



3rd April 2020

Wow where have the last two weeks gone?

I hope that you are all well and managing to keep your spirits up at this trying time. I wanted to send a newsletter to simply check in and let you know any updates on things that have been happening or are to come.

We have sent out an email with an updated appendix to our safeguarding policy. This is in response to the governments update on safeguarding <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

Please read through this appendix policy so that you are aware of all the school are doing to maintain the safety of our children.

We will be making sure that we have had contact in some way with all of the children. This may be through the learning platform that your child's class is using, through emails, through contact in school or through phone calls. If you receive an email from us requiring a reply please do so and also if we call you please do engage with us in the spirit intended.

During this uncertain time is you have any worry about a child please do contact us via the admin email address. Should you have an urgent concern about a child contact OneCall - 01670 536400 or an emergency call 999

Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Free School Meals

Over the past two weeks school have been able to supply vouchers for local supermarket in lieu of Free School Meals. We have extended this to into the Easter holiday time which is not the usual case. The government have now shared information with regard to a vouchers scheme moving forward. In order for school to set this up for parents we must have a working email address for each child who is eligible for free school meals. Those parents/carers of those children will receive an email from school and then from a company called Edenred. If your believe that your child is entitled to Free School Meals please contact school via the admin email address to let us know which email address to use for the voucher scheme admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk

Easter Holidays

School will continue to provide child care for the children of key workers throughout the Easter Holiday time. Thank you everyone for your understanding and words of support towards the staff during this challenging time. I think that as a community we have been able to assess where is best for the children so that the risk of rapid spreading of the virus has been reduced. We have been privileged to offer child care to those of you who need it so that you can support the public in which ever line of work you have.

Teachers are continuing to provide home learning opportunities for the holiday period however they will not be in contact daily as they have been over the last two week. Each teacher is to have a block of a week where they can treat it as holiday time. I am sure that you will respect this if you have tried to contact them and do not receive a quick reply. The admin email address will continue to be monitored by staff if you have an urgent issue.

In school we use Ten Ten Resources to support our collective worship times. They have produced resources that parents can use at home with children. Please have a look to see how you can share the Easter message with your children <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/sunday-liturgy-for-families/>

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, usually in school we use this as the start of the Easter story. I will be sharing activities and thoughts for Holy Week on the Whole School classroom on School 360. If your child has not yet joined the classroom please encourage them to do so. I have sent an email invitation to all children from Y1 – Y6 or they can use the code **lvffvhk**

All at St Bede's are thinking about our community, this is a hugely challenging time that none of us have training to deal with. Each day we are learning new ways to try things and to keep each other entertained in addition to looking after one another.

Please keep communicating with school in whichever way is the best for you. We will continue to share news on the various forums. Above all stay at home when you can and keep safe.

