

# St. Bede's Weekly Newsletter



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

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On Sunday we hear a story from Mark's Gospel where Peter and the other disciples recognise Jesus as Christ - the chosen one who has come to bring us back to friendship with God. Jesus wants to be with us every moment of the day. Do we let him in?

This week's *Statement to Live By* is part of a group of statements that celebrate uniqueness. We have been celebrating that **'We are all special'**.

Thank you to Nicholson's Heating Services who have donated funds towards a new playhouse for the Reception Class garden.



Attendance during the first week of the year was 95.7%. Three of our classes had 100% attendance, this a great start to the year for them. It is so important to have the children into school every day, every minute counts.



This week we sent out a letter to parents of children in Years 4, 5 & 6. Sacramental Preparation will begin again soon for any children Y4 or above who wish to make their First Confession and First Holy Communion. There is an initial meeting at St Bede's Church Hall at 3pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September.



Thank you so much to our gardening fairies, having help with our garden and allotment area is so important. Help from any other members of our community will be greatly appreciated.



A request for information about your children. If there are any changes to the usual day to day life at home with your child please let us know. What may seem like small changes to us as adults can have a huge effect on the children, by your child's class teacher knowing about any changes your child can be fully supported.

If there are any members of our community who would like to help indoors we would love some more volunteers who can read with the children. If you have some spare time and don't mind having safeguarding checks carried out then please get in touch.

Government funding for schools can be enhanced for some children so that the school can provide additional support. If you think that your child is entitled to free school meals and you have not informed us please speak to the office staff. This is especially important for children in Nursery, Rec, Y1 and Y2 as this money can help your children in more ways than simply a free school meal. This is a different entitlement to universal free school meals which children in Rec, Y1 and Y2 receive.

On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> September we are going to begin a 'Soft Start' to the school day. We have reflected upon our routines and feel that this change can benefit the children and you our parental body. Teachers will open the classroom doors at 8.40am to allow the children to enter school and get themselves ready for the day after saying goodbye to you. At 8.50am the bell rings and the doors will be closed for registration to take place. This is a trial and any comments will be greatly received.



We are hoping to improve the **afterschool clubs** that we offer to the children. Last year there was not a very good take up of the clubs and they were run at a loss to the school. Please complete this survey so that we can plan some new clubs.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MLN5GWF>



At the beginning this school year we are reminding children of how they need to be safe on the Internet. Please reinforce at home how the Internet can be wonderful but also can be a place where your child is at risk. Children under 13 years of age should not be on social media as it can have an adverse effect on their self-esteem. There are complex reasons for the age restrictions including their level of maturity in dealing with any unwanted communication. We have shared with the older children in school how we must take care when reading things on the Internet - they may not always be true. This week I have been exposed to an incident where someone has caused quite some distress by accusing innocent children of a crime they did not commit by sharing a photograph of them. More than 200 people shared this labelling the children and their parents in horrible ways, I'm sure that you appreciate the effect this will have had on the children and their families. Let's keep our children safe.

A reminder about games that children play via the Internet; it is our responsibility as parents to monitor how children use the games. Games are given age guidelines because children may not be mature enough to cope with the content which may be worrying, frightening and potentially harmful to our children. Also the added risk with playing games online is that adults are able to hide behind a false identity, again we need to protect our vulnerable children. This website is useful in helping parents with this vast area <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents> As a school we cannot endorse games that are appropriate for 11+ years, this include merchandise (e.g. bags) linked to the game. Should you have already purchased a school bag with a link to a game such as Fortnite, C.O.D etc. and wish to discontinue using it then please see a member of the office staff who can provide you with a free replacement. Thank you for supporting us in keeping your children safe.