

October 2023

*Thank you*

Thank you for the responses to the questionnaire sent out last week to gauge parent views on St Bede's.

We have had a good response so far but would like to have a wider range. If you are unable to access the link below please do let us know and we can send a paper copy home for you to complete. We have had some constructive feedback so far and so we would like more views so that we can develop in all areas of school in partnership with you.

The link to the electronic questionnaire is <https://forms.gle/v53qJo68qD1BpnFx8>

Your children may come home saying that there have been visitors in school, including teachers that have released their usual class teacher.

Following a review of our curriculum at St Bede's we are working closely with another school in our Trust to provide staff development that will enhance teaching and learning for all children.

We have welcomed Mrs Fallon and her team from St Bernadette's in Wallsend into our school and they are working with us on a weekly basis. This is a great opportunity for both schools and shows how being a part of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust can help all children in the schools.

### **Autumn Fayre – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 3:30pm**

We will be taking donations for the Bedlington Food bank in as admission into our fayre. This is a good opportunity to help those less fortunate than ourselves at this time of the year.

Each class will have stalls that they have designed with products they have made during this term.

In the school Hall there will be refreshments as well as lots of different fun stalls including a raffle and a book and toy sale.



If your child is on our SEND register you should have been contacted to make a date with Miss Rowley who is acting SENDco at the moment as Mrs McCarron is absent from school due to illness.

If you believe that you need to make an appointment with Miss Rowley to speak about your child please contact a member of the school admin staff and they will be able to organise this for you.

Following the welcome meetings that teachers had with parents earlier in the term, we would like to encourage parents/carers to contact their child's teacher should they wish to discuss any issues they have. Please contact the school office if you wish to make a convenient date.

Any parents who were unable to make the session, please contact your child's teacher so that you can have any information shared with you.



We are sadly saying farewell to two members of staff this Autumn.

Miss Martin who has been with us since 2022 has secured a promotion and so her final day with us will be Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Mrs White who has been with us since 2018 has also secured a new role in a school closer to her home. This is a great opportunity for her and we are hoping that it proves to bring all the hopes she aims for. She begins her new position at the beginning of November.

Both members of staff will be a great miss to St Bedes and I know you will join us all in wishing them well.

We have welcomed our own Shaun the sheep into school. The Northumberland Catholic schools have worked together to create Shaun-umberland Lambmarks. He was on show during the Summer in Newcastle and he is now making a tour around the schools. We were very lucky to welcome him first. There has been a lovely buzz around school since he arrived, the children are in awe of him. Please do pop in to say hello to him when you come to the Autumn fayre.

## Wellies

After half term, all children will need wellies that can be kept in school throughout the term if they wish to play in certain play areas at lunchtime. There will be storage facility for wellies for each year group.



The parents of children in Years 4 and 5 received a letter last week regarding our residential in the Lake District.

We are altering how we organise our residential trips going forward next academic school year with the aim to have –

- Visit to Emmaus Village in Consett for Year 4 children
- Howtown in the Lake District for Year 5 children
- Camping in the school grounds for Year 6 children.

In Autumn 2024 we are offering the chance for the children in the current Year 5, who did not attend this year, to visit Howtown when they are in Year 6.

2024 will be the last year that Year 6 will visit Howtown.



## Internet Safety

We have been sharing with the children at the appropriate age level how important it is to stay safe when using the Internet. Please see the attached flyer to support parents with navigating such a tricky area of parent life.

**HOW SAFE IS YOUR CHILD?**

**INTERNET SAFETY**

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS GUIDE AND LOOK AT THE LINKS AVAILABLE ONLINE.

AT OUR SCHOOL WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM HARM. WE BELIEVE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS IS VITAL TO ENSURE OUR CHILDREN HAVE A CONSTANT MESSAGE FROM BOTH HOME AND SCHOOL.

AS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPS YEAR ON YEAR OUR CHILDREN ALSO DEVELOP. IT IS VITAL, AS ADULTS THAT WE DO TOO AND KEEP UP WITH WHAT IS OUT THERE AND WHAT THE RISKS COULD BE.

**ChildLine**  
0800 1111

**SET THE PARENT SETTINGS**

DO YOU KNOW ALL THEIR PHONE CONTACTS?

DO YOU MONITOR THEIR PHONE USAGE AND REMOVE IT AT NIGHT?

DO YOU KNOW THEIR PASSWORDS?

IN ORDER TO HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT YOU MUST BE 13 YEARS OLD. MANY CHILDREN WILL USE FALSE D.O.B IN ORDER TO REGISTER. PLEASE CHECK! IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN ACCOUNT WE ADVISE YOU CLOSE IT DOWN. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF HARM IT IS IMPORTANT YOU TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT:

- NOT ACCEPTING STRANGERS AS FRIENDS
- NOT SHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION
- SHARING PASSWORDS WITH PARENTS
- NEVER MEET A STRANGER THEY'VE MET ONLINE
- SET PRIVACY SETTINGS

ENSURE GAMES YOU BUY FOR YOUR CHILD ARE AGE APPROPRIATE. MANY PARENTS ARE UNAWARE OF GRAPHIC AND SEXUALISED CONTENT ON 18 CERTIFICATE GAMES.

**PARENT GUIDE**

ENSURE THE COMPUTER IS IN A FAMILY SPACE SO YOU CAN MONITOR WHAT SITES YOUR CHILD IS ACCESSING

**XBOX LIVE**

**THE RISKS ARE REAL**

TWO CHILDREN FROM THE UK WERE MURDERED AFTER MEETING A STRANGER THEY'D MET ONLINE (FACEBOOK & XBOX) BOTH TOLD THEIR PARENTS THEY WERE GOING TO SLEEP AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE. NEITHER PARENT CHECKED!

WHAT'S CYBER BULLYING?

IF A PERSON OR GROUP OF PEOPLE USE THE INTERNET, MOBILE PHONE OR OTHER TECHNICAL DEVICE TO THREATEN, ABUSE OR TEASE SOMEONE.

**Clennell**  
SCHOOL COUNCIL

WWW.THINKUKNOW.CO.UK & CEOP HAVE GOOD ADVICE & RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE FOR BOTH PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN. TAKE A LOOK!