

Sunday, 28th November 2021

Storm Damage Update - School will open on Monday

Dear parents,

I am very happy to let you know that school will be open tomorrow (Monday 29th November).

As you will have seen from the photographs, the big Yew tree on the back school field was badly damaged from the storm on Friday night. Although this in itself would not result in the school having to close, I am sure you will appreciate that it was necessary to complete a thorough health and safety check on the rest of the tree to ensure that there was no risk of further damage. This was particularly important due to the close proximity of the tree to some of our classrooms and also the children's play areas. A company came out to assess the damage and advised that the safest option would be to fell the tree which they have done today. I would like to thank Brendan Tapping (the CEO of Bishop Chadwick Trust) and Tracey Field (the Trust estate manager) for their swift response in arranging for work to be carried out to enable me to keep school open on Monday. Once again, a big thank you to parents for your patience, support and understanding in this matter. I fully appreciate the frustration and inconvenience it can cause when there is a possibility that school has to close at short notice and I can reassure you that we will always do our very best to keep school open whenever it is safe to do so.

Covid-19

As we continue to have confirmed cases of Covid-19 reported from classes across the school, can I please ask for your support in helping to prevent the spread in school by ensuring that Government advice and guidelines are followed. **Please do not send your child to school if they display any of the following symptoms:**

- **a high temperature;**
- **a new, continuous cough;**
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.**

Please continue to report any confirmed positive PCR test results by phoning school on 0191 456 0108 or by emailing info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk

We also request that parents wear face coverings when dropping off or picking up children from school.

Christmas Arrangements

Unfortunately, because we currently have a number of confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 in school, we have decided that it would be sensible to record the children's Christmas concerts this year to prevent the potential of any further spread especially with it being so close to Christmas. We are disappointed with this arrangement as we were very much looking forward to welcoming you back into school to see the children performing live; however, the staff and children will do their best to ensure you have a memorable Christmas treat with their recorded performances. The children will be invited to wear Christmas jumpers / t-shirts on the day of their recorded performance and class teachers will be in

touch to inform you of further details. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, please do not feel as though you need to go out and buy one; the children can wear a t-shirt or jumper with Christmas colours on. If you have any problems finding anything suitable, please contact school and we will try to help.

Dates for the diary

- Christmas Parties - Class teachers will be in touch with information regarding arrangements for class parties
- Christmas dinner day is organised for Thursday 16th December
- Friday 17th December - Break up for Christmas holidays at 3.15pm

First Sunday of Advent

I know that there has been a lot of damage caused by the storm throughout the region, including St.Bede's Church. As today is the first Sunday of Advent, let us pray together as a school community that everyone is safe and well and that we can support one another over the coming weeks.

Advent prayer

Eternal God,
you will come when we do not expect you.
Help us to welcome you now in one another,
to reach out to our sisters and brothers
who are in need of care and support.
In this way may we be found ready,
when you come again in glory.
Amen

Best wishes

Mrs Carol Devine

Acting Headteacher