

## **Wednesday 15th September 2021**

Dear Parents,

Thank you for sending the children back to school looking so smart in their uniforms. It has been wonderful to see them all back in school smiling, laughing and enjoying time with their friends. They have all settled into their new classes very well and there is a lovely calm and happy atmosphere around school. Thank you also for your patience while everyone gets used to the new systems in place at the start and end of the school day. They seem to be working well, but I would welcome any feedback.

### **New Staff Members**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members of staff who joined us in September. Mrs Usher is our new Year 5 teacher and we also have three new teaching assistants: Mrs Bonar (Nursery), Mrs Tutty (Reception) and Miss West (Year 3). They have quickly become part of our school team and have done a fantastic job of getting to know the children so well. I am sure they are going to be real assets to the school and I know they will work very hard to provide the best support for our children.

### **School Dinners**

Lisa, our cook, is working hard to encourage more children to change from having packed lunches to school dinners at lunchtime. She is passionate about providing quality, home-cooked meals for the children which are healthy, tasty and good value for money. She has some excellent ideas about how to make the dinners even more appealing to the children and we will be sharing more information about these plans later in the term. Lisa is planning on meeting with the children in their classes to listen to their ideas about what they would like to eat for school dinners. She would also love to hear ideas from parents too, so we will be sending out some surveys to give you the opportunity to give us some honest feedback about the school dinners currently and to suggest changes you would like to see. Lisa will also be doing some cooking demonstration sessions with the children and will be offering taster samples for children on packed lunches to try, so that they can experience what school dinners taste like.

### **P.E Days**

Just a reminder that the children should come into school wearing their PE kit on the day they have PE. As the weather starts to get colder, the children may wish to wear tracksuit bottoms instead of shorts. Please ensure that these adhere to our uniform policy for PE: plain navy/black leggings or tracksuit bottoms.

Below are the days when each class will do PE this term:

Year Group	Day for PE
Reception	Friday
Year 1	Monday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Monday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Thursday

### **COVID-19 Information**

We continue to prioritise everyone's safety with regards to minimising the risks of spreading Covid-19. The key strategies continue to be:

- washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- putting used tissues in the bin immediately and washing your hands afterwards
- opening doors and windows to let in fresh air
- encouraging visitors to school to continue to wear a face covering if possible

**The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:**

- **new continuous cough and/or**
- **high temperature and/or**
- **a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**

**\*\*Do not send your child to school if they are displaying any of the symptoms for COVID-19. Please be vigilant, especially if you are advised that someone in your child's class has tested positive for COVID-19. \*\***

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. [Get a free PCR test to check if you](#)

[have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk). if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

### **Contact Details**

If your child does have COVID-19 symptoms, or does receive a confirmed positive PCR test then please notify school as soon as possible using the following contact details:

**Telephone: 0191 4560108**

**Email: [info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk)**

### **Contacting staff in school**

It is really important to us that you and your child(ren) feel well supported on their learning journey here at St.Bede's. We encourage you to let us know about any concerns or questions you may have, no matter how big or small, and we will always do our best to help you. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please arrange an appointment either by calling 0191 456 0108 or emailing the school office at [info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk). The message will be passed on to the relevant person and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. Please avoid coming in person to the main office, especially on a morning, if a query could be dealt with over the phone.

### **INSET Days**

Friday 22nd October

Friday 1st July

Friday 22nd July

With best wishes,

Carol Devine

Acting Headteacher