



February Newsletter

Headteacher message

Dear Parents / Carers,

A Warm Welcome To Our New Teaching Assistants!

I am thrilled to introduce two wonderful additions to our teaching staff this term. Please join us in welcoming **Mrs. Sophie Wilson** and **Mr. Anthony Maratty** to our school community.

Mrs. Sophie Wilson is joining us for the first time, and we are eager to see the fresh perspectives and energy she will bring to our classrooms. Mrs. Wilson has a strong background in educational support with a particular strength in supporting pupils with special educational needs. She has a wealth of experience and expertise which will greatly benefit our pupils. Her passion for fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment makes her a perfect fit for our team.

Mr. Anthony Maratty is no stranger to our school, having previously worked with us as a teaching assistant. Mr Maratty also brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of our school culture. His dedication to student success and willingness to go the extra mile have always been highly appreciated by staff, children and families. We are excited to have him back and look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly make once again.

Both Mrs Wilson and Mr Maratty are excited to be joining our St. Bede's family and are enthusiastic about working with the children and contributing to their academic growth. Please give them a warm welcome and feel free to reach out to them with any questions or just to say hello! Mrs Wilson will be joining us next week (week beginning 17th February) and Mr Maratty will be starting after half term.

Goodbye and Thank You

We would like to inform you that **Mrs Amira Farag**, one of our lunchtime assistants, will be leaving us at the end of this week. We are incredibly grateful for all of her hard work and dedication over her time here at St. Bede's. Mrs Farag has been an invaluable part of our team, not only during lunchtime but also in her role as a teaching assistant, where she has provided tremendous support to our children in class. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for the positive impact she has made on our school community.

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.

Wraparound Provision Parental Survey Response

We are pleased to share that we received a very positive response to our recent parental survey about wraparound care. We are currently in the planning stages of setting up this provision in our school, with the support of our Trust and the local authority. We understand the importance of this service for our families and are committed to keeping you informed of any updates and timescales as they become available.

Dates for your diary

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
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February	Monday 10 th February	All week	All year groups	TEST WEEK in school	
	Tuesday 11 th February		All year groups	Safer Internet Day – children will complete activities in their classes	
		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	10.00am - 11.30am	Choir	Visit to Westoe Crown Primary School for Durham Cathedral music outreach programme rehearsal	
	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 3 rd March	8.40am	Whole School	School open
		pm	EYFS	NEXUS visit
		pm	EYFS	NEXUS visit
	Tuesday 4 th March	9.30am - 11.30am	Reception	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 5 th March	10.00am	Rec - Y6	Mass at St. Bede's Church – Ash Wednesday
	Thursday 6 th March	9.00am - 3.30pm	Choir	Music outreach programme – rehearsal and performance at Durham Cathedral
	Friday 7 th March	All day	Whole School	World Book Day Celebrations in School
	Friday 7 th – Saturday 15 th March			Science Week
	Tuesday 11 th March	9.30am - 12.00pm	Year 3	Visit to Open Zone @ The Word. Computing Module.
		9.30am - 11.30pm	Year 6	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 12 th March	9.00am - 3.00pm	Year 3	Visit to Oriental Museum – Durham (Ancient Egypt history unit)
		1.15pm - 2.00pm	Year 2	Visit to St. Bede's Church – Eucharist Topic
	Thursday 13 th March	9.00am	Year 1	Class Celebration of the Word in school – families warmly invited to attend
		1.00pm - 3.00pm	Year 5	Rain Garden Session - Durham Wildlife Trust
	Monday 17 th – Wednesday 19 th March			Book Fair in School – arrangements to be confirmed
	Tuesday 18 th March	9.30am - 11.30am	Year 5	Library Visit to The Word
		6.30pm - 8.00pm	Junior Music Festival Choir	Junior Music Festival
	Wednesday 19 th March	9.30am - 12.00pm	Year 2	All Stars Cricket Festival at Temple Park
		1.15pm - 2.00pm	Year 3	Visit to St. Bede's Church – Eucharist Topic

		9.30am - 12.00pm	Infants	Music Festival rehearsal at Customs House
	Thursday 20 th March	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Infants Music Festival Choir	Infant Music Festival at Customs House
	Friday 21 st March	11.15am - 11.45am	Year 5 Year 6	Leading Stations of the Cross at St. Bede's Church
		12.20pm - 3.20pm	Junior Cross Country Team	Cross Country Event at Temple Park
	Tuesday 25 th March	9.30am - 12.00pm	Year 2	Visit to Open Zone @ The Word. Computing Module.
		9.30am - 11.30am	Year 4	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 26 th March	9.00am - 3.00pm	Reception	Visit to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle
		1.15pm - 2.00pm	Year 4	Visit to St. Bede's Church – Eucharist / Lent topic
	Thursday 27 th March	1.00pm - 2.00pm	Nursery Reception	NEXUS visit to EYFS
	Friday 28 th March	9.00am - 10.00am	Year 6	Marie Holmes from Healthy Minds team to lead workshop with Year 6 pupils and parents – coping with exam stress / anxiety
		12.00pm - 3.00pm	Year 4	Quicksticks Hockey Festival at Boldon School
	Tuesday 1 st April	9.20am - 12.00pm	Reception	Gymnastics Festival at Urban Factory
		9.30am - 11.30am	Year 3	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 2 nd April	1.15pm - 2.00pm	Year 1	Visit to St. Bede's Church – Eucharist / Lent topic
		3.00pm - 6.00pm	Year 1 – Year 6	Parents' Evening
	Thursday 3 rd April	3.00pm - 6.00pm	Year 1 – Year 6	Parents' Evening
	Friday 4 th April	11.15am - 11.45am	Year 3 Year 4	Leading Stations of the Cross at St. Bede's Church
	Monday 7 th April	am	Year 6	School nurse to measure Year 6 heights and weights
	Tuesday 8 th April	9.30am - 11.30am	Year 2	Library Visit to The Word
	Wednesday 9 th April	9.00am	Reception	Class Celebration of the Word in school – families warmly invited to attend

	Thursday 10 th April	1.00pm	Whole School	Bishop Stephen to visit school.
	Friday 11 th April	1.15pm	Whole School	Break up for Easter Holidays. Children to be collected from their usual pick up points at 1.15pm
	Monday 28 th April	8.40am	Whole School	School open for start of summer term

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

Mrs Ruth Tutty – Family Support Worker

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