

# St. Bede's Weekly Newsletter



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

Email: [admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk)  
Web site [www.st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk)

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

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On Sunday we hear a story from Mark's Gospel about how Jesus heals two different people. A woman who had been ill a while and also a girl who had just become ill. The different circumstances did not mean that Jesus treated them differently. Do we ensure that everyone around us is treated the same despite the different circumstances?

This week's **Statement to Live By**, has been the final in a set of four linked with reconciliation. The children have been trying to *understand the importance of peace*. On Monday in assembly I was blown away at how they were able to articulate just how it is crucial to live in a peaceful world. They explained this both in terms of global peace but also peace among our school community. Just imagine a world without conflict – how wonderful!

Attendance last week picked up in school following a spell of low attendance. It is still important that the children are in school as the myth that nothing happens in the last few weeks of the year really is not true. There is still plenty learning to be done!



This week Years 2 & 3 performed at the Whitley Bay Playhouse. They were amazing and were a part of the Northumberland Partnership of Catholic Schools Celebration of diversity. The whole evening showcased talent from across the county and in particular gave the children an insight into how they can develop their talents when the move from primary school to St Benet Biscop in Year 7. As well as seeing current St Bede's pupils perform it was so reward to see past pupils showcasing what they can now achieve.



Congratulations to our Year 6 Netball team who are still undefeated after a 12-8 win against Meadowdale. They play again on Monday against Bede Academy. Good luck girls!



**Thank you to all of those of you who engaged with our Survey Monkey questionnaire in May. Your comments are all welcomed and many of them challenged our thinking which we have found to be very useful in moving the school forward. Following is a brief update.**

**Question 1** - Some parents were aware that school could assist when their children required things for school and a similar percentage were unaware.

At St Bede's we appreciate that things do not always run smoothly in a home with finances, if you ever feel that our support would benefit you and your child(ren) please come and see us. Any help offered would be discrete.

**Question 2** - With regard to voluntary contributions towards school trips, overwhelmingly the majority of you would prefer to contribute on a trip by trip basis.

St Bede's offers school trips to enhance the curriculum and make it more enjoyable for the children. Unfortunately these trips, in particular the travel costs, can become expensive. Contrary to some public belief schools are not provided with specific finances for trips and this is why we and other schools request voluntary contributions to help. We have plans so that next year trips will be planned well in advance so that we can inform you with plenty of time.

**Question 3** - There were various suggestions about rewarding children for good attendance that spanned from no rewards needed as it was the law and the parent's responsibility to receiving trips out, vouchers or tokens.

We agree that attendance is in the main parent's responsibility but we as a school want to support those parents who sometimes find things a struggle. We also appreciate that children do become ill and therefore cannot achieve 100% attendance. Using your comments we are going to decide on additional ways to celebrate all children who have good attendance of 96% or above.

**Question 4** - This was a question where we were so glad we asked opinion as it meant that the perception was not the same as reality. As a parental body you welcome being able to bring treats in for your child's birthday.

We will continue with this tradition that has built up over time and should you wish to give treats for your child to hand out to their friends at the end of the day on their birthday then that is fine. Please also be mindful that this is by no means a necessity.

**Question 5** - With regard to providing gifts to staff the results slightly favoured that you wish to do this. Comments received indicated that you wished to thank staff for their dedication and care for your child(ren). It was lovely to read some of the comments of support. Should you wish to offer a 'token gift' to staff then that is fine but again please do not feel compelled to, a card written by a child means so much to school staff as they know that it comes from the heart.

**Question 6** - A huge majority of you would like out of hours childcare based at St Bede's. This is something that may be a possibility in the future however we do wish to continue working closely with Trinity Youth who are our current providers. School will be exploring various options in the future.

**Question 7** - As a parental body you do not wish to have the same back pack for all children. The school book bags that are for sale along with the school uniform are no longer going to be sold due to the limitation of their use. We have sourced a new supplier who can offer small back packs with the school logo. Any parent wishing to buy these at a reasonable cost will be able to via the school office. We will contact you when we have the exact cost.

Should children wish to have their own individual back pack then they will need to choose a one that is not a branded one and that is only slightly bigger than their A4 homework book. At the moment cloak rooms are becoming very overcrowded due to big bags and this poses a trip hazard.

**Question 8** - The survey showed a huge majority of you felt your child(ren) were happy in school. All comments positive and negative have been taken on board and will help to drive future decisions.

Some responses to questions given have indicated that parents do not feel the school is approachable, we would welcome specific feedback on this so that improvements can be made. Please do come and discuss any concerns or worries you have. St Bede's is here for your children and it is important that parents and school work in partnership.

There also appears to be misconceptions on the purpose of 'Poverty Proofing the School Day'. With a very small number of comments indicating that it is only about breakfast and afterschool clubs and that a negative environment is being created. Creating a poverty proof school day is a conscious effort to create an environment in school where children do not feel different; it is a conscious effort to create a 'bubble' for the children while they learn academically and socially. Research has shown that some children choose to disengage from education and school because due to the financial burdens at home, they feel they do not belong. Please see <http://www.povertyproofing.co.uk/> for more information.

As a Catholic School St Bede's has a responsibility to support all children and families and in particular those who may be or become vulnerable. The Greatest Commandment from Jesus after all was 'Love one another as I have loved you'

Once again thank you for taking part in the survey.