samantha
Fairbairn**
Staff
Governor

As a governing body, we have the opportunity to contribute to important decisions that affect school's policies and direction. Working collaboratively together with the Head teacher and staff, we can ensure that the school provides a safe and nurturing environment for all students to thrive. We look forward to the positive impact we can make together as a team and a community.

We are a diverse group with a range of skills and experience and we would love for more people to help support the school this capacity. If you feel you have skills that could help, then please get in contact with the school office.

CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Our children in Nursery and Reception have recently celebrated Chinese New Year. Nursery made, painted and decorated their own dragons and paraded around our school grounds, much to the delight of KS1 and KS2. They embraced traditional Chinese celebrations by creating their own lanterns and dragons, created their own Chinese food using their imagination in the home corner and used musical instruments to create Chinese rhythms.



MARVELLOUS MUSICIANS

MUSIC TO OUR EARS!



All of our children from Reception to Year 6 have the opportunity weekly to practice instruments within their music lessons. The children are loving learning to play instruments such as the ukulele and keyboard whilst also learning to read music.

We also have our weekly KS2 music club, where the children have been learning to play a variety of instruments.



Following our launch of Rocksteady, many children have now signed up to additional music lessons where they will choose to learn to play the drums, keyboard, guitar or sing. Look out for these new bands performing at Glastonbede!

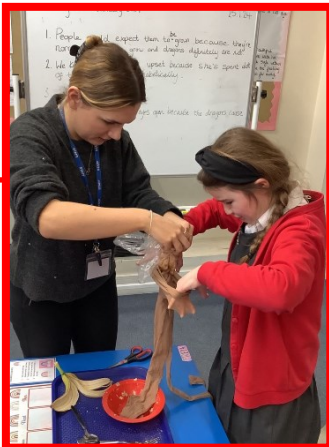


CELEBRATING SCIENCE WEEK

PRACTICAL SCIENCE

As part of National Science Week, 11th–15th March, each class got to visit the Centre for Life. As well as visiting the museum and its superb facilities, children got to take part in two hands on practical workshops. A great time was had by all involved!

Back at school, classes have also been taking part in practical science lessons. Year 4 have been replicating the digestive system, which turned out to be rather messy! In Year 5, we explored pulleys and gears before creating their own.



YEAR 1: GEORGE STEPHENSON

LOCAL HISTORY

Our Year 1 children were delighted to visit the George Stephenson railway museum earlier this term.

From the moment they stepped on the site, they were transported into a world of steam engines and locomotives, learning about the incredible history of railways and the pioneering work of George Stephenson himself.

The museum provided a wealth of information about the development of the railway, through interactive displays and fascinating exhibits. They couldn't contain their joy as they climbed aboard the steam engine and pretended to be train drivers, blowing the whistle and peering out of the windows.

The children were engrossed as they heard about Stephenson's invention of the steam locomotive "Locomotion No. 1" and his role in constructing the world's first public railway.



BEDLINGTON LIBRARY VISITS

READING FOR PLEASURE

Over the course of the Spring term, each class has visited Bedlington library. They have thoroughly enjoyed walking along to the library to choose a book to borrow. The librarians organised lovely activities to engage the children in their quest to find a story that they would enjoy in the comfort of their own homes.

It is so important that our children read for pleasure, as it dramatically broadens and improves vocabulary and language skills. The library plays a key role in developing literacy and the pleasure of reading, so it is the perfect place for thinking and learning.

Exposing our students to the imaginations and creations of others is a great way to inspire discovery. Please don't forget to ask at the office for a library form so children can take out books in their own time. The librarians would love to see our

students in the holidays!



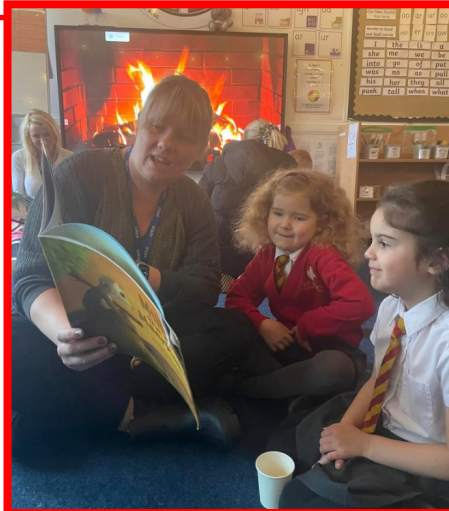
WORLD BOOK DAY

WE LOVE READING

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated World Book Day. We began the day by welcoming adults into classrooms for breakfast with a book. This proved incredibly successful and was a great way to start the day.

Throughout the day children were immersed in stories including storytelling workshops by Seven Stories and secret readers. Each of the children then got to take home a World Book Day voucher and a book from our share a story event. It was such a busy day filled with stories and thoroughly enjoyed by all. One child commented "it was the best day of his life" - high praise indeed!

WORLD
BOOK
DAY®



BELONGING, CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY

TRUST CHOIR

As part of the Bishop Bewick Trust, five talented Year 5 and 6 pupils ventured to St Alban's in Newcastle to take part in the Trust choir. After a day of intense rehearsals and learning to work in sync with one another, all 15 schools came together to perform and record an astounding piece of music. The children's feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Well done to those involved!



CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

We have just relaunched our school choir to help support at local events and within the local area. Could you help us in any way by providing your time or contacts to provide our choir with some amazing experiences? If you can please contact our school office or email admin@stbedesbedlington.org

BELONGING, CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY

FOOD BANK



At St. Bede's, our Mini Vinnies supported by Mrs Craik have been hard at work collecting for our local foodbank. We held collections after school and asked if parents and carers could spare tinned goods and toiletries to support those less fortunate in our local area. The Mini Vinnies then showed the school what they had been able to collect before taking it to our local parish where it would be sorted and distributed within the local area. Well done Mini Vinnies!



BELONGING, CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY MASS

Each Wednesday a class are invited to take part in Mass at St Bede's Church. The children learn about the message of the Gospel prior to going to church to ensure they can fully immerse themselves in the message. As a class the children also write bidding prayers that the children deliver in church. We also go to Mass as a whole school with our oldest children being buddies to our youngest children ensuring all children can be involved in worship within our Parish Community.



MEETING THE BISHOP

Our Parish Community were pleased to offer Bishop Stephen Wright, Fifteenth Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle, a warm welcome whilst he joined them for Mass in February. After Mass, some of our children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion in May, were honoured to meet Bishop Stephen and discuss this upcoming special event. We hope to welcome Bishop Stephen into our Parish and school community again soon.

CREATIVE PRAYER

Our children have an understanding that prayer is making a connection with God. Sometimes that connection can be: telling God what is happening in their lives, sharing a worry, asking God for something, thanking God or just spending some quiet time with God.



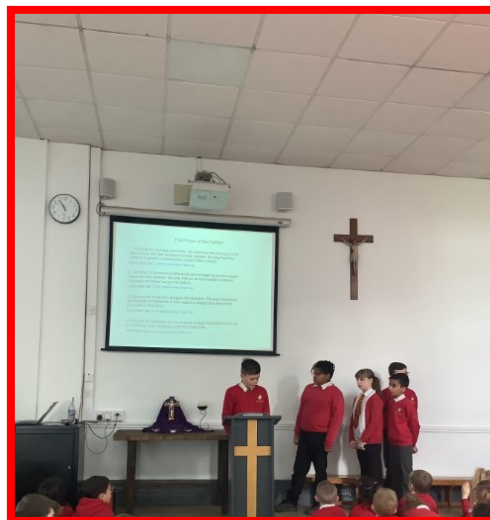
However, prayer is not always easy, our minds are often crowded with so many different thoughts, concerns and distractions and finding the words to pray can be a challenge. In the busyness of the day, praying can become rather like a shopping list as we reel off our requests and worries, forgetting to stop and give thanks or to listen, allowing God the space to speak.



At the beginning of our Spring term, we introduced our children to a way of praying that we call 'Creative Prayer'. Creative Prayer can have many different structures. Sometimes it can begin with a song or a hymn, sometimes it can begin with a moment of quiet reflection. But no matter what the structure is, Creative Prayer always involves some element of creativity that engages the children as they focus on prayer. Teachers have amazed us with their creativity! Our children have told us that they really enjoy Creative Prayer!



CATHOLIC LIFE



CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Celebration of the Word takes place every Monday morning at 10am. Sunday's Gospel is shared among the whole school community. Each week, different classes take responsibility for various roles including: dressing the focal point, bringing forward the Bible, reading the Gospel and reading our Prayer of the Faithful. This act of worship is extremely important to the whole school community; the week's theme continues throughout the week in various ways including Creative Prayer and in our Pupil of the Week awards in Celebration Assembly.



CATHOLIC LIFE



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday was a very special day for St. Bede's. A group of KS2 children attended the Ash Wednesday Mass, led by Father Peter, and brought back to school a pot of ashes that would be used in the Ash Wednesday Service. Every child had the offer to receive the Ashes.

We were so proud of the way in which all children respectfully listened to the key messages of the service which was that we are all human and we all make mistakes. The symbol of the cross, which was placed on each child's forehead, was a reminder that as God's children, they can ask God for his forgiveness and his help in becoming the children he wants them to be.



BRITISH VALUES

BRITISH VALUES



All children were introduced to British Values in a whole school assembly. Over the course of three weeks every class explored what each of those values meant in detail. In week one, the value of 'Democracy' was explored. In the youngest year groups, teaching was based around their own experiences. This included having a say in things that were important to them and voting for choices. The older year groups explored the work of democratically elected councils as well as Parliament. In the following weeks, 'Individual Liberty' and Respect and Tolerance' were explored. Children explored a range of scenarios. This lesson afforded an opportunity to ask 'respectful' questions of members of classes who for a variety of reasons had moved to the UK. It gave individuals a platform to share differences in cultural practices from countries including; India, the Ukraine and Nigeria. This was a rich and informative experience for all.

- Democracy: We value the importance of having a say in decision making. In Britain decisions are made by sharing opinions, having discussions and coming to a common agreement which is shared by the majority. This can often be done by voting.
- The Rule of Law: We value having rules and laws. They keep us safe.
- Individual Liberty: We value the importance of having choices.
- Respect: We respect the needs, views, ideas and beliefs of others.
- Tolerance: We value the importance of being tolerant to those who share different views to our own.

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING—OPAL

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

During our lunchtime play, we use OPAL. This approach centres around the children having stations to access including a mud kitchen, music station, games area, art resources, allotment and small world. These stations change and evolve with the seasons, providing the children with lots of play opportunities.



The OPAL approach has shown in other schools to improve communication skills in children and limit lunchtime behaviour incidents. We want to ensure that every child has at least one hour of outstanding outdoor play every school day. This approach integrates all year groups and allows all children to access our full school site. OPAL has proved very successful so far and we cannot wait to develop as an OPAL school and provide more play opportunities for the children.



WIDER OFFER



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

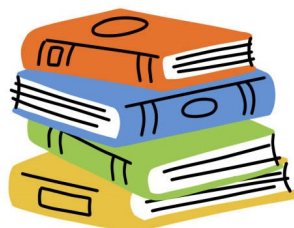
This half term we have been working on extending the wider offer for the children, looking at improving the after school clubs we offer. So far, we have provided a great range of clubs, including:

- Football club
- Choir
- Music club
- Mini Vinnies
- Two sports clubs - ran by the Newcastle United Foundation)
- A Football team

Coming next half term, we have three additional clubs:

- Fitness Club
- Eco Club
- Reading Club – The St Bede's Bookworms

These clubs are ran by staff, and we are blessed to have such an enthusiastic team who voluntarily give their time for our children.



SPORTS NEWS

CHANCE TO DANCE

For the past few years, our Year 3 children have been lucky to take part in Chance to Dance. This is an initiative ran by the Royal Ballet and allows all children to be exposed to dance, watch ballet dancers from the Royal Ballet before having the opportunity to dance alongside them at Dance City.

The current Year 3 children are about to start lessons in school to prepare for their performance in the session. A small group of now Year 4 children were chosen last year to carry on their dancing. Currently their dancing is subsidised by the Royal Ballet and they go to a dance school (Nicola Gauld School of Dance) in Seaton Sluice on a Monday evening. On Saturday 16th March they are performing at the

Tyne theatre. We wish them the best of luck for their performance.



SPORTS NEWS

NEWCASTLE UNITED FOUNDATION

Since the turn of the year, we have been lucky to have the Newcastle United Foundation here at St. Bede's to deliver weekly PE lessons.

Working alongside their coaches, children have developed their skills in a variety of games, such as dodgeball, and improved their skills including throwing and catching.

The foundation have also supported our wider curriculum offer, providing our children two after school clubs a week. The focus of these clubs will change each term, offering a variety of different sports.



FOOTBALL

We have recently put together a year 5 and 6 football team who have taken part in local competitions and leagues. The team has been a huge success and supported by Mrs Craik and Mr Alison are really growing in confidence and skill. They will continue to train every week to get 'match fit' for tournaments in the summer, including the Catholic Cup. Go team!



BEDE'S PUZZLE PAGE

EASTER WORDSEARCH FUN!



Jesus
Crucifixion
Lent
Prepare
Ashes
Cross
Faith
Hope

A	S	H	E	S	J	M	M	J	O	R	Z	X
W	H	B	G	G	E	L	M	E	P	Q	Y	C
Q	E	E	F	E	S	T	Y	S	T	H	R	W
W	P	S	R	D	U	A	Q	U	O	O	U	V
D	H	R	I	A	S	M	A	I	P	P	A	A
L	E	N	T	T	A	D	X	H	Q	E	N	F
P	R	K	E	A	B	I	F	G	W	U	G	E
P	D	O	N	B	F	T	H	L	M	D	E	R
T	R	G	T	I	A	S	H	E	S	X	V	A
W	W	I	C	E	M	E	N	T	I	P	O	P
A	E	U	Y	T	A	O	K	F	J	Y	L	E
S	R	T	E	U	R	Y	J	O	S	E	P	R
C	B	S	A	Q	F	A	I	T	H	U	G	P

EASTER WORD SCRAMBLE!

Can you unscramble the words?

TSAERE

OHPE

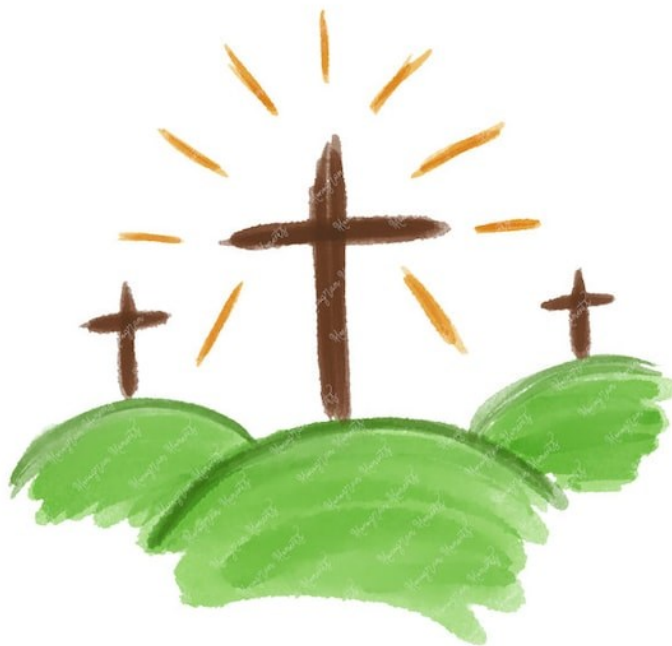
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SRACFIECI

As this busy Spring term draws to a close, we would like to thank you for all of your continued love and support. We very much believe that it is our gorgeous students that make our school so special.

On behalf of the staff, governors and pupils of St. Bede's we would like to wish you a very happy Easter.



A COMMUNITY OF FAITH,
LOVE AND RESPECT, INSPIRING US TO ACHIEVE.

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