

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrating life and learning

14th September, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bede, patron of our school, wrote:

"It was always my delight to learn and to teach".

We are a celebrating community, living the Gospel Values, committed to educating children in the light of the Catholic Faith.

We journey together so that we

"Might have life - life in all its fullness".

John 10:10

PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Lord God,

At the beginning of this new school year teach us to be your hands and feet where we are,

At the beginning of this new school year teach us to love as you love us

At the beginning of this new school year teach us to pray for those in need

So that You are honoured and glorified

LIVING WELL TOGETHER AT ST BEDE'S

High Expectations, Clear Boundaries, and a Joyful Catholic Community

Welcome back to school and to our first newsletter of the year. It is certainly good to be back; we are all looking forward to the next academic year. To ensure that information is shared in a timely fashion, the newsletter will be published once a month. All up and coming events will be advertised in the newsletter.

At St Bede's Catholic Junior School, everything we do is rooted in our Mission Statement: "*Life in all its fullness*" This guides every decision including the way we treat one another every day.

We want every child in our school to be happy, to feel safe, and to know they are valued. However, happiness does not come from having no boundaries - it comes from knowing exactly what the expectations are, feeling secure within them, and being supported by adults who care about their wellbeing. Clear routines and high standards help children flourish socially, emotionally and academically.

As a Catholic school, we teach and model the Gospel Values that shape how we live together:

- **Respect:** recognising the dignity of every person, made in the image of God.
- **Love:** showing kindness, compassion and generosity in our words and actions.
- **Justice:** acting fairly, telling the truth, and standing up for what is right.
- **Forgiveness:** understanding that everyone makes mistakes and deserves the chance to put things right.
- **Hope:** believing that every child can grow, improve and achieve great things.

These values are not abstract ideas; they are lived out in classrooms, on the playground, in friendships, and in the way we speak to one another. We also draw on Catholic Social Teaching, which helps children understand how to build a community where everyone can thrive:

- **Human Dignity:** every child is precious and deserves respect.
- **The Common Good:** we work together so everyone benefits.
- **Solidarity:** we support one another, especially those who struggle.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** we give extra care to those who need it most.
- **Subsidiarity:** we help children take responsibility for their choices.
- **Stewardship:** we care for our school environment and God's creation.

These principles help children understand why behaviour matters - not just for themselves, but for the whole community.

St. Bede's Catholic Junior School is an inclusive school, and we always make reasonable adjustments for pupils who need additional support. However, inclusion does not mean lowering expectations or removing boundaries. Every child - without exception - benefits from clear routines, predictable responses, high expectations for conduct and kindness and respectful interactions with staff and their peers.

At times, the boundaries set in school can feel harsh for some children and/or their parents/carers but experience and extensive research shows that these help children feel secure, reduce anxiety, and create a learning environment where everyone can succeed. Mutual respect is at the heart of our Catholic ethos. We expect all pupils to speak kindly and respectfully, listen to others (especially adults), follow instructions (which are made to support all pupils and their learning), treat staff and classmates with courtesy whilst taking responsibility for their actions.

Respect is not optional at St. Bede's - it is essential for building a community where children can grow in faith, character and confidence. Our aim is simple to help every child become the person God is calling them to be. We ask that our parents/carers support this aim as members of St. Bede's Catholic Junior School community.

High expectations, clear boundaries, Gospel Values and Catholic Social Teaching work together to create a school where children feel safe, cared for and ready to learn. We thank you for your continued partnership in helping our pupils live out our mission so that all pupils Respect, Love and Achieve every day and achieve their fullest potential.

Love and thanks, Faith Housley



APPLETON VILLAGE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE, WA8 6EL

Telephone: 0151 424 3386 Email: head.stbedesjunior@halton.gov.uk



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Parents/Carers, family members and friends are most welcome to share the celebrations at 9.00 am.
The following assemblies have been arranged for this academic year.

	Date	Assembly Theme	Year Group /Teacher
1	18.09.26	St. Vincent de Paul: Preferential Option for the Poor	Y5 Miss Joynson
2	02.10.26	Creation and Covenant	Y3/4 Mrs. Faulkner
3	09.10.26	St. Francis of Assisi: Stewardship	Y4 Mrs. Smith
4	22.10.26	St. Carlo Acutis: Participation	Y6 Mr. Greaves
5	13.11.26	International Day for Tolerance Anti-Bullying	Y3 Miss Hayes
6	27.11.26	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Y6 Mr. Stalker
7	04.12.26	Prophecy and Promise	Y5 Mrs. Wainwright
8	18.12.26	The Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Meditation	Y5/6 Miss Massey
9	15.01.27	St. Stephen: Promoting Peace	Y4 Mrs. Halliday
10	29.01.27	Galilee to Jerusalem	Y3 Mrs. Hulme
11	12.02.27	St. Catherine of Bologna: Human Dignity	Y3/4 Mrs. Faulkner
12	05.03.27	St. Joseph: Dignity of Work	Y6 Mr. Stalker
13	12.03.27	St. Oscar Romero: Subsidiarity	Y5 Mrs. Wainwright
14	25.03.27	Desert to Garden: Easter (Maundy Thursday)	Y5 Miss Joynson
15	23.04.27	St. Bernadette: Distributive Justice	Y3 Miss Hayes
16	07.05.27	To the Ends of the Earth	Y4 Mrs. Smith
17	21.05.27	St. Joan of Arc: The Common Good	Y5/6 Miss Massey
18	18.06.27	World Refugee Day	Y6 Mr. Greaves
19	02.07.27	Dialogue and Encounter	Y4 Mrs. Halliday
20	16.07.26	St. Veronica: Solidarity	Y3 Mrs. Hulme



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUTUMN TERM 2026

Please remember to check our website
(www.stbedesjuniorschool.co.uk)
as new events are constantly being added
to the schedule.



DATE(S)	EVENT/CELEBRATION	TIME(S)
17.09.26	Mass for the new school year, St Bede's Church, parents welcome	2.00pm
18.09.26	Assembly 1: Class 6 and Miss Joynson	9.00 - 9.45 am
21.09.26	Feast of St. Matthew	N/A
23.09.26	Sharing Learning (16th Day)	N/A
24.09.26	Faith in Action Launch for Y6	N/A
28.09.26	Year 6 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
29.09.26	Year 5 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
30.09.26	Year 4 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
01.10.26	Breakfast Club Celebration	8.15am
01.10.26	Year 3 Curriculum Meeting for Parents/Carers	9.00am
01.10.26	Full Governing Body Meeting	3.45 - 6.00 pm
02.10.26	Assembly 2: Class 3 and Mrs. Faulkner	9.00 - 9.45 am
02.10.26	CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day	N/A
05.10.26	Child – Parent/Carer – Teacher Meetings	3.30-6.30pm
06.10.26	Child – Parent/Carer – Teacher Meetings	3.30-6.30pm
09.10.26	Assembly 3: Class 5 and Mrs. Smith	9.00 - 9.45 am
09.10.26	World Mental Health Day Tea & Talk	2.30pm
15.10.26	Sharing Learning (16th Day)	N/A
19.10.26	Feast of St. Luke	N/A
20.10.26	Inclusion Quality Mark Re-Assessment	N/A
22.10.26	Assembly 4: Class 10 and Mr. Greaves	9.00 - 9.45 am
22.10.26	END of AUTUMN 1	
23.10.26	INSET: Catholic School Staff Training	N/A

ABSENCE

If your child is too ill to attend school, please ring and leave a message on the answerphone, preferably before 8.30 am.

If you have not contacted the school on the first day of absence by 9.15 am, then a member of the school staff will try to contact you. This is not a good use of resources but your child's well-being is of paramount importance. Staff wish to ensure that your child is safe with you and has not been abducted or involved in an accident on the way to school.

If a child is absent for five days or more, then some form of medical evidence has to be provided, for example, medicine prescribed by a medical practitioner.

When attendance falls below 90% the EWO is routinely involved with the situation. No further absence is authorised without some form of medical evidence.



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM

Persistent absence is regarded as 90% or below. Consequently, if your child's attendance falls to 93% you will be requested to provide some form of medical evidence, for example, a prescription or prescribed medication, for the absence to be authorised by the school.

It should be the exception that attendance falls below 90% over a full year. 90% attendance means in effect that the child has missed, on average, half a day per week over the year! This is no recommendation to take forward into the future.

If 10% of absence is unauthorised, parents/carers may receive a penalty warning letter. If there is no improvement a penalty notice can be issued which is £60 per parent per child.

REDUCING LATENESS

In the last academic year, there were 2221 late marks in total from 202 pupils. It is recognised that children are occasionally late due to traffic issues or simply a forgotten alarm call; however when children are late, it does impact on their learning and their well-being. It can be embarrassing walking into a room late especially if it is at a crucial time such as during registration and morning prayer.

This academic year, in an attempt to reduce this, and limit the negative impact of lateness, children who are late will participate in intervention sessions with Mrs. Harrington so we can ensure that they don't miss any learning time. There has already been 48 late marks in just 9 days of school!



Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the weeks leading up to Harvest, Widnes food bank will continue to provide food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of food shortfalls, storing and distributing food.

Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish

Tinned veg/fruit

Tinned Potatoes

Coffee/Tea

1l Milk

Cereal

1l Fruit juice (long-life)

Jam/Biscuits

Soup

Toiletries

0151 422 0031

widnesfoodbank.org.uk

Widnes Foodbank is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registered Charity Number 1155130 in England & Wales.

UNIFORM: A HUGE THANK YOU

Firstly, the children look fantastic in their new uniforms: super smart and so very proud to be St. Bede's pupils! Secondly, thank you for the efforts that parents/carers have made with purchasing the uniform.

The Governors and I appreciate that school uniform is a large expense, and therefore, we will continue to ask that pupils wear their PE uniform on PE days. PE uniform is the school black and green t-shirt with either black and green school shorts or plain black shorts, leggings or joggers. Pupils must not wear branded kit - it must be the school PE kit OR plain black. Moreover short cycling shorts should not be worn. As with most aspects of school life, this will continue to be monitored.

PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM AND PE KIT.

CHILD - PARENT/ CARER - TEACHER MEETINGS

Monday 5th October, 2026 3.30 - 6.30 pm.

Tuesday 6th October, 2026 3.30 - 6.30 pm.

You should have received an email inviting you to book an appointment on school spider.

PARENT/CARER TEA & COFFEE EVENTS

Join us for Parent/Carer Events: Tea, Coffee, and Connection!

We are delighted to invite all parents/carers to a series of friendly, welcoming events at school this term. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while connecting with other families, gaining valuable information, and supporting school initiatives.

Our first session will take place on:

- Thursday 24th September 2026
- 2.00 - 3.30 pm
- Focus: Inclusion

Other events planned for the Autumn Term:

- ⇒ Friday 9th October, 2026 2.30 - 3.30 pm: World Mental Health Day Tea and Talk.
- ⇒ Friday 13th November, 2026 2.30 - 3.30 pm: Prevention of Bullying led by Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.
- ⇒ Thursday 17th December, 2026 Festive Family Read (time to be confirmed)

Attending these events is a wonderful way to:

Build strong partnerships between home and school thus helping us work together to support every child's success.

Access helpful resources and information from staff and guest speakers.

Take part in fundraising opportunities that directly benefit our pupils and/or charitable organisations.

Meet other parents/carers, share experiences, and strengthen our school community.

We would love to see as many of you as possible . Your involvement helps us create a more supportive and



BREAKFAST CLUB CELEBRATION

After the successful launch of our Free Breakfast Club, we are inviting all children to join us on Thursday 1st October at 8:15am, in a celebration breakfast of Bacon rolls (vegetarian option available). So we know how many children to cater for, we ask that you complete the request on School Spider.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

It is hoped that there is an extra-curricular club for everyone so that every child has an opportunity to enrich their school experience through the arts, sports and academics.

Presently, all clubs are delivered free of charge and by school staff. However, despite the 'free' nature of the clubs, we ask that pupils show commitment and attend every week. Clubs are not allocated on a first come, first served basis to ensure every interest expressed is respected.

DAY	EXTRA-CURRICULAR
Monday	Taekwando
Tuesday	Rock Painting Christmas Production Art History Mindfulness Colouring Book Club Crochet
Wednesday	Film Club Great Outdoors Fitness Table Tennis Well-Being Netball Debate
Thursday	Photography Christmas Production Football
Friday	Handwriting

THEATRE VISITS

The following theatre visits have been booked, so please save the dates;

Year 4 ~ 23rd September ~ Annie

Year 3 ~ 10th December ~ Pantomime

Year 5 ~ 4th March ~ Mrs Doubtfire

Year 6 ~ 20th January ~ Back to the Future