

# St Pius Spotlight

'To renew all things in Christ'

20.02.2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a long term and we are all ready for a break! We hope that you have a lovely, restful week together and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.

Reminders for the first week back: Class I PE Trip 05/03/2026, World Book Day 06/03/2026. Please note that, due to World Book Day, **Class 3's Celebration of the Word on 06/03/2026 has been cancelled and will be rearranged asap.**

Have a wonderful holiday,  
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 3 who won this week.

Week beginning: Monday 16th February 2026



Class 1 - 98.75%  
Class 2 - 91.43%  
Class 3 - 99.41%  
Class 4 - 99.31%



Our overall school attendance this week was 97.23%. Our attendance target is 96%.

## WORLD BOOK DAY



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Children are welcome to come dressed as a favourite book or character.



## Year 5/6 Football

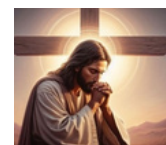
Mr Devanney will be running a Football 'trial' session on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at dinnertime for pupils in Class 4. Children can bring in appropriate footwear/kit



In this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew tells us that God strengthens us as we face life's challenges.



"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"




# Pancake Day

On Tuesday Mrs Kennedy cooked some delicious pancakes for the whole school to enjoy. I think the smiles on the faces in the pictures show how much the children enjoyed them!

= Happy =  
**Pancake Day!**



# After half term our Menu is Week 2...



## MENU


Week 2

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Pizza Margherita</b> or <b>Sausage roll</b> Potato wedges Garden peas <b>Chocolate rice</b> <b>crispy cake</b>	<b>Chinese chicken</b> <b>curry</b> or <b>Quorn nugget wrap</b> Steamed rice <b>Broccoli</b> <b>Custard biscuit</b>	<b>Chicken dinner</b> or <b>Veggie burger</b> Roast potatoes Steamed carrots <b>School cake &amp;</b> <b>sprinkles</b>	<b>Spaghetti &amp;</b> <b>meatballs</b> or <b>Tomato &amp; basil</b> <b>pasta</b> Sweetcorn Garlic bread <b>Raspberry jelly</b>	<b>Fish fingers</b> or <b>Quorn nuggets</b> Chunky chips Baked beans <b>Ice cream</b>

Sandwiches, jacket potatoes and a variety of fillings are available daily as an alternative to our main courses. We also offer a salad & fruit bar to accompany your child's meal. Yoghurts, cheese and crackers are also available daily, as an alternative dessert option, cold drinks also supplied.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN ALLERGY OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENT. YOUR CATERING TEAM WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN PROVIDE TAILORED MENUS TO CATER FOR YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS.


BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST - PRIMARY SCHOOL THREE WEEK MENU CYCLE FOR WINTER 2022/23



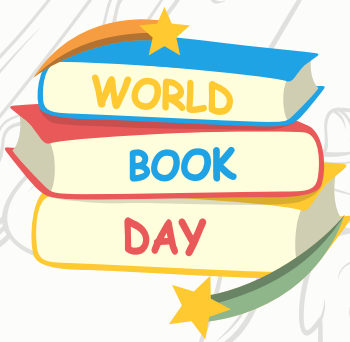
**Bishop Wilkinon**  
Catholic Education Trust

NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> - DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> - JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup> - FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup> - MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

FOR ALLERGENS AND NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE



See our Special Menu for World Book Day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March



### ST PIUS WORLD BOOK DAY MENU Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March



**The Tiger who Came to Tea**  
• Sophie's Cheesy Pizza



**Horrid Henry's Greedy Buns**  
• Chicken or Beef burger



**Potatoes love underpants and their jackets**  
• Jacket Potato with fillings



**Jack's Magic Beans**  
or  
**Peter Rabbit's carrots**



**Whiz popping Wedges**

**Willy Wonka's Chocolate Cake**



# FRIENDS OF ST PIUS – World Book Day fun

The Friends of St Pius have arranged a fantastic afternoon in school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm

Get ready for the big St Pius World Book Day bake off  
Dust off those aprons and mixing bowls and get baking!

Any homemade or decorated cake with a 'book' theme can be entered.

The children will vote for their favourite cake and the winners will be announced Friday 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

You've got to be in it to win it!

All cakes can be dropped off at school during the morning drop off



**WORLD BOOK DAY**

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
FROM 2PM  
ALL PARENTS WELCOME!

COME ALONG TO OUR CAKE AND COFFEE AFTERNOON WHERE WE'LL ANNOUNCE OUR WORLD BOOK DAY BAKE OFF WINNERS, SEE THE WONDERFUL WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUMES AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A NEW BOOK OR TWO FROM OUR SECOND HAND BOOK STALL!



As well as the amazing bake off there will also be a second hand book sale.

Books can be bought with a small donation.

All books in good condition can be handed in during the week to the school office



**Friends of St Pius**  
**World Book Day 2026**

Second hand book sale

If you have any books you no longer need and would like to donate them to our fundraiser please bring them to school before **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**.  
On **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** we will host a second hand book sale in school from 2pm at our coffee afternoon (all parents welcome)  
Books can be purchased via a donation.



# Cheerleader Success



Last weekend Daisy (Class 4) and her team mates competed in Varsity's Jamfest, Rise of the Regions at Telford. The team competed both days with the scores combined to make an overall score.

There were 7 fantastic teams in the division and Claw came away with 2<sup>nd</sup> place scoring 96.

Claw also won a bid to compete at the European Summit in Portugal.

They have one more competition next month before they head to Florida in April!  
Well done Daisy!

## Half Term Family Hub Activities



**Calling all Dads and Male Carers**

Join us for some fun with 'Animals about town', including interactive talks about chickens and their eggs, animal groups, habitats and diets, and how to care and handle animals!

This is an outdoor event  
Please dress appropriately  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February at Consett Family Hub 10 till 11.30  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**



To book a place please contact the Family Hub on 03000 261111



**Half term Craft Session**

**Stanley Family Hub**

**10:00 - 11:00am**  
**25 February 2026**

For Primary School aged Children



**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - please contact the Family Hub on 03000 261111 to secure a place

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

### GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

### CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

### CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

### AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# Dates for Your Diary

HALF TERM 21.02.26–01.03.26

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

06.03.26: World Book Day celebrated in school

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

25.03.26: 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

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

## Dates for Your Diary Continued

- 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
- 09.07.26: Year 6 Leavers' Performance 4pm
- 10.07.26: Sports Day and School Fayre
- 13.07.26–15.07.26: Robinwood residential for Class 4
- 16.07.26: School Raffle Draw 2pm

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

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