

St Pius Spotlight

'To renew all things in Christ'



27.03.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

With only one week until the Easter Holidays, there is so much happening in school! I have added several new dates to the diary so please check the dates section at the end of the newsletter. Year 6's leavers events have now also been added to the diary. We have decided that in celebration of Palm Sunday, we will have an impromptu non-uniform day on Monday with donations of Raffle Prizes in lieu of money. This could be bottles, chocolates, toys, crafts, smellies, or any other wonderful items you wish to donate. Please come and join us on Monday at 2.45pm for our Palm Sunday procession, which will be led by Classes 1 and 4. Please note that after the holidays, Year 5 will be swimming on Tuesdays at 10.30am and Y6 will join them once the SATs are completed.

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 4 who won this week.
Week beginning: Monday 23rd March 2026



Class 1 - 98.75%
Class 2 - 98.57%
Class 3 - 98.82%
Class 4 - 99.31%



Our overall school attendance this week was 98.93%. Our attendance target is 96%.

RWI - Phonics Parent Visits



Over the coming weeks you will receive a letter inviting you into school to take part in a RWI (Phonics) session alongside your child. Please wait for a letter inviting you to join your child, as the children are taught in different groups for this session. The letter will state your own personal date and time.

This session will give you a clearer understanding as to how we teach reading in school and enable you to support your child at home.



In this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew tells us that Jesus willingly enters his passion, accepting betrayal, suffering and death for the salvation of all.



"Indeed this was the Son of God"

Next week our Menu is Week 3...

Garden KITCHEN MENU Week 3

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pizza Margherita or Chicken burger	Battered chicken bites or Mini cheese slices	Sausage & Yorkshire pudding or Roast pork dip	Pasta Bolognese or Ham & cheese panini	Battered fish or Quorn nuggets
Potato wedges Garden peas Crunchy oatle biscuit	Steamed rice Broccoli Chocolate brownies	Mash potatoes Steamed carrots Sponge cake & custard	Sweetcorn Garlic bread Mini muffin	Chunky chips Baked beans Raspberry ice cream sponge roll

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
NOVEMBER 3RD & 24TH - DECEMBER 15TH - JANUARY 5TH & 26TH - FEBRUARY 16TH - MARCH 9TH & 30TH
BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST - PRIMARY SCHOOL THREE WEEK MENU CYCLE FOR WINTER 2025/26

FOR ALLERGENS AND NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE

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 easy-to-read format.

CLASS 4 RUGBY TRIP

Earlier in the week Class 4 had a fantastic visit to Consett Rugby Club. Despite the icy cold wind they all got fully involved and had a great time. Well done!



EASTER FOOTBALL

EASTER HOLIDAYS FOOTBALL CAMP



Monday 13th April - Friday 17th April

9:30am - 3pm

£10 a day

Ages 6-12

**Hot food available to buy
or bring a packed lunch**

Hosted by Consett AFC
To book call the landline on
01207 588886
or pop into the clubhouse

DURHAM CITY BASKETBALL CLUB

Pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6 can attend a free Basketball taster session at Durham Basketball Club on a Saturday morning. They are also running an Easter Basketball Club at New College Durham during the holidays. See the posters for more details...



BASKETBALL TASTER SESSION
YEAR 4-6 BOYS & GIRLS
FREE!
DURHAM CITY BASKETBALL CLUB
SATURDAYS
MAIDEN CASTLE SPORTS PARK
10:00-11:00

TASTER SESSION MUST BE BOOKED BEFOREHAND. TO BOOK CONTACT:
✉ Durhamcitybasketballclub@gmail.com
📷 [@durhamcitybasketballclub](https://www.instagram.com/durhamcitybasketballclub)



DURHAM CITY BASKETBALL CLUB
EASTER BASKETBALL CAMP

Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th April
🕒 09:00 - 12:00 | 📍 New College Durham

Age Group: 7 - 14 Year Olds
£25 for two days • £15 for one day

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW

Durham City Basketball Club



DURHAM CITY BASKETBALL CLUB
SATURDAY BASKETBALL SESSIONS

U12-U14	09:00 - 10:00
U8-U10	10:00 - 11:00

MAIDEN CASTLE SPORTS PARK

✉ DurhamCityBasketballClub@Gmail.Com
📷 [@DurhamCityBasketballClub](https://www.instagram.com/DurhamCityBasketballClub)

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



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

FUN & FOOD

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



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 Fiedler

GO ALL IN.
National Year of Reading 2026

DATE: 22 – 28 April TIME: After School

LOCATION: St Pius School

Scan to pay securely online!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that 44% of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

1 MINDFUL TECH USE

Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to restrict their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they've switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES

Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they use to work evening, for example, or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

3 HYDRATION HABITS

Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while making drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night. It's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day will allow the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE

Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, focusing on sleep space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES

Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.

7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP

Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives; during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE

Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, which in reasonable portions does not only do us a lot of good, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable to bed.

9 PARENTAL SUPPORT

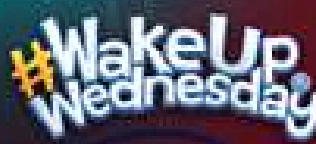
Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (discovering anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD

Look up 'the military sleep method'. It's a technique for falling asleep quickly which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself, while it can take a great deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Elliott – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development of a large secondary school.



Dates for Your Diary

30.03.26: Non uniform day – Raffle prizes

30.03.26: Palm Sunday Procession 2.45pm

31.03.26: Class 1 Trip to Hall Hill Farm

02.04.26: Class 1 and staff cake sale day

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

21.04.26: Class 3 PE trip – all day, please wear PE kits

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

28.04.26: Phonics Screening Check Parent Information Evening 4pm

29.04.26: Class 3 Assembly 9am

04.05.26: BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

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: Mary Day – a celebration of Mary led by Class 1 at 2.45pm, all are welcome

15.05.26: Class 2 PE Trip PM

20.05.26: Class 2 PE Trip PM

22.05.26: Pentecost Procession 2.45pm

22.05.26: Non-uniform day crafts, chocolates, toys

HALF TERM 23.05.26—31.05.26

04.06.26: Class 4 PE Trip all day

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

08.06.26: Phonics Screening Check week

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)

23.06.26: Y6 YMT festival at Emmaus village – all day

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

29.06.26: Reception class PE Trip PM

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

06.07.26: Y6 Leavers performance dress rehearsal for the rest of the school

07.07.26: Y6 Leavers performance 4pm

08.07.26: Y6 class party trip

09.07.26: Summer Fayre 2.30pm onwards

10.07.26: Sports Day – parents invited from 1.30pm onwards

13.07.26–15.07.26: Robinwood residential for Class 4

16.07.26: School Raffle Draw 2pm

17.07.26: Y6 Leavers mass at St Pius X Church 10am

Please note that new dates have been added in red to make them clear. If there are changes to dates we will endeavour to inform you in good time.

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