

2.7.21

This Sunday is the fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time and Mark's Gospel tells us about the time when Jesus was teaching with great wisdom, but the people found it hard to believe in him. He had returned to his home town and those who knew him had presumed that this ordinary person was, well ordinary.

One message that we could take from this is to never underestimate people, they may look ordinary and on the whole act ordinary but everyone has a special quality. Please encourage the children to look for the special qualities in those around them this weekend.

Some of our children are doing something very special this weekend. Eight of our children are making their First Holy Communion tomorrow at St Bede's Church. Although the services will be rather different to the usual celebrations of receiving the Eucharist for the first time it is still going to be a wonderful day for the children. Please keep all of them and their families in your prayers.



## School Dog

Those who were part of St Bede's community two years ago may recall that we gathered your views on the possibility of a school dog. At that time it was decided that it was not the right time for St Bede's. There continues to be increasing research into the benefits of having pets in school and therefore we would like to reignite our plans for a dog in school. Below is the link to a questionnaire to collect your thoughts, queries and possible concerns.

<https://forms.gle/6zU56Hq7ZkwgNamL7>

One of our fellow Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust schools has a dog called Chip. He recently made the front page of the Evening Chronicle.

<https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/alnwick-schools-cuddly-cockapoo-helps-20783551>

[http://www.stpaulsalnwick.co.uk/website/school\\_dog/517833](http://www.stpaulsalnwick.co.uk/website/school_dog/517833)

Also see this link to read about some of the benefits of a school dog.

<https://senadgroup.com/the-amazing-benefits-of-a-school-dog-or-how-to-get-through-those-ruff-days/>

## Pupil Absences

Please could we remind parents/carers that if your child is off school you must contact the School Office with a reason for absence. You can either ring after 8am, email the office –

[admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk) or send school a text message via School Gateway.

This is for safeguarding reasons, the School Office will keep trying all contacts until contact has been made. Thank you.

## Funday Friday

On Funday Friday (9.7.21) the children can come to school dressed in brightly coloured clothes. We are going to support Metro Radio's charity Cash for Kids and be all the colours of the rainbow. Should any parents feel they can donate a small amount of money for the charity it would be greatly received.



In order to welcome parents onto the site next week for the sports days we must comply with safety guidelines very closely. There is only one adult per child able to come into school, we do understand that it is not the ideal situation but it is the best we can do. If there is no alternative childcare available, we will allow a parent to bring their pre-nursery age child with them only if they are in a pram and remain there throughout.

Thank you for your understanding.

If you have not yet booked a place for your child please complete the Google form found at

<https://forms.gle/1KpNrSUjLSuEivxr5>

### **Timings for the days**

#### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Year 1 – 9 – 9.45am

Year 2 - 9.50 – 10.35am

Year 3 – 10.40 – 11.25am

Year 4 – 11.30 – 12.15am

Year 5 – 1.15 – 2.00am

Year 6 – 2pm – 2.45am

#### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Nursery – 1.30 – 2pm

Reception – 2.15 – 2.45pm

Spectators will enter the school site via the Catholic Row gate and exit via the Ridge Terrace gate.

### **St Benet Biscop Admission Policy**

The CEO of our Trust, Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, has asked for the admissions policy for St Benet Biscop Academy to be shared among all parents. I appreciate that it will be some time before secondary education needs to be considered for your child but it is always good to have it in the back of your mind.

You can find the full admissions policy at <https://www.st-benetbiscop.org.uk/admissions-consultation-2019-2020-2-2/>

The main area that becomes more relevant is the section on oversubscription. If St Benet Biscop receive more applications for places than are available the admissions committee uses the criteria to rank applicants. If a child attends a feeder school, which St Bede's is, then the likelihood of being offered a place is higher than some other applicants.

Please do contact school if you have any queries regarding this.

#### **Taken from St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy, Admission Policy for 2022-2023**

#### **OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR YEAR 7**

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

First priority in each category will be given to children who will have an older sibling attending the school in September 2022.

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children (see notes 2 and 3)
2. Catholic children attending a Catholic feeder primary school (see note 3)
3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
4. Looked after and previously looked after children (see note 2)
5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church (see notes 4 and 5)
6. Other children attending a Catholic feeder primary school
7. Children of a member of school staff who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which application for admission to the school is made (see note 6)
8. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader (see note 7)
9. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader. (see note 8)
10. Other children

### **Dates for remainder of the school year**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** - First Holy Communion Masses at Church

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July** - Sports day with the support of NUFC Foundation –Following DfE guidelines we are delighted that we will be able to invite parents in for bubble sessions. Information to follow shortly

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July** - End of year fun day Friday for all children including picnic provided by school and mini Glastonbede for children (see information above about non-uniform)

**Weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> July** - End of school camping and outdoor water sports weekend for Year 6

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July** - Leavers assembly – outside hopefully with parents

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July** - School breaks up for Summer Holiday