

St Pius Spotlight

'To renew all things in Christ'

24.04.2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely holiday! It has been wonderful to welcome our amazing children back to school this week and hear all about it. This week and Monday/Tuesday next week, we have the Scholastic Book Fayre in school. Parents are welcome to pop in with children after school Monday and Tuesday evening to browse the fabulous selection of books and stationery. There have been a few changes to the diary, so please do check the updates and diary dates sections of the newsletter.

Best wishes,
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 20th April 2026



Class 1 – 85%
Class 2 – 92.9%
Class 3 – 96.5%
Class 4 – 95.2%



Our overall school attendance this week was 93.73%. Our attendance target is 96%.

BOOK FAIR



The Scholastic Book fair has arrived in school – pop into the main hall at 3.25pm until Tuesday night and see the wide range of books we have on offer.

Pay by cash or QR code

See poster below for more details



CHANGE TO DIARY DATES



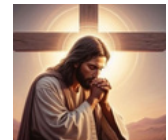
Please note the following changes to dates in the diary..

6th May – CLASS 4 ASSEMBLY CANCELLED

10th June – CLASS 1 ASSEMBLY MOVED TO 12th JUNE



In this Sunday's Gospel, John tells us that Jesus teaches that he is the true shepherd and the gate, calling his sheep by name and leading them to abundant life.



"I came that they may have life, and have it to the full"

RWI PHONICS – PARENT VISITS

A reminder that over the coming weeks parents are invited into school to take part in a Phonics (RWI) lesson alongside their child. This session will give you a clearer understanding as to how we teach reading in school and enable you to best support your child at home

As the children are all taught in different groups you will receive a letter stating your own personal date and time.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A PHONICS INFORMATION EVENING FOR ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN YEAR 1 ON 28TH APRIL at 4.00 – 4.30.

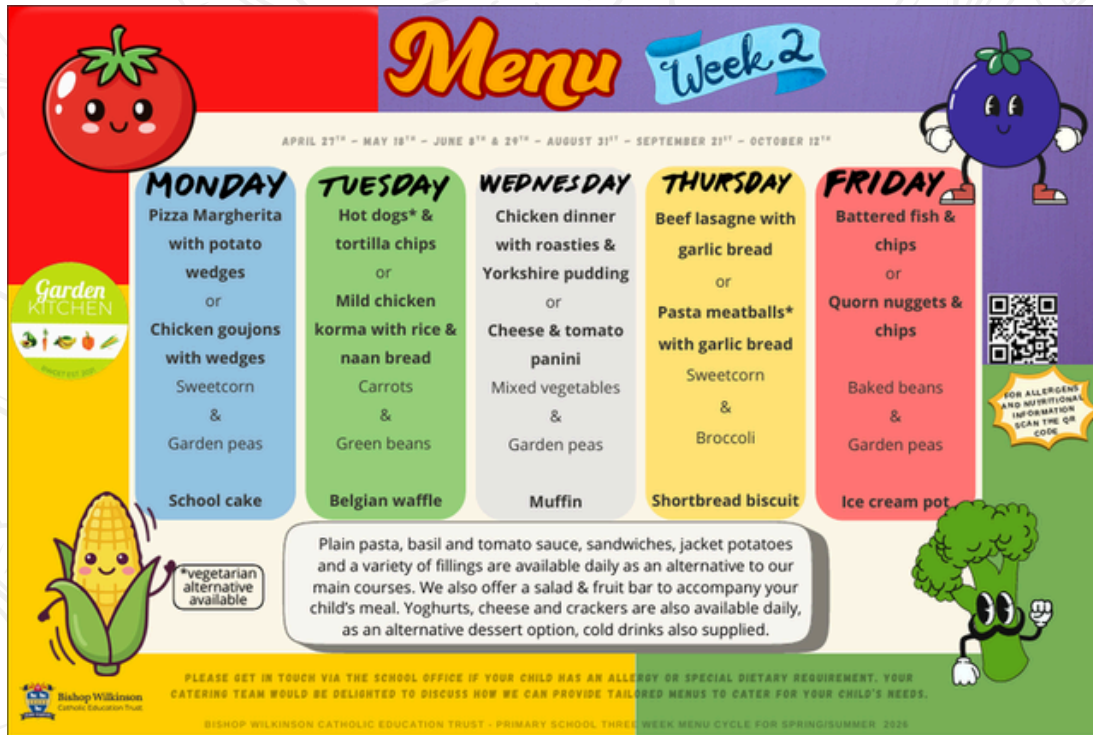
This meeting will contain VERY important information about the upcoming statutory Phonics Screening Check that is taking place in early June.

CLASS 3's Busy Week...

Class 3 have had a very busy first week back – 2 sports trips and a visit from Deacon Shaun to introduce the new RE topic – Pentecost. Well done Class 3 – lots of fantastic new learning!



Next Week's Menu is Week 2...



Menu Week 2

APRIL 21st - MAY 18th - JUNE 8th & 29th - AUGUST 31st - SEPTEMBER 21st - OCTOBER 12th

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pizza Margherita with potato wedges or Chicken goujons with wedges Sweetcorn & Garden peas School cake	Hot dogs* & tortilla chips or Mild chicken korma with rice & naan bread Carrots & Green beans Belgian waffle	Chicken dinner with roasties & Yorkshire pudding or Cheese & tomato panini Mixed vegetables & Garden peas Muffin	Beef lasagne with garlic bread or Pasta meatballs* with garlic bread Sweetcorn & Broccoli Shortbread biscuit	Battered fish & chips or Quorn nuggets & chips Baked beans & Garden peas Ice cream pot

Garden KITCHEN

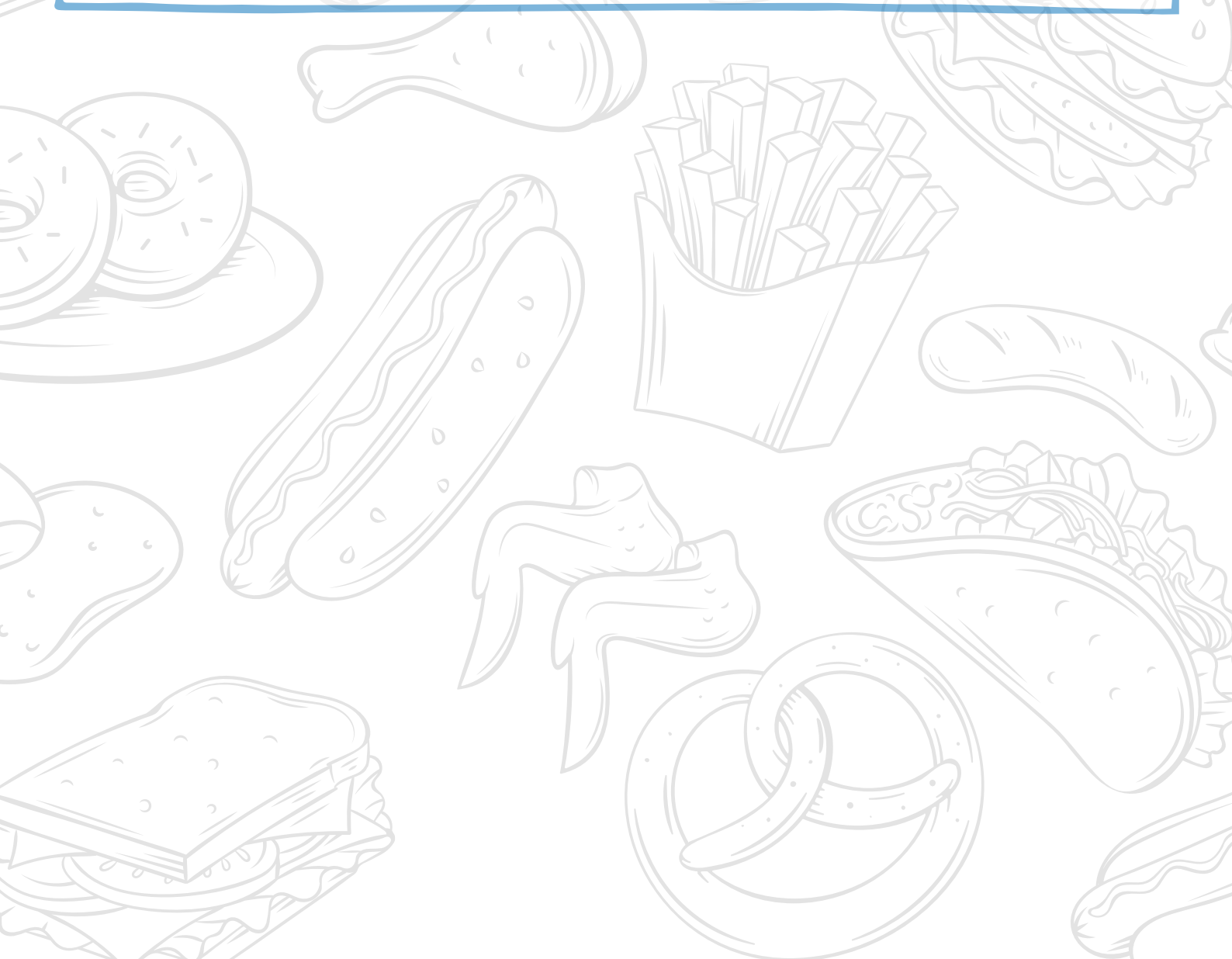
FOR ALLERGEN AND NUTRITION INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE

*vegetarian alternative available

Plain pasta, basil and tomato sauce, 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 SPRING/SUMMER 2025



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
DIARY of a Wimpy Kid: PARTYPOOPER
POKEMON MEGA EVOLUTION HANDBOOK
Capubara Kingdom: Cara
The Scarecrows' Wedding
TOM GATES PESKY PETS PARTIES

GO ALL IN.
National Year of Reading 2024

DATE: 22 – 28 April TIME: After School

LOCATION: St Pius School

Scan to pay securely online!

Check out what's on at our local Family Hub at Moorside over the coming months...

What's on

April 2026 – August 2026




Consett

We offer support for families from pregnancy up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This includes help with all aspects of being a parent or carer, helping your child learn and develop and support for mental and physical health concerns.

Why not take part in one of our free, friendly groups, or drop in and ask us a question. There's no such thing as a daft question, so please feel free to ask.

Best Start Family Hub Consett
Moorside Primary School, Chester Road,
Moorside, DH8 8EQ.
03000 261 111




Infant Massage (online booking required)	Monday 10.00am - 11.30am
0-12 Workshop, Dealing with Disobedience	Monday 12.30pm - 2.30pm
0-12 Workshop, Managing Fighting and Aggression	Monday 12.30pm - 2.30pm
0-12 Workshop, Developing Good Bedtime Routines	Monday 12.30pm - 2.30pm
0-12 Workshop, Hassle-free Shopping with Children	Monday 12.30pm - 2.30pm
0-12 Workshop, Hassle-free Mealtimes with Children	Monday 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Educational Psychologist Drop-in	Tuesday 9.30am - 11.30am
CAMHS Drop-in	Tuesday 9.30am - 11.30am
FEARless	Tuesday 10.00am - 12noon
Henry - Starting Solids Workshop	Tuesday 1.00pm - 2.30pm
SENDIASS – Drop-in	Tuesday 1.00pm - 3.00pm

20 April 2026	Runs for 6 sessions
27 April 2026	Runs for 1 session
11 May 2026	Runs for 1 session
18 May 2026	Runs for 1 session
1 June 2026	Runs for 1 session
8 June 2026	Runs for 1 session
7 April 2026 2 June 2026	Drop-in
12 May 2026 14 July 2026	Drop-in
9 June 2026	Runs for 6 sessions
18 August 2026	Runs for 1 session
5 May 2026 2 June 2026 7 July 2026 4 August 2026	Drop-in

For more information or to book a place please contact Best Start Family Hubs - 03000 261 111



Henry - Healthy Teeth	Tuesday 1.00pm - 2.30pm
Supporting Speech and Language Development - WellComm (online booking required)	Wednesday 9.00am - 12noon
Continence Advice for Children with SEND (booking required)	Wednesday 10.00am - 11.00am
Chill Kids	Wednesday 4.00pm - 5.15pm
Infant Massage (online booking required)	Thursday 12.30pm - 2.00pm
Safer Choices	Thursday 4.00pm - 5.00pm
Stepping Stones	Friday 9.30am - 11.30am
Let's Talk at Home	Friday 12.30pm - 2.00pm
Durham Works drop-in Support to help 16 to 24 year olds into education, employment or training.	Friday 12noon - 3.00pm

1 September 2026	Runs for 1 session
29 April 2026 27 May 2026 24 June 2026 22 July 2026	Runs for 1 session
17 June 2026	Appointments required
22 April 2026	Runs for 8 sessions (not running in half term)
4 June 2026	Runs for 6 sessions
30 April 2026	Runs for 6 sessions
24 April 2026	Runs for 9 sessions
24 April 2026	Runs for 6 sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 April 2026 15 May 2026 19 June 2026 17 July 2026 21 August 2026 	Drop-in

For more information or to book a place please contact Best Start Family Hubs - 03000 261 111



Infant Massage - For mams, dads and carers of babies up to 6 months old. To book a place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/familyhub>

0-12 Workshops Dealing with Disobedience - You will understand why your child may have difficulty learning to follow instructions and learn strategies to help you develop a personal plan to prevent disobedience, teach your child limits, and manage disobedience when necessary. To book a place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/familyhub>

0-12 Workshops, Managing Fighting and Aggression - You will learn what skills your child needs to be able to cooperate and get along with others, and how to teach skills such as sharing, communicating and being gentle. You will also prepare a plan to manage times when fighting and aggression occurs. To book a place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/familyhub>

0-12 workshops, Developing Good Bedtime Routines - We will look at common problems and why they happen and learn the skills to get into a good bedtime routine, strategies to help prevent problems, as well as looking at how to get your child to stay in their own bed throughout the night. To book a place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/familyhub>

0-12 Workshops, Hassle-free Shopping with Children - We will look at how you deal with difficult behaviour in public. You will learn step-by-step suggestions for preventing problems and teaching your child how to behave on shopping trips. You will develop plans to manage problem behaviour during shopping trips and situations. To book a place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/familyhub>

0-12 Workshops Hassle-free Mealtimes with Children - We will explore things that influence children's mealtime behaviour, setting limits and teaching children good mealtime habits. You will look at ways to increase food variety, be introduced to some positive strategies to help manage mealtimes and de-escalate situation. To book a place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/familyhub>

Educational Psychologist Drop-in - Talk to the Educational Psychologist team about any concerns you may have about your child such as learning, communication and language, social and emotional-wellbeing, practical skills or being independent.

CAMHS Drop-in - For parents and carers of children aged 5 - 19 years old. You can drop in and speak to a CAMHS worker about your child's needs. One of the Best Start Family Hub team will also be available to give you more information about what we offer for parents, carers, children and young people.

FEARless - For mams, dads and carers of children aged 6-14 years, to help you understand your child's anxious feelings. For more information or to book a place please call 03000 261 111.

HENRY - Starting Solids - This workshop will help you decide when your baby is ready to try solid food, what foods to start with, when your baby is hungry and when they've had enough and how to make mealtimes an enjoyable experience for you both. To find out more email hdfh.henrypractitioners@nhs.net

SENDIASS Drop-in - For mams, dads and carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, drop in to ask SENDIASS for impartial information or advice.

Henry - Healthy Teeth - This session will give you practical tips for looking after your child's first teeth. To find out more email hdfh.henrypractitioners@nhs.net

Supporting Speech and Language Development (WellComm) - To identify children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old who are experiencing barriers to speech and language development and provide strategies and activities for you to use at home. To book a place visit <https://events.durham.gov.uk/familyhub>

Continence Advice for Children with SEND - Mams, dads and carers of children with SEND are welcome to attend these sessions to help with any issues with toilet training and continence. To book please email hdfh.0-25senddurham@nhs.net

Chill Kids - For children in key stage 2 (school years 3 to 6), helping them to understand their big feelings and find positive ways to manage them. For more information or to book a place please call 03000 261 111.

Safer Choices - For young people secondary school age to understand risky behaviours, peer pressure, consequences and how to make safer choices. For more information or to book a place please call 03000 261 111.

Stepping Stones - For mams, dads and carers of children aged 0-12 years who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, giving strategies to promote their development and potential. For more information or to book a place please call 03000 261 111.

Let's Talk at Home - For mams, dads and carers of children aged 14 months to 4 years. These play-based sessions are fun, practical and filled with talking tips to help develop your child's speech, language and communication skills, at home using their favourite activities. For more information or to book a place please call 03000 261 111.

Durham Works drop-in
Support to help 16 to 24 year olds into education, employment or training.

Register with your Best Start Family Hub at

www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubsRegistration



Information is correct at time of printing but is subject to change and new sessions being added.

Please check the website for the up-to-date timetable www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubs



We are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm and Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm
www.durham.gov.uk/HelpForFamilies www.facebook.com/CountyDurhamFamilyHubs

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics, bullying and friendship difficulties at school, pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams, or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited economic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. In other words, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the school making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a structured routine for the child's school day, if required.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes – be they big or small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Dalman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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Dates for Your Diary

28.04.26: Phonics Screening Check Parent Information Evening 4pm

29.04.26: Class 3 Assembly 9am

04.05.26: BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

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

12.06.26: 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

30.06.26: Class 3 Trip to The Hancock Museum

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