

St Pius Spotlight

'To renew all things in Christ'



20.03.2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are currently seeking a Parent Governor to join our Local Governing Committee. If you are interested in the position, please contact the school office for more details. Application forms need to be returned to school by Thursday 2nd April. If we have more than one candidate, an election will be held after the Easter Break. Being a Governor is a rewarding experience and will offer you the opportunity to help shape the future of our wonderful school.

Have a wonderful weekend,
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 March 2026



Class 1 – 85%
Class 2 – 94.3%
Class 3 – 98.8%
Class 4 – 96.9%



Our overall school attendance this week was 95.33%. Our attendance target is 96%.



CAKE SALES FOR CAFOD

During the season of Lent we will be raising money for CAFOD. Each Friday (starting next week) we will have a cake sale in school. Each class are asked to bring in a small selection of cakes and children can purchase them for 50p

The dates for each class to bring in cakes are..
27/03/26 – Class 2
02/04/26 – Class 1

THANK YOU

Thank you

We'd like to say a HUGE thank you to Ian Penrose, Grandad of Brooklyn and Harper for his very kind donation of photographs and memorabilia of Consett Steel Works. These historical memories will be shared with our children and other schools in our trust to provide an amazing insight into the history of Consett and the Steel Industry that was once a vital part of our town and community.
Thankyou!



In this Sunday's Gospel, John tells us that Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, showing that he is the resurrection and the source of all hope.



"I am the resurrection and the life"

Next week our Menu is Week 2...

Garden KITCHEN MENU Week 2

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

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.

FOR ALLERGEN AND NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE

Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
NOVEMBER 17th - DECEMBER 8th - JANUARY 19th - FEBRUARY 9th - MARCH 2nd & 23rd
BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST - PRIMARY SCHOOL THREE WEEK MENU CYCLE FOR WINTER 2021 / 22

See our Easter Menu for Wednesday 1st April



Hoppy Easter Lunch
Wednesday 1st April

Egg-straordinary chicken dinner
Roasted chicken breast* served with creamy mashed potato, crispy roasties, steamed broccoli and carrots, Yorkshire pudding and rich gravy
*roasted Quorn fillet (V)

Cornflake nest tart

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL KS1 PUPILS
*SPEAK TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

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See below for The Friends of St Pius Easter fundraising activities...
Join us for our **BIG EASTER RAFFLE** on Thursday 2nd April at 2pm
in the school hall



EASTER RAFFLE

**EASTER EGG AND BONNET
DECORATING COMPETITION**

02.04.2026 AT 2PM

ENTRIES TO OUR EASTER EGG AND BONNET DECORATING
COMPETITIONS ARE TO BE LEFT IN SCHOOL BEFORE THE
2ND APRIL.

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE EASTER RAFFLE
FROM 2PM - PARENTS/CARERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.



**£1 PER ENTRY TO OUR
COMPETITION.**

**£1 PER STRIP FOR
RAFFLE TICKETS**

The poster features a central illustration of three decorated Easter eggs (teal, red, and yellow) in a blue bowl, with a paintbrush resting on the side. The background is decorated with colorful splashes and stars. The text is arranged in a clear, bold, and playful font.

Cheerleading Success

Last weekend Daisy from Class 4 and her teammates competed in JAMFest Northern Jam at The Winter Gardens in Blackpool. They finished 2nd in a division of 6. This was their last competition before heading out to compete in Florida very soon.

Well done Daisy!



WELL DONE!

Footballers in Action

Well done to the St Pius Football team who took to the pitch on Wednesday evening to represent the school. They played some great football and enjoyed the opportunity to play together and wear their new strips with pride. Well done boys!



WELL DONE!

We LOVE to hear about your child's successes outside of school. We would love to share this in our newsletter with our whole school community.

Please send any stories and photos to our school's secure email – stpx@stpx.bwcet.com



EASTER HOLIDAYS FUN AND FOOD EVENTS



Be a good egg this Easter



We're thrilled to see so many children and young people excited about our Fun & Food programme!

But here's the challenge: some parents are booking spaces, and children aren't showing up.



Please keep our amazing programme available to as many families as possible

When a child misses their session, a funded space is wasted and another eligible child misses out on fun activities and a nutritious meal.



Only book sessions that your child can attend

Please cancel if you can't make it so another child can attend. Providers have been asked not to accept future bookings from families who repeatedly miss sessions without explanation.



Thank you, we really appreciate your egg-stra support



Department for Education

FUN & FOOD

This ticket entitles your child to access free Easter Fun & Food holiday activities

To book your child's free place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/funandfood>

Booking system goes live 16 March 2026 at 12 noon

Scan the QR code to access the booking system

Durham County Council



BOOK FAIR

Join us for our Book Fair during the week 22nd – 28th April

3 books for the price of 2

Buy 2 books and get the 3rd (the cheapest) free!

The Book fair will be open to parents each night after school on the above dates

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!

3 BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF 2

DOG MAN
BIG JIM BELIEVES
DAVE PILKEY

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid
PARTYPOOPER

POKÉMON
MEGA EVOLUTION HANDBOOK

Capbara Kingdom
Cara
Emma Terry

The Scarecrows' Wedding
JILL DONKERSON-ALLSOP/PIE

TOM GATES
PESKY PETS PARTIES
by Lisa Pichon

GO ALL IN.
National Year of Reading 2024

DATE: 22 – 28 April TIME: After School

LOCATION: St Pius School

Scan to pay securely online!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such (legal but harmful) content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be awestruck by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthralls a young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness, recognising when something isn't OK – and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms were created by your interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see it in a 'fast' slot by at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that contains images of cats, they will see recommendations for this in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looking for jokes will see that their mood will feel similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful, biased or who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds. If it can help, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child sometimes comes across unwanted content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Setting a low time limit can mean a child takes out an extra activity that can improve their overall wellbeing. You could set some family rules – everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and 'tech-free' spaces. Involve your child in creating this agreement, makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a close eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need to be able to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally see to see what they're taking on. Be transparent about your wish social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the dot next to it. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their devices, so turning them off will help your child to spend more time with their school, work or home other things that are need to focus on as a priority – and these notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Having children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore all options on their own can result in exposure to highly disturbing content, and a lot of content makes a portion or even all of them a designated space to use devices. Tell your child to 'not' – making a small error to remember what content your child is viewing and if necessary steer them away from any potentially harmful posts.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Most kids in professional or other, highlight the importance of exercise, and doing other things, such as a hobby and reading. Always too our mental health. Make sure you're not missing out on the things that our children do that our children do to feel well – so encouraging your child to not spend their screen time doing something that doesn't limit you screen can be incredibly beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default to children's accounts in private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like in real life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Drone Bennett-Allen is executive head teacher of a special primary school and, as an accredited primary counsellor, works with school leaders to focus on the mental health of their staff and pupils. A passionate advocate for and teacher of teachers, she is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of the book *WELL*, a book which supports children with SEND needs.



Dates for Your Diary

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

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