



St Pius Spotlight

'To renew all things in Christ'



21.11.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for sending in wellies and changes of clothing as the weather has been so cold, the children have enjoyed playing out in the snow this week. If you have any spare wellies at home that no longer fit or are not used, please feel free to donate these to school as they are always useful to have!

Class 1 welcomed their adults in to school for a beautiful Celebration of the Word today and everyone was very impressed with how much progress they have made—well done Class 1!

The Christmas season is fast approaching and we have lots of events in the diary. On the final day of term, we have Mass in school at 1.30pm. If parents wish to collect their children at the end of Mass, that is fine.

Best wishes as always,

Miss Hudson

Attendance

During celebration assembly on Friday, we have been celebrating whole class attendance and each week the class with the highest attendance will receive our Anna the Attendance Cat to live in their class all week! Well done to Class 1 who won this week.



Week beginning: Monday 17th November 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Class 1	100%
Class 2	98.57%
Class 3	97.78%
Class 4	98.62%



Our overall school attendance this week was 98.55%. Our attendance target is 97%.

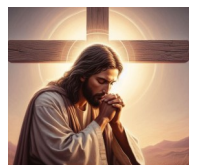
Christmas Events

- 28.11.25: Non-uniform day—chocolates and crafts
- 05.12.25: Non-uniform day—bring a bottle
- 11.12.25: Christmas Jumper Day
- 12.12.25: Christmas Fayre 2.30pm onwards
- 15.12.25: Christmas dinner day
- 16.12.25: EYFS & KS1 Nativity PM
- 17.12.25: KS2 Nativity and Raffle draw PM
- 18.12.25: Pantomime Trip PM
- 19.12.25: Christmas Parties AM/Mass 1.30PM



This week, Sunday 23rd November is the feast of Christ the King.

Let us be like Christ: humble, kind, patient and loving.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Fun & Food Parent Christmas Guide 2025



Looking for ways to keep your children active, inspired, and smiling this Christmas?

Our Fun & Food programme is back with an amazing line-up of **FREE** holiday activities for eligible families across County Durham! **The Fun & Food programme** is managed by Durham County Council and is a brilliant initiative from the Department for Education.

The programme offers **FULLY FUNDED** places for children and young people (reception to year 11) including children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, who are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals.

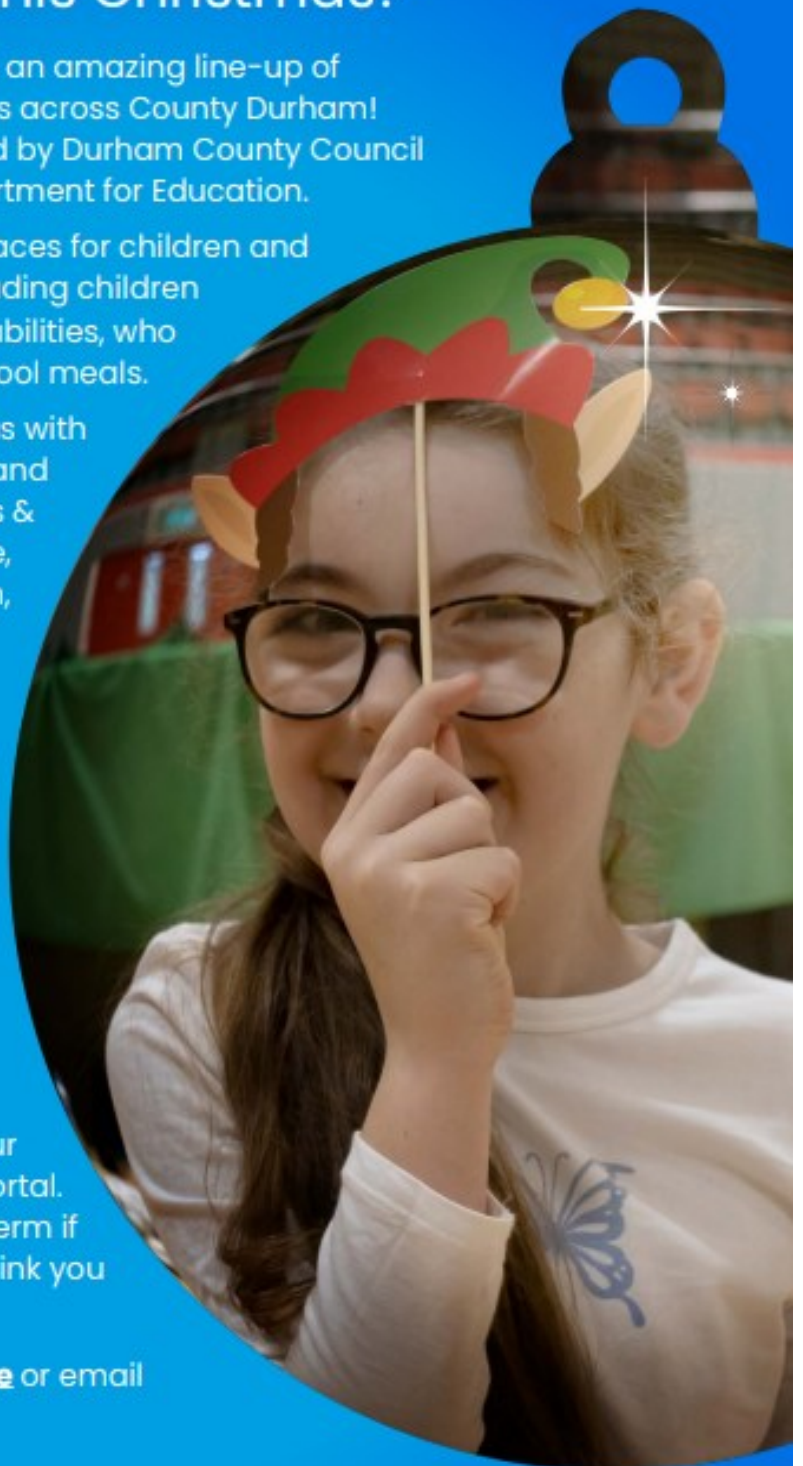
Get ready for an unforgettable Christmas with over 70 locations packed with fun, food and learning. Choose from theatre thrills, arts & crafts, outdoor adventures, sports galore, youth day trips for teens, fun on the farm, xmas parties, panto magic and even a visit from Santa himself!

This is a great opportunity for children and young people to be active, make friends and enjoy a healthy meal over the Christmas holidays - for free!

Our online portal for Christmas activity bookings opens at 12 noon on Monday 24 November 2025.

Use the QR code or weblink found on your Fun & Food ticket to access the online portal. Speak to your school before the end of term if you have not received your ticket and think you are eligible. Not sure how to book...

Watch our step by step video guide [here](#) or email funandfoodtickets@durham.gov.uk



Department
for Education



Durham
County Council



Spotlight Celebration

School life this week



This week, Class 2 and Class 4 have been taste testing before they begin their Autumn DT projects: fruit smoothies and pretzels! Yum!



We also got creative in PE, where we are learning about different aspects of dance. We have been learning how to shape our bodies and work in teams to create movement and freeze frames.



Class 1 have been playing in the snow and it has transformed our outdoor classroom into their own personal winter wonderland!

In this section, we celebrate our achievements both in and out of school. If you have something you would like us to share for your child—an achievement, work of art, event they attended - please send it to school via email and we will include it in the newsletter!

Dates for Your Diary

26.11.25: Class 4 Assembly 9am

28.11.25: Non-Uniform Day—Bring in toys/crafts/chocolates

01.12.25: Class 3 Road safety workshop session 1 in school—outdoor clothing needed

05.12.25: Non-Uniform Day— Bring in toys/crafts/chocolates/bottles

08.12.25: Class 3 Road safety workshop session 2 in school—outdoor clothing needed

11.12.25: Christmas Jumper Day

12.12.25: Christmas Fayre 2.30pm onwards

16.12.25: Class 1 and 2 Nativity 2pm

17.12.25: Class 3 and 4 Carol Concert and Christmas Raffle 2pm

18.12.25: Pantomime Trip 1.30pm

19.12.25: Christmas Party Morning

19.12.25: Whole school Mass in school 1.30pm—all are welcome

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 20.12.25-04.01.26

05.01.26: Spring Term begins

14.01.26: Class 3 Team building festival PM—please wear PE kits

16.01.26: Year 3 Games Festival PM—please wear PE kits

16.01.26: Class 1 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

21.01.26: Class 4 Assembly 9am

30.01.26: Class 2 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

04.02.26: Class 3 Assembly 9am

06.02.26: Non-uniform day—bring a bottle

18.02.26: Ash Wednesday Service in school—time TBC

HALF TERM 21.02.26-01.03.26

04.03.26: Class 1 PE trip PM—please wear warm, outdoor clothes

05.03.26: World Book Day

06.03.26: Class 3 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

11.03.26: Class 2 Assembly 9am

13.03.26: Class 2 Invasion games festival PM—please wear PE kits

13.03.26: Non-uniform day—crafts, chocolates, toys

20.03.26: Class 4 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

23.03.26 and 24.03.26: Parents evening Spring Term 3.30-5.30pm

25.03.26: Class 1 Assembly 9am

25.03.06: Class 4 Rugby skills trip PM— please wear PE kits

30.03.26: Palm Sunday Procession 2.45pm

02.04.26: Easter Raffle and Easter Egg Competition awards 2pm

EASTER HOLIDAYS 03.04.26-19.04.26

Dates for Your Diary Continued

20.04.26: Summer Term begins

24.04.26: Class 2 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

29.04.26: Class 3 Assembly 9am

06.05.26: Class 4 Assembly 9am

08.05.26: Non-uniform day—bring a bottle

11.05.26–14.05.26: KS2 SATs

15.05.26: Class 1 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

22.05.26: Pentecost Procession 2.45pm

22.05.26: Non-uniform day crafts, chocolates, toys

HALF TERM 23.05.26–31.05.26

05.06.26: Class 4 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

10.06.26: Class 1 Assembly

12.06.26: Non-uniform day—bring a bottle

19.06.26: Class 3 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

24.06.26: Class 2 Assembly

25.06.26: St Bede's Uniform evening for Y6 parents

26.06.26: Non-uniform day—crafts, chocolates, toys

01.07.26–02.07.26: St Bede's Transition days for Year 6

02.07.26: Transition day in school

03.07.26: Non-uniform day—£1 contribution

10.07.26: Sports Day and School Fayre

13.07.26: School Raffle Draw 2pm

13.07.26–15.07.26: Robinwood residential for Class 4

Due to the residential dates, the Year 6 Leavers Mass—Time TBC and Year 6 Leavers Performance 4pm, will be rearranged—we will let you know the new dates asap.

Monday 20th July - Monday 31st August - Summer Holidays 2026