

Thursday 21st October 2021

Dear Parents,

Half Term Holiday

Just a reminder that school is closed on Friday 22nd October for a staff training day and will reopen after the half term holiday on the morning of Monday 1st November. It has been such a pleasure spending time with the children in their classes. As always, both the children and the staff have worked extremely hard this half term and I am sure they are looking forward to enjoying their break at half term.

CAFOD

A huge thank you to our Mini Vinnies in Year 6 who organised a 'Go Green for CAFOD' cake sale. They did a fantastic job and I am so proud of them for their tremendous effort. They raised an impressive £151.36 for CAFOD. Thank you also to the children in all of the other classes who supported the cake sale by making such generous donations. It is wonderful to see that we have such caring children here at St.Bede's.

Disco

There will be an autumn themed disco on the afternoon of the first Friday back after half term (Friday 5th November). Each class will be allocated a time for their disco in the hall throughout the afternoon. The children can come to school that day dressed either in a costume or non uniform. In exchange for this, we are asking them to bring in a donation for the Key2Life Food Bank Project. This is a local charity which supports local families in times of difficulty and is greatly in need of our support. Any donations of tinned, packaged or dried food or toiletries would be greatly appreciated. Our Mini Vinnies in school will collect any donations daily from each of the classes throughout this week starting on Monday 1st November. We will hold a Harvest Assembly on the Friday morning, so the children can see a display of their donations before they are collected by the Key Project.

Reminders

Thank you for continuing to adhere to our one-way system in the yard as it helps to minimise congestion at the gates. We need to continue to be mindful of keeping each other safe particularly now that the winter months are approaching. School will continue to follow government and local guidance regarding Covid safety and we will of course update you if we need to make any safety changes to the systems we have in place currently. Can I please ask that you keep your children next to you on the yard once you have picked them up if you are still waiting to collect another child. The yard can be very busy at times, so it would really help us if parents of children in Year 1 & 2 could step forward towards the cloakroom door when your child comes to the front of the queue to ensure that we can check that your child has been collected safely. Without wishing to spoil anyone's fun, can I also ask parents not to let the children play on the climbing frame at pick up time please as we want to make sure that all children are safe and with their parents in the yard at all times.

Sounds-Write

I am delighted to tell you about the new phonics programme we have started to use in school this year called Sounds-Write. It is a quality first systematic, synthetic phonics programme which provides a comprehensive system with which to teach reading, spelling and writing. It is introduced in Reception, taught in KS1 and fine tuned throughout the rest of Key Stage 2.

Reception and KS1 Reading Books

We have just invested a large sum of money to buy new books for the children in Reception and Key Stage 1. The new reading books are fully decodable and support the Sounds-Write programme. In school, the books will be organised according to the order that the sounds are taught in - these are called units. The children will be given fully decodable books which are closely matched to their phonic knowledge. Each unit is taught for approximately two weeks and the reading books will typically be two units behind the unit which is being taught in class to enable the children to practise reading using sounds they have already been taught. You will be informed by your child's teacher via a home-school reading diary which unit your child is working on and which reading books you should expect to receive. I have attached a guide for parents about Sounds-Write for children in Reception class, but it is also useful information for everyone to read. Staff have received thorough and rigorous training on how to teach the new scheme to ensure that the children will make the best possible progress with their reading, spelling and writing. We are passionate about ensuring that all children leave St.Bede's being confident and able readers who have a love of reading and books. The journey for this ambition begins here by making sure that all of our children are successful at learning phonics which are the building blocks of reading. Teaching a child to read helps to unlock their potential across the whole of the curriculum - so we strongly believe that it is the most precious gift we can give our children.

We will send further information about the Sounds-Write phonics programme after half term and will be inviting parents into school to attend a Sounds-Write information session.

I hope you all have a lovely half term.

Best wishes

Mrs Carol Devine
Acting Headteacher