

Thursday July 20th 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As another school year draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for your continued support this year. I have shared a few updates below before we break up for the summer holidays.

Classes for September 2023

Class	Teacher
Nursery	Miss Storey
Reception	Miss Dixon
Year 1	Mrs McVittie
Year 2	Miss Langley
Year 3	Mr McVittie
Year 4	Mrs Kennedy
Year 5	Mrs Usher
Year 6	Mrs Davis

Changes to staffing

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Desai, Mrs Davies and Mrs Bajaj who are leaving us at the end of this week. They have been valued members of staff who have shown great care, dedication and support for the children they have worked with. I want to thank them for all of their hard work - they will be greatly missed next year.

Miss Moffett will be on maternity leave starting in September. We are all very much looking forward to meeting her new arrival who is due to arrive any time soon. We send her and her family our very best wishes.

Mr Marratty is leaving his support assistant role and will be embarking on a new journey with us as a trainee teacher here at St. Bede's in September. We wish him every success in his new career.

Year 6

We are also saying goodbye to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare to start their new schools in September. They have been a wonderful class throughout their time here at St Bede's and we are very proud of them and all that they have achieved throughout their time here.

They have shared many happy memories together and have built some life-long friendships. Well done Year 6 for your excellent SAT results this year - you have worked extremely hard and I know you all have bright futures ahead of you. Continue to live out the Gospel values you have learnt throughout your time here and remember the golden rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated yourself.

Good luck in your new schools - they are very lucky to have you. We will miss you next year. Thank you also to those parents who will be leaving our school community too, we have very much appreciated your support and kindness over the years.

PTA Summer Fair

Congratulations to our PTA for organising such a lovely summer fair. There was a happy atmosphere and families really enjoyed the event. It was nice that there was such a variety of activities for the children to choose from including soak the teacher! Thank you also to all of the families who supported the event - we raised an impressive £557.35. We are going to use this money to order a scooter pod ready for the children to park their scooters in September. A big thank you to our PTA members for all of their hard work this year and for giving up their own time so generously.

Sports Day

I was delighted that we were able to go ahead with our sports day events this year. Nursery had a great time at theirs in the morning - the highlight was definitely the tug-of-war event at the end! The rest of the school thoroughly enjoyed their sports day in the afternoon. It was a bit touch and go as to whether we were going to be able to go ahead due to the unpredictability of the weather, but I am so happy that we decided to give it a go and the weather was kind to us. It was our first sports day for three years, so it was a new experience for many of our children. Unbelievably, Paul house won again! That is 8 wins in a row - I'm sure Mrs Hill organises secret training sessions without the rest of the houses knowing! Congratulations Paul house - another well deserved victory. Well done to all of the other houses too for your fantastic efforts. Thank you to Mr McVittie for organising the event and to all of the parents who came to support the children.

Uniform

Can I take this opportunity to remind you about our school uniform policy please to ensure that the children come back to school with the correct uniform. We really value parental support with ensuring our uniform is followed consistently. Wearing a uniform helps the children to have a sense of pride in their school and to feel a sense of belonging. It also helps to improve behaviour around school as it sets standards and helps the children to understand that we have high expectations of them because we want them to be able to achieve their best. I have attached a copy of our current policy to this letter and I would really appreciate your support in this matter. I would like to draw your attention to a couple of areas from the policy that sometimes get overlooked:

- Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school: extremes of colour and style are not permitted.
- Jewellery is not permitted in school, including earrings, although a wrist watch may be worn

If you are planning to allow your child to have their ears pierced, please try organise this for the beginning of the summer holidays to allow enough time for their ears to heal before coming back to school.

We are planning on continuing to allow the children to come to school wearing their PE kit on the days when they have PE; however please make sure children wear the correct school PE kit on these days. They need to wear a **plain** white t shirt (with or without school badge); their school jumper / cardigan and either royal blue shorts or black / navy jogging bottoms.

To assist parents with affordability of uniforms we have tried to keep branded items to a minimum. We request that school cardigans / jumpers have the school badge on and for children to have at least one polo shirt with a badge on for occasions when the children are representing the school or are out on a trip.

Breakfast Club

If you require childcare provision before school our breakfast club is available from 7.45am and is priced at £5.00 per session. Booking is available via parentpay and September sessions are now available to book.

Start of Term

The school reopens on Tuesday 5th September.

The staff and I wish you all a very restful and happy summer holiday.

Take care and God bless.

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

With very best wishes,

Carol Devine
Headteacher

St. Bede's South Shields School Uniform Policy

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all pupils and any pupil arriving at school in non-uniform may expect to be sent home to make the appropriate changes:

- Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school: extremes of colour and style are not permitted. Decisions on appropriateness will be made by the headteacher and /or the deputy headteacher.
- Jewellery is not permitted in school, including earrings, although a wrist watch may be worn.
- Make up is not permitted in school, including nail varnish, transfer tattoos etc.
- Body piercing of any kind is not permitted.

To support parents with the cost of uniform our branded items of clothing have been kept to a minimum. All of the uniform listed below is required to be worn to school unless stated otherwise. Emblematic is our main uniform supplier for branded items and a link to an order form can be found here ([Emblematic Order Form](#)) or on the school website. Our branded items of uniform can also be purchased from other local retailers. Non-branded items of uniform can be purchased more widely. To encourage recycling, our uniform can also be purchased for a small cost from our PTA.

Boys:

- Plain **grey** tailored school trousers or plain **grey** tailored school shorts
- Blue polo shirt with school logo
- Grey sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey or black socks
- Black shoes with black laces or Velcro

Girls:

- Plain **grey** school skirt, plain **grey** school pinafore or plain **grey** tailored school trousers (please contact the school if you are unsure of the appropriate style to avoid buying trousers that are not acceptable)
- Blue and white checked dress may be worn in warmer weather
- Blue polo shirt with school logo
- Grey sweatshirt with school logo or grey cardigan with school logo
- White or grey socks or grey tights
- Black shoes with black laces or Velcro

P.E. Uniform:

- White t shirt with school logo (optional) - plain white t shirt's can also be worn
- Royal blue shorts
- Plain black / navy jogging bottoms
- Plimsolls or training shoes

Optional:

- We have a range of coats, school bags and P.E. bags available