



January Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Headteacher message

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your families had a joyful and restful Christmas break. As we step into a new term, we're excited to build on the successes of the previous year and embrace the opportunities that 2025 brings.

Celebrating Christmas

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to making our Christmas events so memorable. From the nativity performances to the festive assemblies, it was wonderful to see our school community come together in such a meaningful way. A special thank you goes out to our PTFA for organising and paying for selection boxes for all of the children in school.

Staff Absence Notification

Mrs Kennedy will be absent from school for the next couple of weeks due to a family bereavement. We understand that continuity is important, and we have made arrangements to ensure that the teaching of Year 4 will continue smoothly during this time. Miss Lyons who is covering the absence has got to know the children really quickly and is doing a great job.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Kennedy and her family during this difficult time. Thank you for your understanding and support.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss.

New Child Wellbeing & Family Support Lead



I am delighted to introduce Mrs Ruth Tutty who has been appointed as our new Child Wellbeing and Family Support Lead. She is an experienced and approachable member of staff who will be a real asset in the role of supporting children and their families. She will work closely with staff to ensure that every child feels safe, valued and supported. Her role will focus on supporting children with their attendance, emotional wellbeing, building positive relationships with families, and creating a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Looking Ahead

This term promises to be packed with learning and enrichment opportunities:

- **Curriculum Focus:** Please see class pages on our school website to see year group curriculum overviews for this term.
- **Clubs and Activities:** We have a number of clubs on offer this term. There are spaces still available, so if your child is interested in joining any of them please contact Mrs Griffiths in the main office for further details. This term's clubs include:

Day	Club(s)	Year Groups
Monday	Gymnastics Club	Y1 / Y2
Tuesday	Fundamentals Drama & Ukulele Club Arts & Crafts	Y1 / Y2 Y3 / Y4 Y5 / Y6
Wednesday	Mini Vinnies	Juniors
Thursday	Music Choir	Juniors

Extended School Provision**Breakfast Club**

Just a reminder that we have a breakfast club available from 7.45am (£5.00 per day). This can be booked via Parent Pay. If you require any further information, please speak to Mrs Griffiths in the main office.

After School Club

We understand that finding appropriate childcare can be a challenge for some families. With this in mind, we will be sending out a parent survey to find out whether this is a service parents would be interested in school providing.

Dates for your diary

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
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January	Monday 13 th January						
	Tuesday 14 th January	9.00am - 12.30pm	Year 5	Visit to Open Zone @ The Word. Computing Module.			
		9.30am - 11.30am	Year 6	Library Visit to The Word			
	Wednesday 15 th January						
	Thursday 16 th January	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Year 5	Bikeability Catch Up Session for group who missed their final session.			
	Friday 17 th January						
	Monday 20 th January	9.00am - 10.00am	Juniors	KS2 Assembly – Keeping myself safe talk – PC Lough			
	Tuesday 21 st January	9.30am - 11.30am	Year 5	Library Visit to The Word			
	Wednesday 22 nd January						
	Thursday 23 rd January	9.00am - 10.30am	Choir	Music Outreach in school for choir – Durham Cathedral			
		2.00pm - 3.00pm	Nursery Reception	Police Visit			
	Friday 24 th January						
Monday 27 th January				Holocaust Memorial Day			

	Tuesday 28 th January	9.00am - 12.30pm	Year 6	Visit to Open Zone @ The Word. Computing Module.
		9.30am - 11.30am	Year 4	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 29 th January	9.30am - 12.00pm	Reception	Reception Vision Screening – School
	Thursday 30 th January	8.50am - 3.00pm	Basketball Team	Year 4 Year 5 Basketball Team – District Basketball Finals @ Vertu Arena Newcastle
	Thursday 30 th January	9.00am - 10.30am	Choir	Music Outreach in school for choir – Durham Cathedral
	Friday 31 st January	9.10am 9.40am	Year 2	Class Celebration of the Word in school – families warmly invited to attend
February	Monday 3 rd February			Mental Health Week
	Tuesday 4 th February	9.00am - 12.30pm	Year 1	Visit to Open Zone @ The Word. Computing Module.
		9.30am - 11.30am	Year 3	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 5 th February	1.15pm - 2.00pm	Reception	Visit to St. Bede’s Church – Eucharist Topic
	Thursday 6 th February	9.10am 9.40am	Year 3	Class Celebration of the Word in school – families warmly invited to attend
		9.00am - 10.30am	Choir	Music Outreach for choir – Durham Cathedral at Westoe Crown Primary
		All day	Group of Year 5 / 6 pupils	Phoenix Project Aspire Programme
	Friday 7 th February	All day	Group of Year 5 / 6 pupils	Phoenix Project Aspire Programme
	Monday 10 th February	All week	All year groups	TEST WEEK in school
	Tuesday 11 th February	9.00am - 12.30pm	Year 4	Visit to Open Zone @ The Word. Computing Module.
		9.30am - 11.30am	Year 2	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 12 th February	1.15pm - 2.00pm	Year 6	Visit to St. Bede’s Church – Eucharist Topic
	Thursday 13 th February			
Friday 14 th February				
Monday 17 th February	All week		TEST WEEK in school	

	Tuesday 18 th February	9.00am - 12.30pm	Gymnastics Team (Year 1 / Year 2)	Gymnastics Finals
		9.30am - 11.30am	Year 1	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 19 th February	1.15pm - 2.00pm	Year 4	Visit to St. Bede's Church – Eucharist Topic
	Thursday 20 th February	10.30am - 12.00pm	Choir	Music Outreach in school for choir – Durham Cathedral
	Friday 21 st February	3.15pm	Whole School	Break up for half term
	Monday 2 nd March	8.40am	Whole School	School open

Thank You for Your Support

Your continued partnership is invaluable in helping us create a safe, welcoming, and inspiring learning environment for your children. Together, we look forward to achieving great things this term!

Next Steps

To stay informed and engaged with school activities, please:

- Check our school website regularly for updates and announcements.
<https://stbedessouthshields.co.uk/>
- Ensure your contact information is up to date with the school office.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help and support you and your child throughout the school year. I have included a link to our compliments, complaints and concerns policy for your reference: [Compliments, complaints and concerns policy](#)

School office: 0191 456 0108 or email at info@stbedessouthshields.co.uk

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding team in school are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Carol Devine – Headteacher

cdevine@stbedessouthshields.co.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mr Paul Charlton – Deputy Headteacher / SENDCO

Mr Brian McVittie – Senior Leader

Just a reminder that you can access our safeguarding policies on the school website in the Key Information section. ([Safeguarding Policies](#)) If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of our safeguarding leads in school to share your concern.

With warmest wishes,

Carol Devine
Headteacher

Loving God,

As we step into this new year, we thank You for the gift of fresh beginnings and new opportunities. Bless our families with Your grace, guiding us to grow in love, wisdom, and kindness each day.

Help us to face challenges with courage and joy, and to celebrate every small victory with grateful hearts. May our homes be filled with peace and laughter, and may we support one another in all that lies ahead.

Grant us strength to walk in faith and the vision to see Your presence in our daily lives. Bless our children as they learn and grow and bless our parents to guide them with patience and love.

We entrust this year into Your hands, trusting in Your care and goodness.

Amen