

# ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

*celebrating life and learning*

MARCH 2026

## REFLECTION

'Easter is not a passport to an other world; it is a quality of perception for this one'. W. P. Lemon

The season of Easter is not confined to one day, but is in fact a period of fifty days that take us to the celebration of Pentecost. It means we have longer to live out the joyful, hopeful message of Easter.

Alleluia!

*Lord our God, we thank you for the new life we celebrate at Easter: for Jesus, who overcame death, and the gift of eternal life through Him. Help us to grow in the life which does not end, in love and friendship with you, which lasts forever.*

Amen



WISHING EVERYONE  
A HAPPY, HOLY  
EASTER AND A  
PEACEFUL, RESTFUL  
HOLIDAY.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS (PINS)

At St. Bede's, we believe that every child deserves to feel understood, supported, and able to thrive. This year, our school has been proud to engage in the Partnership in Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme: an initiative designed to strengthen how schools and families work together to support neurodiverse children and young people.

PINS is a collaborative project that brings together educators, health professionals, and families to deepen understanding of neurodiversity and to embed inclusive practices across school life. The aim is simple: to create environments where all learners feel safe, valued, and confident, particularly those with additional sensory, emotional, or developmental needs.

As part of the programme, our staff team has accessed an extensive range of high-quality professional development. These sessions have been invaluable in helping us understand not just what neurodiverse pupils experience, but also how we can adapt our practice to support them more effectively.

Training topics have included:

**Sensory Needs and Adaptations:** Understanding how sensory processing differences affect children and how small adjustments to the environment can make a huge difference.

**Trauma and Neurodiversity:** Exploring how trauma can intersect with neurodiversity and how to support pupils with sensitivity and care.

**Mental Health Support Team (MHST): How They Can Help Learning** more about the role of MHSTs and how families and schools can access their guidance.

**Sleep Science and Neurodiversity:** Research-based insights into how sleep patterns differ for neurodiverse children.

**Sleep: Practical Implications** Practical strategies to support better rest and routines at home and at school.

**ARFID (Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder):** Understanding this often-misunderstood condition and exploring supportive approaches.

**Tics and Tourette's:** Developing awareness of tics, triggers, and how to create a non-judgmental environment for pupils who experience them.

These sessions have already helped us enrich our classroom approaches, strengthen our communication with pupils, and tailor support more effectively to individual needs.

We know that supporting a neurodiverse child is a team effort, and families play a vital role. To help you feel informed and empowered, all of the above topics are also available as webinars for parents/carers.

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## WHY GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS: A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

At St. Bede's Catholic Junior School, we want every child to feel happy, confident and able to achieve their full potential. One of the simplest but most powerful ways to support your child's learning and wellbeing is ensuring they attend school regularly. National research continues to show that every day in school really does count.

What the Department for Education (DfE) says:

The DfE states clearly that *'school attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and wider development'*, describing it as a *'strong protective factor'*, especially for the most vulnerable pupils. The DfE also highlights that missing school *'has a clear impact on attainment, affecting progress, confidence and readiness to learn.'*

### Current National Attendance Picture

Across England, pupil attendance continues to improve compared with the immediate post-pandemic years, but it remains below pre-2020 levels.

Latest data shows:

- National attendance stands at 93.36%, meaning pupils are missing around 6.64% of sessions.
- Primary attendance is slightly stronger at 94.6%, but still higher absence than before the pandemic.

Persistent absence (missing more than 10% of sessions) remains a challenge nationally, especially for vulnerable pupils.

### Why Attendance Matters in Primary School

Attendance patterns begin early. Research shows that when children develop regular routines in primary school, these habits tend to continue into secondary education. Conversely, early irregular attendance can become an ongoing pattern if not addressed.

Good attendance ensures your child can:

- Keep up with learning in reading, writing and maths
- Maintain friendships and feel part of the school community
- Build confidence and resilience
- Access the full range of curriculum and enrichment activities
- Benefit from trusted adults who support their safety and wellbeing



### How You Can Support Your Child

- Aim for 100% attendance, but keep your child at home if they are genuinely unwell.
- Follow NHS guidance regarding sending children to school with mild illnesses such as a runny nose or minor cough.
- Establish consistent routines for bedtime and mornings.
- Contact us early if you are experiencing difficulties — we are here to help and, like our parents/carers, want the best for all children.
- Celebrate your child's efforts and talk positively about school.

### Working Together

Improving attendance is a shared responsibility. The DfE reminds us that *'improving school attendance is everyone's business'* and that families, schools and wider agencies must work together.

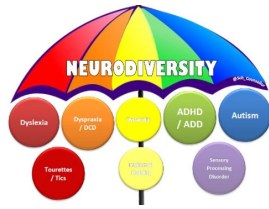
By supporting your child to be in school every day, you are giving them the best possible foundations for a successful, happy future.

If you ever need advice, support with routines, or guidance about attendance, please speak to our staff— we are always happy to help.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS (PINS)

These sessions offer:

- clear explanations in everyday language
- practical tips for home
- strategies that align with what we use in school
- reassurance and expert guidance opportunities to better understand your child's needs



We warmly encourage all families—whether you feel this applies to your child now or simply want to learn more—to take part. A shared understanding between home and school helps us provide consistent, compassionate support that makes a real difference.

By engaging with PINS, we are strengthening our commitment to inclusion and to ensuring that every child at St. Bede's can flourish. We are incredibly grateful for the partnership we have with our families, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

If you would like more information about the webinars or about PINS itself, please contact the school office by email:

[admin.stbedesjunior@haltonlearning.net](mailto:admin.stbedesjunior@haltonlearning.net).

### CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Class assemblies are just one way in which parents/carers share in the religious life of the school. We are delighted to host our families for these wonderful celebrations at 9.00 a.m.

24.04.26	Class 10	WITNESSES
01.05.26	Class 5	MARY (MONTH OF MAY)
15.05.26	Class 2	TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
12.06.26	Class 8	FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY
26.06.26	Class 7	STEWARDSHIP
10.07.26	Class 3	DIALOGUE & ENCOUNTER

Both pupils, and class teachers, work hard to write assemblies and rehearse their many lines, hymns and dramatisations. All pupils show great resilience and motivation during these special events.

## LENTEN FUNDRAISING

With only one week left to go—Year 3 delivering their lovely Lenten stalls this week—I am delighted to share that we have raised the following amounts each week:

Teachers: £612.40

Year 6: £774.30

Year 5: £806.15

Year 4: £663.15

Year 3: ...



The children have been amazing so far: we have had glass animals galore, hot chocolate factory, popcorn shop, raffles, Guess the Name of the Teddy, and so many more. Miss Housley sold ice cream in the very cold weather in February, and Rosie R (Y4) sold Hot Chocolate on the hottest day we have had so far this year! Perhaps they should swap next year!!

Thank you to our families for providing such a range of options and a daily supply of change!

## Respect, Love and Achieve

### SCHOOL UNIFORM STANDARDS

Parents/carers are politely asked to encourage their children, and make certain that, they wear the correct uniform while attending school, including footwear and PE kit. It has been noted that some pupils continue to wear non-uniform items on P.E. days. Parents/carers are asked to support the school in ensuring that the correct PE uniform is worn.

In addition, for reasons of health and safety, we do not allow jewellery (bracelets and necklaces) to be worn. Wrist watches are permissible, though smart watches are discouraged as they can be a distraction.

As earrings are now allowed, there is an expectation that they are ONE pair of small studs! Nail varnish and/or acrylic nails are not allowed. If pupils arrive in school with polished nails, they will be asked to remove the polish at home. We kindly ask our parents/carers to support the school by not allowing their child to come to school with acrylic or polished nails.

Make up is not permitted; pupils who wear make up are asked to remove it immediately. Mascara, and false tan, start to 'creep in' as pupils get older, but neither are allowed at our local High Schools so, again, we ask for parents/carers support.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	WHO FOR
23/03/2026	Lenten Stalls – Week 5 Year 3	All Pupils
23/03/2026	Peak District Residential Trip	Year 4
23/03/2026	Easter Bingo	Everyone welcome
25/03/2026	Archdiocese Choir (Y4)	2:45 Parents welcome
27/03/2026	Class 4 Assembly	9am – C4 Parents/Carers welcome
27/03/2026	End of Spring term 3.30pm finish	All Pupils
<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>		
21/04/2026	Front Row Music Concert	3.30pm Parents/Carers welcome
23/04/2026	Easter Mass	2pm, School Hall – Parents/Carers Welcome (limited spaces)
24/04/2026	Class 10 Assembly	9am – C10 Parents/Carers welcome
26/04/2026	Whole Parish Mass @ St Michael's church	10.15am Y4 Parents/Carers and pupils welcome
28/04/2026	First Holy Communion – Lesson 2 Y4	3.30pm – 4.15pm Pupils only
08/05/2026	Year 5 River Study Trip	Year 5 pupils
08/05/2026	Rehearsal for First Holy Communion Mass	4.30pm St Michael's Church
09/05/2026	First Holy Communion Mass	12noon St Michael's Church
11/05/2026	National Curriculum Test (SATs) Week	All Year 6 pupils
15/05/2026	Class 2 Assembly	9am – C2 Parents/Carers welcome
21/05/2026	Year 3 Visit to Kenyon Hall Farm	All year 3 pupils
<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>		
10/06/2026	Year 6 Theatre Trip	Year 6 pupils
11/06/2026	Children's University Award Ceremony	1pm, Hope University, Year 6 pupils and parents/carers welcome
12/06/2026	Class 8 Assembly	9am – C8 Parents/Carers welcome
15/06/2026	Year 2 parents Induction Meeting	9:15am, 1:30pm & 6:30pm
26/06/2026	Class 7 Assembly	9am – C7 Parents/Carers welcome
02/07/2026	Year 6 Leavers Photographs	Year 6
03/07/2026	Year 6 Residential to Lockerbie, Scotland	Year 6
10/07/2026	Class 3 Assembly	9am – C3 Parents/Carers welcome
16/07/2026	Year 6 Leavers Mass	6pm in School Hall, Y6 Parents/Carers welcome
17/07/2026	Year 6 Leavers Assembly	1.30pm in School Hall, Y6 Parents/Carers welcome
17/07/2026	Last day of Academic Year	Close at 3:30pm