

Friday 17th May, 2024

Changes to School Badge Update

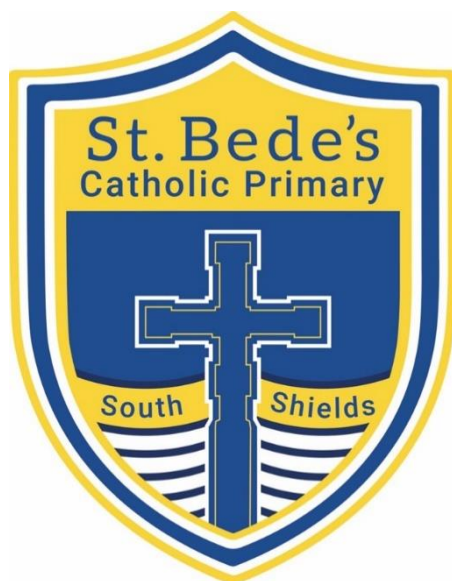
Dear parents,

The Governing Body would like to notify parents that the school badge will be changing.

It is believed the origin of the emblem on the existing badge is a depiction of the galleon ship sitting on top of the Town Hall tower overlooking the school.

The Governing Body has made a decision to transition to a new badge containing two new emblems which -

- Prominently reflects our school's Catholic faith and ethos and commemorates our patron saint.
- Marks a significant aspect of our town's maritime heritage.



The first of the 2 emblems to achieve our objective is a uniquely shaped Cross.

The Cross is the principal symbol of the Catholic faith and recalls the Crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the redeeming benefits of His Passion and death. It is from this event the school derives its ethos and motto, *with Christ at our side to guide us, we shine in all that we do.*

The school is blessed to have St Bede as its patron saint as Bede is also the Catholic faith's patron saint of scholars. Bede's whole life was dedicated to teaching and learning.

Bede also lived most of his life within 3 miles of our school at St Paul's Monastery, Jarrow, from the age of 12 until he died in 735AD.

The unique shape of the Cross on the badge is copied from the Cross inscribed on a dedication sandstone slab which stood within the monastery. Bede was sent to the monastery at the time it was being built. He would have helped with the build and the laying of the slab.

The slab carried the Latin inscription IN HOC SINGULARI SIGNO VITA REDDITUR MUNDO *In this unique sign, life is restored to the world.* It is a Cross Bede would have revered and worshipped at during his lifetime at the Monastery. Remains of the lower part of the slab is on display within the Monastery to this day.



The second emblem is the bow of a lifeboat.

A lifeboat emblem is also part of our town's Coat of Arms. The emblem marks a significant aspect of South Shields' long and proud tradition of seafaring, shipbuilding, lifesaving, and world-renowned reputation for excellence in marine engineering and seamanship. The first purpose-built lifeboat was built in the Borough in 1789, and the town is home to Britain's second oldest preserved lifeboat, the Tyne, which is located at the Wouldhave Memorial on Ocean Road.

Governors are proud and pleased to introduce the new badge. We are hopeful and confident that staff, children, parents and others associated with the school will share the same feelings.

The new badge will be formally adopted on 25 May 2024, the feast day of St Bede. However, full integration of the badge into areas of school life, eg uniform, stationery and signage, will take place gradually to avoid wastage and extra costs.

Uniform suppliers will be notified of the new badge in May 2024. Existing uniform stock containing the old badge can still be purchased and worn after September 2024. Additionally, uniform suppliers may start using the new badge on new stock acquired for sale prior to September 2024.

Finally, Governors would like to place on record their thanks to Aaron Paterson of Smith Bros (Hebburn & Jarrow) Ltd and Lee Weatherburn for their invaluable help in designing the badge.

With all good wishes

St. Bede's Governing Body