

## **Friday 4th March 2022**

Dear parents,

### **Covid-19**

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely half term for everyone. It is wonderful that life in school is beginning to return to normal as we learn to live with Covid-19. One of the hardest challenges we have faced in school over the last couple of years was not being able to gather together as a whole school family, so it has been really special to be able to celebrate whole school assemblies and liturgies together once more.

As a parent myself, I fully understand the frustration and disappointment of not being able to come into school to share in your child's learning journey through performances, liturgies, workshops and so forth as I know how important and special these occasions are. Obviously, we will continue to follow any guidance given and monitor the situation carefully, but we are very much looking forward to welcoming parents back into school this term.

### **Dates for the diary**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Year Group(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
Tuesday 8th March	Y1	Technology Tom workshop in school
Thursday 10th March	Whole School	Penitential Service in St.Bede's Church 9.30am
Tuesday 15th March	Y6	Visit to the OpenZone
Tuesday 22nd March	First Communicants in Y4 & Y5	First Confessions in school for children in Y4 & Y5 who are making their First Holy Communion.
Wednesday 30th March	Year 1 - Year 6	Parents' Meetings (To be held in school)
Thursday 31st March	Year 1 - Year 6	Parents' Meetings (To be held in school)
Monday 4th April	Year 5	Visit to the OpenZone
Tuesday 5th April	Whole School	Mass in Church
Tuesday 5th April	Year 3	Visit to beach - litter picking (linked to author visit)
Wednesday 6th April	Year 5	Visit to the Glass Centre
Friday 8th	Whole School	Break up for Easter holidays at 3.15pm

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## Help for Ukraine



I am sure we are all incredibly saddened by the images we are seeing on the news at the moment of the devastating impact that war is having on the people of Ukraine. I have had several children ask me this week if we can do something to help. I am so proud that we have such thoughtful children in our school and I think it is wonderful that they want to help.

As many of the Ukrainian refugees are seeking help in their neighbouring country Poland, we would like to arrange a collection in school for much needed items for the Ukrainian refugees who have managed to reach safety. Mrs Molenda (whose sister has welcomed a refugee family into her home in Poland) has organised for items we donate in school to be collected and taken to the Polish Centre in Newcastle where they will be sent to Poland to be distributed to refugees and also transferred to Ukraine.

They have requested for help with the following items so any help would be greatly appreciated. The children can bring items into school any day next week and we will arrange for them to be collected as soon as possible in order that the Polish Centre can get them sent off quickly.

**List of things needed** (based on information from aid providers):

### **Personal hygiene products**

- soaps, shower gels, shampoos and hair conditioners, hair brushes
- toothbrushes and toothpaste, for children and adults
- antiperspirants and deodorants
- face creams and tonics, hand creams for women.
- sanitary towels, tampons, panty liners
- larger sanitary pads for women in puerperium and nursing pads
- wet wipes, diapers (various sizes), tissues, cotton pads

**For children, to keep them occupied and distracted, to make them smile:**

- colouring books and crayons / markers
- small puzzles
- small mascots / cuddly toys
- sweets: chocolates, bars, snacks, etc.

**Other:**

- baby porridge and fruit / vegetable snacks in tubes (not jars), instant foods: formula milk, soups, etc., long-term foods such as canned goods, etc., paper towels, cutlery and disposable plates
- sleeping bags, mats, bedding, blankets
- power banks, batteries, flashlights, torches.

**Clothing in different sizes (please bring new items only):**

- women's and children's underwear
- Cotton T-shirts, sweatshirts and tracksuits, cotton leggings for women
- thermal clothing,
- women's and children's slippers, pyjamas, bath towels.

All collected items will be sent to the strategic reserves warehouse located in Kielce, Poland, from where they will be distributed to centres of temporary stay for Ukrainian families and transferred to Ukraine.

**A prayer for Ukraine**

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine,

for all those suffering or afraid,

that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.

### **Finally ...**

### **Good Luck St.Bede's Basketballers!**

We wish our basketball team the very best of luck for tonight. They have done amazingly well to reach the semi finals of the Hoops4Health basketball tournament which will be played at the Vertu Motor Arena - home of Newcastle Eagles basketball team tonight. If they win that match they will play the finals at half time of the Eagles vs Plymouth match tonight. Go St.Bede's! We are are very proud of you and hope you enjoy the experience. Thank you to Mr McVittie for all the time he has put into preparing the children for tonight's big match.

With very best wishes  
Mrs Carol Devine  
Acting Headteacher