

St. Bede's News



ST. BEDE'S R.C.V.A.
PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Bede's RCVA Primary School, Ridge Terrace, Bedlington, Northumberland. NE22 6EQ

Email: admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk
Web site www.st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk

20th March 2020

Thank you so much for all your understanding over the last week.

I can confirm that school is closed to most pupils from today. As a country, we are trying to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. The most recent guidance is that if children can stay safely at home, to limit the chance of the virus spreading, then they should. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The critical sectors are:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial service

Yesterday we asked you all to contact us with information on your job role so that we could plan whether childcare is possible at St Bede's. Thank you for this. If you have been unable to do this so far and you believe that you are in one of the critical groups and in need of childcare, please call us.

This is an uncertain time for us all and we would like to try and accommodate where possible. During the school closure we hope to keep communication open. The best way to contact school will be via the admin email address.

We have again sent out a letter to those parents who believe they are critical workers. This is asking them to let us know what child care they know they will need. When we know that this is possible we will confirm this with individual families directly. Any children attending school for child care on Monday are to come to the main entrance to school. Please DO NOT bring your child to school on Monday if you have not had confirmation from the school office. We need to know that we have safe levels of staffing.

Thank you.

The implications of the unplanned closure of school are quite wide with a main one being that this may be a Bon Voyage to our Year 6 children. We are hoping that it will not be and that we will get some time with the children again before they move to Year 7.

If we are closed until the end of the academic year, the staff want to plan a way that we can invite the children back to St Bede's to have some kind of celebration of their years.

In the meantime Year 6 please remember the good times we have had, you have been a memorable class who I hold close to my heart. From my babies in nursery to the young adults you have become. Be the brilliant people that you can be.

Love Mrs Worrall x

Safeguarding during the school closure

In my capacity as the safeguarding lead for the school, I aim to continue supporting families and children through the school closure due to the COVID 19 outbreak. Even though the school has closed, I am available to support and safeguard all young people and to offer advice and support where needed. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or need advice on protecting or safeguarding a young person.

During the closure - I can be reached on the school admin email, via the school phone number (if I am well enough to be in school). The emails will be checked daily during usual school days.

All teachers have also provided you with their School 360 email address so you are able to ask questions or share information with them too.

As a community you are very good at alerting school staff to any worries that you may have with regard to a child's safety. Please continue this approach while school is closed. If you need to report an urgent concern and for some reason you are not able to contact me speak to Northumberland's front door to safeguarding services at One Call on 01670 536400.

Thank you, Therese Worrall

The early closure of school also means that we are to say goodbye to Mr Wright. He is moving to pastures new after Easter and we wish him all the best of luck in his new leadership role.

We thank Mr Wright for all that he has brought to St Bede's and he will be fondly remembered by many.

If your child has been absent this week and so not received the home learning packs please contact us. They will be available in the school office for someone to collect.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Barratt in our school office to discuss what we can do to support you over the coming weeks. This **does not** include Universal Free School Meals that all children in Rec, Y1 & Y2 receive.

It is regretful that we will be unable to attend Church over the Easter season to celebrate the most important time in the liturgical year. Please do take some time to share with your children the importance of Easter and its relevance. I will where possible share messages with the children too.

Year 5 took us in on a quick journey during liturgy this morning, reminding of key events in the Easter story.

We will keep everyone in our prayers over the coming weeks and months. Hopefully the positive to come out of this challenging time will be a feeling of communities supporting each other.

St Bede's is a community of faith, love and respect

- Inspiring us to achieve