



## NEWSLETTER: 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023



### Dear Families

What a busy, but highly enjoyable, couple of weeks we have had in school. The sun shone for all of our Sport's Days and the children had great fun. Continuing with our sports theme, we had a fantastic day of Hoopstars with the children learning lots of different things that they can do with a hula hoop. The staff could not resist the chance to join in, too!

We have been very busy in EYFS this week with a big switch around of our classrooms! From September, the current Reception classroom will be our Nursery room and vice versa. Our EYFS feel this will be a more productive use of space.



The children, who will be starting Reception with us in September, have spent some time in their new classroom, both with their families and with some new friends who will be joining us from other nurseries. The Nursery children have also welcomed some new classmates who came for a 'stay and play' session with their grown-ups, ready to start Nursery in September. It has been lovely to meet our new families and we cannot wait to welcome them to St. Joseph's in the new academic year!

Our friends at Pact House have generously gifted some fantastic turtle backpacks for the Nursery children to take home. The children would like to say thank you so much for such a wonderfully kind gift!

Y3 have been on a field trip to Gibside.



The Forge Art team have been in school working on an art project with Year 5. Watch out for the results of their great efforts which will be displayed in due course.

This week, three pupils from our Year 5 represented the schools at the Big Debate at County Hall in Durham. All thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Oliver said, 'It was great fun talking in the microphone and addressing everyone in the big room.'  
India commented, 'I loved the opportunity to get stuck into a real debate.'  
Archie felt it was great speaking in the chamber!

## **Changes to ParentPay**

From September 2023, we will be changing from ParentPay to Arbor.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Arbor App and Parent Portal means we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way.

To help with the transition, we need to know if your child will be having a school meal or packed lunch from September 2023. If, during the school year, your child wishes to change their meal choice (e.g. move from school dinners to packed lunch and vice versa) you need to inform us and adhere to the notice period of 2 weeks.

Currently children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals. The current cost for KS2 children is £2.40 per day and the current cost for Nursery is £2.88 per day. Please make full use of this free option if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. I think we can all agree, we are in the midst of a difficult financial climate for families, and, if there is something on offer which is free, it is strongly advisable to benefit from that entitlement!

I would be obliged if you could complete the form, by Monday 3rd July, indicating if your child would like a school meal or packed lunch. <https://forms.office.com/e/XRAMcuPDFX>

Further information on accessing the Parent Portal will be sent out in due course. Please provide us your current email address so that we can ensure that login details are sent to the correct one.

## **Industrial action reminder**

Due to industrial action on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July & Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, school will be partially closed. This is a result of a dispute between National Government and the teaching union NEU over teachers' pay, conditions and funding for school.

I appreciate you have already had a letter alerting you to the situation, but felt it was valuable to include again in case anyone had missed the information.

Please note the following (there is potential for this situation to change at short notice)

	<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>
Nursery	Open	Open
Reception	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Year 1	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Year 2	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Year 3	<b>Closed</b>	Open
Year 4	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Year 5	Open	Open
Year 6	Open	Open

Please follow the link below for the newly issued Code of Conduct. These expectations are being shared across all schools in BWCET.

<https://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/230630-Parent-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

As we approach the end of this academic year, please do not hesitate to contact us, should you have any queries/concerns. It is always our intention to work as closely as possible with all our families to ensure the best possible progress for our pupils.

Thank you.

## House Points

We have re-introduced the house points system in school. Children can earn house points from all staff during the week. The house points for this week are:

**St Aidan – 598**

**St Oswald – 546**

**St Cuthbert – 634**

**St Bede – 623**

Well done to everyone who has earned points this week.



As you know, attendance is hugely important and we report attendance on a weekly/ monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness, please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

**This week's attendance is 92.7%. Our target is 97%**

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year1</b>	<b>Year2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
89%	93.7%	89.6%	98.1%	87.4%	91%	97.4%	97.7%

## **Star of the Week**

The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this Week:



Nursery	Jesse	For showing great understanding of our story of the week and sharing lots of lovely ideas!
Reception	Ollie	For being a brilliant role model when our new starters came to visit!
Year 1	Olivia	For working so hard to improve her handwriting. Keep it up!
Year 2	Maisie	For always being a wonderful, caring supportive friend to everyone.
Year 3	Year 3	For excellent behaviour and hard work at Gibside
Year 4	Noah C	For capturing a fantastic photograph of a rare pink grasshopper when looking at mini-beasts and their habitats
Year 5	Thomas	For excellent answers in our class debate this week
Year 6	Ava C	For some excellent RE, based on the Good Samaritan

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July- Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6	Careers week
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2	Celebration Liturgy led by Year 2 – 9.15am All welcome
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July – Change of date	Reception – Y5	Moving up afternoon All children meet their new teachers
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6	Transition day St Bede’s
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July- Cancelled	Y6	Transition intake day
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July – Cancelled	Year 3	Celebration Liturgy led by Year 3 – 9.15am All welcome
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July – Please note change of date	Y1 to Y6	Meet the New Teacher Event for parents and carers 2 sessions (repeated) 3.30pm + 4.00pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2	Centre for Life Trip
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July - Cancelled	Year 4	Seaham Trip
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July – please note change of date	Whole school	End of year reports issued  (Following report, no additional parents’ evening planned, however, parents can meet the class teacher upon request)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July - postponed	Whole school	Celebrating 150 years of St Joseph’s Church Summer fun activities in school All welcome pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4	Celebration Liturgy led by Year 4 – 9.15 am All welcome
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5	Feeder open evening
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5	Celebration Liturgy led by Year 5– 9.15am All welcome
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6	Y6 celebration event 6pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole school	End of term Mass 9.30am at Church

