

ST. BEDE C. E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

SPRING 1 NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Happy New Year, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas break! On 1st November 2018 we grew - St. Bede became a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). This means that we have welcomed Tonge Moor Academy into our St. Bede family. Mr Hatch O.B.E and Mrs Roberts now have overview of both Academies in their roles as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Each Academy will retain their individual characteristics, but will benefit from sharing ideas, which will in turn have a positive impact on the education and well-being of the children within our Trust. Mrs Rostron remains as Head of School at St. Bede Academy and Miss Riley is the Head at Tonge Moor Academy.

The results from the recent parent questionnaires is attached to this Newsletter. We are currently working through your comments/ideas regarding areas for improvement, and will share these with you in due course. Thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire, your feedback is very important to us.

Staffing

We have had a few staff changes over the last couple of months. Miss Hirst and Mrs Briggs have both returned from their maternity leave. Miss Hirst has returned as a full time Assistant Headteacher for Years 4, 5 & 6, taking over from Mrs Whittaker who has taken up the role of Deputy Headteacher at Tonge Moor. Miss Connor will take over the role of class 6H teacher for the rest of this academic year. Mrs Briggs has returned to her role of Reception class teacher, taking over from Mrs Woodward, who again has taken up a role at Tonge Moor. It was very sad to say goodbye to both Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Woodward, though happily they are still part of our overall MAT.

Sadly Mr Rushby also left us before Christmas and Miss O'Brien has been appointed as class 1R teacher for the rest of this academic year. Mrs Figgins and Miss James have joined us as SEN teaching assistants and Miss Payne has been appointed to the role of class 3T teaching assistant. We welcome all our new members of staff to St. Bede and wish them well in their new roles.

Trips and Events

This term our Year 5 children will start swimming lessons at The Jason Kenny Centre in Bolton. Children, as with everything else, vary incredibly in their ability and skills in the water, and these lessons provide an opportunity for all children to at least learn the basics. Children already able to swim are encouraged to advance their skills even further as they are grouped for ability.

Attendance

Our overall attendance for the Autumn term was 96.32% which is fantastic, and just a little short of our target of 96.5%. We thank you for your support. You will have recently received a copy of your child's attendance record on coloured paper. Blue means your child is in the **SECURE** zone and has attended school each day, on time; green means your child is in the **SAFE** zone with an attendance rate of between 96% - 100%; yellow means your child is in the **'ALERT'** zone with an attendance rate of between 90% - 95.99%; red means your child is in the **'DANGER'** zone with an attendance rate of below 90%. Mrs Hardman, our attendance officer, will shortly be reviewing the children who have low attendance, in particular children in the 'red' zone, and looking at ways that their attendance can be improved. Remember **School Matters** ... if your child **Attends Today**, they will **Achieve Tomorrow**.

Reception Area

Can we please ask parents/carers to refrain from waiting in the small reception area behind the school office, for sustained periods of time, to drop off/collect children. This is for safeguarding reasons and to also ease congestion. Please can we ask you to wait in the playground. Thank you.

St. Bede Academy Nursery

Lots of things are taking place in our school Nursery this half term:

The dentists from Bolton's Oral Health recently visited. This is something we have been involved in for over ten years, as part of an ongoing program to improve oral health in Bolton.

Stay and Play sessions looking at phonics will take place on Tuesday 22nd January, 9:00am – 10:00am and 12:45pm – 1:45pm.

BWFC training school will be coming in to deliver a new program that they have introduced for Early Years on Thursday 31st January in the morning. It is a free taster session and involves dance and moves to music.

If you have any old dressing up clothes and magazines you no longer want, which would be suitable for nursery children, we would be happy to take them from you.

Nursery admission letters will be going out very soon for September 2019 intake. Please make sure that friends and family are aware so that if children's names are not already registered with us they can be added.

Phone Calls/Messages

Can we please ask parents/carers to ensure that any phone calls or messages to school are delivered by an appropriate adult, and not delivered by children or younger siblings who are under 16 years. Thank you.

PGL 2019

A reminder for parents of children who are attending PGL in June that the final balance is required by **Friday 29th March**. Reminder slips will be sent out before this time and payments, including interim payments, should be made at the school office. Thank you.

Snack – Years 1 to 6

We have received a few queries recently from parents asking what snack children can bring into school. Here's a list of healthy snacks which are permitted:

- Yogurts in a tube e.g. 'Frubes'
- Fresh fruit
- Dried fruit
- Individual rice cakes (no packets please)
- Crackers and cheese
- Vegetable sticks
- Cheese triangles/individual cheese blocks
- Breadsticks

Snack can also be provided by school at £1.50 per week.

The Friends of St. Bede (PTA)

Fundraising last term was very successful for our PTA with a Disco, the St. Bede Christmas Markets, Christmas Hamper Raffle and Photo Booth. They managed to raise just over £1,800 which is fantastic!

So far this academic year the PTA have purchased resources for PE, resources for outside activities, and books for Reception children to take home and read with their families. Look out for further fund-raising events this term.

Parking

Please can we ask that parents refrain from parking their vehicles on the school playground when dropping off/collecting children from Out of School Club. Thank you.

Charity

Our chosen charity for this school year is 'Save the Children'. Our Ethos Committee have already held a 'Design the Christmas Jumper' competition, raising £21.53. More fundraising activities will be taking place including our annual Lent activities, the dates of which are detailed below.

Dates for your Diary

Wed 6 th Feb	Governors Review Day
Thu 7 th Feb	Governors Review Day
Mon 11 th Feb	PRIDE Day
Tue 26 th Feb	Class Photographs (new style)
Mon 4 th Mar	Theme Week – Authors
Tue 5 th Mar	Year 6 Parents Day
Wed 6 th Mar	Parents' Evening: Reception to Year 5, 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Thu 7 th Mar	Theme Week – Dress-up Day (World Book Day) Parents' Evening: Reception to Year 5, 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Mon 11 th Mar	Year 6 mock SAT week Nursery and Year 3 Lent activities week
Mon 18 th Mar	Year 1 and Year 4 Lent activities week
Mon 25 th Mar	Bishop of Bolton visiting Year 2 and Year 5 Lent activities week
Mon 1 st Apr	Reception and Year 6 Lent activities week

And finally ...

School will close for half term at 3:15pm on Friday 15th February and re-opens on Monday 25th February at 8:55am.

Follow us on Twitter @StBedeCEPrimary. This Newsletter and lots of other information can be found on our website: www.stbedeacademy.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

If you wish to make any comments about this Newsletter, or about anything else in school, please make them in the box below and return to the school office.

Comments:

My child is in Class.....