On behalf of all of the Staff and Governors of the school, I thank you all for a great year. 2018/2019 has been a good year in school with lots of exciting new things taking place. Can I thank you for all of your support to our school family.

Saying Goodbye:
It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a few members of staff this week. Mr Wright has been Caretaker at St Bede’s for 8 years and he is retiring from his position to spend more time with Mrs Wright and enjoy his hobby of golfing. Miss Hogan has been part of the Teaching Staff for 2 years and has been a fabulous Year 3 Teacher, she is heading off to teach in Dubai. Mrs Irving has worked in school as a member of the Lunchtime Staff and also as a Teaching Assistant for 12 years, she is moving onto a new role as a Teaching Assistant in a local school. On behalf of all of the Governors, staff, children and parents, I would like to thank them for the dedication and hard work over the years and wish them luck in their new adventures.

Congratulations:
Mr Keys is getting married over the Summer break. Congratulations to him and his future wife as they begin their new journey together.

Safeguarding:
As you are probably aware, we are an ‘Operation Encompass’ School, this means that we work alongside Northumbria Police and are informed of any reported involvement by the Police in any domestic violence incidents. The purpose of the scheme is so that, as a school, we can support any child who may have been witness to or experienced an incident in their home where the Police have been called. This means that we can be extra aware of any reason why a child may be unsettled or not themselves. The scheme has been extended to involve a layer called ‘Operation Encompass Next Steps’. This is a preventative programme developed by Northumbria Police and Barnardos to help to educate children about positive, healthy relationships. The ‘Next Steps’ Programme sits in with our PSHE Curriculum and aims to provide lessons and resources linked to friendships and relationships (there is no direct reference made to domestic violence at all).
If you would like further information, please contact either myself or Mrs Howell.

In the new academic year there will be an opportunity for a parents / carers drop in session if you have any relationship concerns that you would like to discuss with our liaison officer Megan. Further information to follow.

ParentPay:
From September, we will be introducing ‘ParentPay’ as a means of managing pupil finances (e.g. school visits and dinner money) online. You have already received a leaflet giving you further information (in with your child’s end of year report). ‘ParentPay’ will allow you to pay online for school dinners, afterschool clubs and educational visits and will reduce the need for children to bring money into school. It will also be easier for you to track your own school finance records. There is also a comprehensive emailing service which means that communication will be improved e.g. all letters, including consent letters, will be emailed to parents. Not only will this help with home-school communication but it will also be better for the environment and reduce costs for school in relation to mass photocopying / paper bills.
There will be further information to follow, however if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Cumming or Mrs McCartney (School Admin).
School Garden:
Thank you to Mrs Curry who has done a great job in developing the garden area on the Whickham View side of school. Thank you to 'Little Ollie's Garden Centre, near Newburn Bridge, for the kind donation of plants. In September, we hope to start a gardening club, organised by Mrs Anderson, who will help to maintain the garden areas and planters around school. We currently also have one Parish volunteer to help with the gardening so if you are a keen gardener please let Mrs Curry or Mrs Anderson know as we are grateful for all help.
I would also like to add some large planters to the school grounds, once again any keen joiners or any donations of planters would be a brilliant start to our developments. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

Library Developments:
Next year we hope to open the school library to parents and their children at the end of the school day so that you can borrow books to read at home. Further information to follow.

Sports Day:
Thank you to Broadwood School for the loan of their field and to Mrs Fairless and Mrs Morris for organising our first official sports day. The children had a brilliant time and we hope to build on the event for next year.

PE School Games:
Thank you to Mrs Fairless and Mrs Morris who have worked together to develop a more comprehensive PE scheme which has been a great success this year. The school has now been awarded the Silver School Games Accreditation.

Family Fun Day:
As usual, the Friends of St Bede's 'Family Fun Day' was a great success. On behalf of the school can I thank those who organised the day and all those who supported it. It is always a great fund raiser and the money is always used by the 'Friends of St Bede' to provide additional financial support to the school e.g. subsidising educational visits, covering coach costs, purchasing resources.

Thrive:
Mrs Howell has completed her Thrive training during this past academic year. Thrive supports children’s emotional development and helps them to understand and manage their emotions. The whole of St Bede’s staff team will take part in a 2 hour training session in September to give them an overview and a basic understanding of the approach. Watch this space for more information about Thrive as we develop this approach in school.

Goodbye Year 6:
On behalf of all of the staff can I say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 Leavers who have leaving us on Friday to embark on the next stage of their educational journey. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and develop throughout their years here at St Bede's into the mature young people that they are now. Good luck and God bless.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Young
Headteacher