

**Thursday 15th March 2023**

Dear parents / guardians,

The children have most definitely been letting their lights shine and we are so proud of all of the children for their efforts and achievements this term. I just wanted to share with you a few highlights from some of the wonderful work, successes and celebrations that we have had going on in school this term.

### **Parents' Afternoons**

Thank you for taking the time to come into school this week to speak to your child's / children's teacher(s) about the progress they have made this term; as always, it was an excellent turn out. It was lovely to see you all and I hope you enjoyed looking at your children's work in their books. We really appreciate having such a supportive set of parents and the partnership between home and school is such an important one to ensure that the children are happy and successful learners.

All of the staff in school work extremely hard in the best interests of your children and, like you, we want your children to receive the best education here at St.Bede's. We are always looking to further improve and we also recognise that there may be times when we could do things better or in a different way, so we always welcome feedback both positive and negative. Your views are really important to us; if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and speak to me - I am always happy to listen and will do my best to help.

### **Sporting Successes**

#### [Hockey - Quicksticks Festival](#)

Congratulations to the Y3/4 Quicksticks superstars. Five teams from St.Bede's participated in the event held at Boldon School and two of our teams came top in the leagues they were playing in. A fantastic effort especially considering what a cold and wet day it was.



#### [District Basketball Champions 2023](#)

Our basketball team were exceptional when they played in the district basketball championship this term at the Vertu Motors Arena in Newcastle. They showed incredible courage and determination to beat a formidable Cleadon side in a nail-biting semi-final match and then continued with an outstanding performance in the final against Forest View played at half time during the Newcastle Eagles match. It was an amazing experience for the children to play in front of such a big crowd and it was also wonderful to see so many family, friends and school staff coming together to support the team. Thank you to Mr McVittie to all of the hard work he puts in to training the children. St.Bede's have won the competition an incredible six times- I will definitely have to look into buying a new trophy cabinet!



### Infant and Junior Music Festivals - 2023

It was an absolute joy to watch our children performing at the Customs House in both the Infant and Junior music festivals. The talent was absolutely incredible and both evenings were a big hit.

The infants performed brilliantly in a musical called Noah which was the retelling of the bible story of Noah and the ark. It was written by Andrew Richardson - the pianist who plays in school for our school singing lessons and performances. A number of our children also had acting and narrating parts and they impressed the audience with how confidently they delivered their lines without any prompts. The children also performed an individual song: 'Rainbow Connection' which sounded absolutely beautiful and even included some solo parts.



The junior children were equally brilliant with their performance of the musical 'Vikings' which was also written by Andrew Richardson along with Anthony Roberts. The musical told the story of a Viking raid on the North-East coast of England. Again, some of our children had acting and narrating parts and they gave fantastic performances which had the audience laughing out loud. For their individual song, the children sang 'Sing' and gave a phenomenal performance which also included some brave soloists who were fantastic.

So many people have commented on how wonderful our children were which was lovely to hear. A special mention needs to go to Mrs Hill who has worked incredibly hard with the children over the last few months to prepare them for the big show. She has given generously of her time and all of her hard work with the children certainly paid off. Thank you also to Miss Dixon who also helped to prepare the children. We are so lucky at St.Bede's to have staff who are willing to give up their own free time to help with events like these; without their support, the children would be unable to have such wonderful opportunities and experiences.

### Comic Relief 2023

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations to Comic Relief. We raised a fantastic £204.50! The children had a great time wearing red and taking part in various activities throughout the day.

### **World Book Day**

We had a great day in school this term celebrating World Book day. It was wonderful to see how much effort everyone put in to dressing up. A special thank you to the teachers for being such good sports and getting dressed up too. There was a real buzz around school and it was a great opportunity for the children to spend time talking about books and authors to further promote a love of reading.



Thank you for your generosity with our book fair this term which raised an incredible £772. This money has been used to buy new books for our school library which were selected by our school council.

### **Class Liturgies**

Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who have attended our class liturgies this term. The children love sharing their liturgies with you and they are made all the more special by you being there.



### **Stations of the Cross**

Some of our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils led Stations of the Cross for parishioners at St.Bede's Church. They were very brave standing up to read at the lectern, many for the very first time, but they all read beautifully and they were very thoughtful reflections.



## **Mass**

We celebrated a whole school Mass with the children up in church. Fr Bill and Fr Jonathan spoke to the children about Holy Week and it was pleasing to see that the children were able to answer their questions. There was a warm invitation for children and their families to attend the services in church throughout Holy Week.

## **Introducing our new caretaker**

I would like to introduce our new caretaker, Mr Foord, who will be starting in his new role after Easter. He is looking forward to starting and I know he is going to do a great job. He has already demonstrated a real commitment to the school through his voluntary work as an active member of the PTA. I am sure everyone will give him a warm St.Bede's welcome - I know I am certainly looking forward to some help with the gates on a morning!



## **Dates for next term**

I will send a newsletter out in the first week back after Easter with dates for the new term, but just a reminder for Year 6 parents that SATS are Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May.

## **Safeguarding Updates**

Just a reminder that our safeguarding policies can be accessed via the school website under the Key Information section ([Safeguarding Policies](#)). You can also request a paper copy of any of our school policies by contacting the school office.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of our safeguarding leads - Mrs Devine, Mrs Mackley, Mr Mc Vittie or Mrs Welsh in school to share your concern:

## **Internet Safety**

During the holidays, try and encourage your child to be as active as possible and to get out into the fresh air. Inevitably, because they have more free time, the children are likely to spend more time using their electronic devices at home. Please monitor your child's usage carefully in order to keep them safe online. I have added links below to some useful guidance for parents regarding online safety - please spend a few minutes reading through the information provided.

[Internet matters - Online safety tips for parents of primary school children \(6 -10 years\)](#)

[Internet Matters - A parent guide to discovering digital at Primary school](#)

## **Easter Blessings**

All of the staff at St.Bede's would like to wish the children and their families a very happy Easter and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April ready for the start of the summer term.

*Almighty Father, who sent your only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sin, show me how I can honor you and bring glory to your name, by walking in the way of Jesus. Give me grace and mercy as I try and fail, guidance when I'm not sure which way to go, and wisdom to trust you in all things. For your love brings light and life to all who seek it. May I seek you ever more as I walk with you through this Holy Week and beyond. Amen.*

With very best wishes,

Mrs Carol Devine  
Headteacher