



ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

30th Nov 2017

Advent

Advent is the season in which Christians must rekindle in their hearts the hope that they will be able to, with God's help, renew the world.

Pope Benedict XV

As we begin the season of Advent. We are helping to prepare the children in school by rehearsing songs for the Advent Mass. Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

To help you as a family prepare to celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas time, we will be sending home Advent bags and travelling cribs. We hope you enjoy this special time with your child.

Absence

We continue to send our prayers and well wishes to Mrs King. Her recovery time is taking longer than expected but she is endeavouring to return to school the week before the Christmas break.

Announcements

At the end of term we will be saying a very sad goodbye to a loved and treasured member of staff, Mrs Bennett, as she moves on to a position in another school. We know that we can easily say that we will all miss her very much and thank her for her many years of teaching at St Bede's and her great contribution to the life of the school during that time.

Mrs Armstrong will be joining us in January as the teacher in Year 4. The children have seen Mrs Armstrong in school and we are sure that there will be a smooth transition.

Consultation on Academy Status - St Bede's RC Primary School in partnership with Carmel Education Trust

Over the last 12-18 months both the Department for Education and the Diocese have been encouraging single academy trusts to consider the option of working in more formal partnership with other schools, as part of a multi academy trust.

Having carefully considered the benefits of this to our school, our Board of Directors has decided to consult parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders on whether our school should join Carmel Education Trust, which many of you will know is a locally-based, successful catholic Multi Academy Trust (MAT). We have, therefore, commenced formal consultation on Monday 20th November 2017 for a period of four school weeks. Consultation will end at 5pm on Friday 15th December 2017. Our Board of Directors would very much like to hear your opinion. We will be holding drop in sessions attended by the Head Teacher, St Bede's Directors and representatives from Carmel Education Trust on:

Monday 4th December 2017 at 4.00pm

The aim of the drop-in session is to hear your views and answer any questions you might have.

Admissions Policy 2019-2020 Consultation

Where changes to admission arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. We will be sending information out on **Monday 4th December** for a consultation period of

six weeks from that date on the Admissions Policy 2019-2020. A consultation response form will be available by request from the school from Monday 4th December.

Donation

We would like to thank a very kind grandparent for their generous donation to school to help those who are unable to meet the cost of outside school activities such as trips. We are extremely grateful for this generosity.

Fundraising in school

Children in Need - amount raised was £283.77

Friday 1st December - Friends of St Bede's 'Dress Down Friday' - Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 1st December we are asking for donations for the Christmas Fair of any type of bottle e.g. alcohol, juice, toiletries, etc.

Open Afternoon for Primary Admission for September 2017

On Monday 4th December we will be holding an open evening at 5.00pm. We would urge you to attend if your child is due to start school in September 2018 to ensure advice regarding the current procedure is given. Please pass this information on to anyone who has children ready to start school September 2018.

Appointments and absences

Please can you ensure that you inform the school office of any absences or appointments?

The school office hours are 8.00am – 4.00pm, however, should you wish to report an absence you can leave a message or email office@stbedesrc.darlington.sch.uk

Sports news

Well done to the Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics Team who came third in the town finals on 20th November at the Dolphin Centre!

Judo Demonstration – Y1–Y6

The children have enjoyed the judo demonstration in school this week. The children always find these sessions fun, motivational and very beneficial. There are several Community Clubs open to children who are keen and interested in taking up the sport further. Contact school if you require any further information.

Cloakrooms

Can we please remind parents that their children should only have the school book bag and school PE bag in school. Our cloakrooms cannot accommodate large backpacks. Could we also ask that key rings and charms are kept to a minimum of one per bag. We realise they are useful to help your child identify their own bag but lots of charms are getting lost and broken.

Friends of St Bede's

The Disco was a resounding success and the amount raised was £482.00.

Next event is:



**Friends of St Bede's. Christmas Fair
Saturday 9th December 1pm-3pm**

Come along and support our school! There will be lots of stalls and craft activities to enjoy. All donations will be gratefully received! Thankyou

