

The Lantern

St. Boniface said of St. Bede that 'he shone forth like a lantern.'



Dear Families

I hope you are well.

Although I said it yesterday, I again wanted to thank our Y3 community—pupils, parents and staff for their understanding this week: it was a challenging one, but we hope those who fell ill are now on the mend. And look forward to welcoming everyone back into the school after a full weekend that allows to say goodbye to this horrible bug.

I have been struggling with passwords today. It used to be as you got older you got more keys: a key to a locker, your house, your car and so on. Nowadays, I think it might be passwords! The older I get, the more of them I acquire. I have over forty logins—over twenty for work! Today I forgot the password (again!) that would allow me to talk via Google Classrooms to the children and staff in their classrooms at 3.00pm. I am so disappointed. I love doing this, wishing everyone a great weekend and congratulating them for all their hard work this week. I was disappointed to miss this, as was Mrs Roberts. I will get myself sorted for next Friday. My apologies.

God Bless

Gary

Parent/ Teacher Consultations

Our teachers were delighted to see so many of you yesterday evening. They tell me how important it is to them to see you to share your child's successes and those areas where we will be aiming for progress in winter months. There will be another opportunity to meet with them as soon as the spring arrives - we are hoping for great strides to be made by all our children before next term's meetings. Where a parent attempted to logon, but the technology did not work for them—the teachers will make contact by phone between now and Christmas.

We will not be returning to face-to-face parent/ teacher consultations at our school. The video calls are much more efficient—with no-one having to wait for their appointment because the previous conversations have overrun. I have said earlier in November, that I realise that some parents would like to discuss other aspects of their child's presentation in school—their wellbeing, friendships, conduct, progress and attainment in other subject areas. Believe me when I say that our teachers would dearly like to do this too. However, we have to prioritise what we do because it part of my job to manage the pressures and demands that are made of staff. That said, our children's wellbeing is of as much importance to us as progress in reading and mathematics. I will talk to the teachers about how we might do things a little differently in March.

I know some parents have been disappointed in the platform we are using. My own three children attend excellent but different schools and each used a different platform to host video calls for parents and teacher evenings this term. In Archie's school—a secondary— I had meetings with seven different teachers, not all of whom could hear me—and in Scarlett's school, the teacher could not hear both her parents, only one. I have yet to hear of a school that has not had glitches. The technology will continue to improve. Over the two nights, there were 594 meetings booked and over 90% of these went ahead without any hiccups—that's a lot of video calls! When a meeting didn't happen, it wasn't always because of the technology, with parents being called elsewhere at late notice and some being unwell.

We still want to welcome parents into school where we can: class assemblies have been well attended this term and I know the three nativities we have coming up are eagerly anticipated.

St Bede's Parents' Association Coffee Morning

28th November 2021

9am and 11am

After Mass, St Bede's Church Hall

A warm welcome awaits you. Thank you for your support.



St. Cedd's

This Saturday 27th November, St Cedd's have their Christmas Bazaar at 2pm in their parish halls. It would be fantastic if you were able to go along and support our neighbouring parish! It's set to be a fun afternoon out with new and old items for sale, along with raffles, tombolas and games for the children—not forgetting the Grand Raffle Draw. If you would like to have a hot lunch beforehand then the kitchen in the lower hall will be open from 1pm.

What great ways to start the Christmas festivities!

Lantern Certificates

Aiden; Alfred; Alice; Alishya; Amelia; Andy; April; Ariane; Arminas; Benjamin; Bokeh; Brooke; Bryan; Caleb; Chelsea; Ciara; Cleo; Cristiano; Daniel; Danielle; David; Eesa; Eiren; Ellerae; Ferdinand; Fikunmi; Gracelyn; Indiya-Rose; Inioluwa; Joshua; Kacey; Kavina; Kayden; Kaylen; Leonard; Maliah; Mary-Anne; Natalie; Obinna; Oliver; Olivia; Philippa; Savannah; Sienna-Lee; Teniola; Teo; Tiffany; Venita; Zachariah; Zikora

Head teacher Awards

Fleur; Jimmy; Kehinde; Kian; Ryan.

We are very excited in school about the 'Battle Between The Houses', a TT Rockstars competition that has been running since 3rd November. And will reach a climax on December 17th!

The standings currently are: **St George 4205**
St Patrick 2428
St Andrew 2253
St David 1915

Let's see what happens in the next three weeks.

The winning House will receive double playtime on the morning of Friday 17th December.

Have a great weekend

God Bless

Every Thursday
2nd December (5.30pm)
10th December
10th December (2.15pm)
13th December (1.30pm)
13th December (4pm)
14th December (10.45am/2pm)
15th December (2pm)
16th December (1pm)
16th December (3pm)
17th December (1.30pm)

Open Forum with Mr Nott and Mrs Roberts (Google Classroom)
Year 6 parents' session—Journey in Love (Google Classroom)
Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Reception Nativity—**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**
Carol Service at church (years 1-6)
Choir singing to parents
Nursery Nativity—**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**
Year 2—A Christmas Story
Class Christmas parties in school
Carols at the front gate sung by the choir
Early closing for pupils. Nursery is shut all day

Weekly Reflection, with Mrs Mackie

On Sunday, we celebrated the feast of Christ the King – the final Sunday in the Church’s year.

For most people, the idea of a king is someone sitting on a throne looking down on all his subjects, wearing a priceless crown and rich robes; but this is not the king Jesus wanted to be – he saw himself as the Servant King - one who serves rather than rules. The king of our hearts. He told his disciples to serve others and showed them an example of how to do so. At the last supper he had with his friends, he did not ask them to wait on him; instead, he poured water into a bowl and to their dismay began to wash the dirt off their feet. He explained to them that their life, like his, should be one of service.

In Year 6, the children have been looking at the parable known as ‘the Sheep and the Goats’, which Jesus told to show how we should always think of others. He speaks to the people, saying that helping a person—no matter their status - is just the same as helping Jesus himself. It is therefore a duty for all Christians; for you, and for me.

How then can we follow Jesus example? How can we serve others?

On Sunday, Advent begins and from Wednesday, we begin to open our Advent Calendars—it is a central part of the countdown to Jesus’ arrival at Christmas, especially for children. Even as an adult, I still get a thrill of excitement as the days move closer to 25th December. Here in school, instead of opening our calendar to find a chocolate or some other delight, we bring non-perishable food (dried/tinned goods) in that can be given to those in need over the festive season- a ‘reverse’ Advent calendar– we give rather than receive. We know just how much a donation of provisions is welcomed by families who are in need at this time of year. Through this act, we are putting our Faith into action and are recognising the needs of our neighbours.

‘When I was hungry you gave me to eat. Whatsoever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me.’

Jesus, Servant King, help us to follow your example of service in our lives.

Amen