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St Bede's RCVA Primary School
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6th October 2017

Dear Parent/Carers

This week's **Statements to Live By** is; *'I know what to do if someone is being hurt'*. This is the first statement in the group 'Know, appreciate and understand the importance of social justice and develop independence, interdependence and responsibility'. During assembly on Monday the children were able to explain fully what to do when they know someone is hurt. I am always so proud of how our children respond in assembly. The statement links with a message from Fr Peter this morning.

Year 3 & 4 went to Mass this morning and their behaviour was wonderful, they were respectful and prayerful at all times. Fr Peter talked with them about the word **integrity**, it was wonderful to hear the children trying to explain the meaning of the word and the children were left with the idea, that integrity is doing the right thing all of the time. We are privileged to be able to use the messages from the Gospels to help us with our integrity, we are able to use the words and actions of Jesus to guide us in what we chose to do, what we know is right. What do you use to guide your integrity?

This Sunday is the **27th Sunday of Ordinary Time** and Matthew again uses stories involving vineyards. I explored with the children in Liturgy this morning how Jesus uses the vineyard to represent our world and that it needs to be cared for and shared but also that God sent Jesus to send this message with us. One of our governors shared with us in the school Liturgy today and he was so proud of how the children were able to articulate their understanding of the Gospel message.

Thank you to all those who have voted in the **parent governor ballot**. The ballot box will remain at the main entrance to school until Friday 13th October, when the votes will be counted. I would like to thank both candidates for their support of school. The governing body is a crucial part of school leadership that also comes with responsibilities and therefore it is a big decision to make putting yourself forward for this.

Mr Philips along with Fr Peter and the parish catechists are beginning the programme for **First Holy Communion** preparation. They have planned an initial meeting for 11th October after school. All Year 4 children received a letter last week with a form that Fr Peter would like you to complete. Please bring the completed form along to the meeting next week.

This week we welcomed Donna and Luke from **Poverty Proofing**. They spoke to all of the children in school and I believe some of you on the yard. They have also had responses to questionnaires from governors and staff. The aim of their research is to explore whether all

we do in school is inclusive of all home incomes. There are various things that have been highlighted so far and when I have the full report after half term I will share these with you. In the meantime please do speak to us if you feel that we could help in any way to make school life more accessible for the children.

Linked with this project I have previously asked that **bows and hair accessories** are not worn in the children's hair. On the whole this has been received and accepted and I thank you for this. Whilst it may seem extreme to ask this, the background to it is so that children's home incomes are not obvious from what they wear in school. During the assembly on Tuesday Donna from Poverty Proofing showed the children two pictures and asked them to say what is different between the people in them. Here are two comments...



'Kate is rich and Cinders is poor because you can tell by looking at them'



'You can't tell who is rich and who is poor because they have the same uniform'

We have noticed that homemade slime is being brought into school and shared around. Please ask your children not to bring it in, just in case anyone has an allergy to the ingredients, thanks.

Again a reminder about the Year 7 admissions portal it will close on the **31st October** please remember to register.

https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F

Attendance

Target is 96%	
Whole school	94.6
Nursery	88.2
Rec	92.7
Year 1	96.0
Year 2	98.3
Year 3	94.7
Year 4	94.0
Year 5	95.3
Year 6	95.0

It is so important that if a child is well they are in school even one day can impact their learning. Well done to Year 1 and 2 who have achieved the target, Mr Wright is particularly pleased that Year 2 have won the trophy for best attendance for two weeks in a row now.

Please ring or catch me around school if you have any queries about school life.

Yours sincerely,

Therese Worrall
Headteacher