

St Pius Spotlight

'To renew all things in Christ'



15.05.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy week in school and everyone has worked together to support Year 6 as they took their SATs this week. They have worked very hard and tried their best and we are so proud of them!

Next week is our last week before half term. We have a parent phonics session for Mr Devanney's group on Tuesday at 9am. Class 2 have a PE trip on Wednesday afternoon, non-uniform day on Friday and it is our Pentecost procession at 2:45pm on Friday too. All are welcome to attend in 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 1 who won this week.

Week beginning: Monday 11th May 2026



Class 1 – 100%

Class 2 – 95.24%

Class 3 – 90.59%

Class 4 – 98.97%



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



OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT NEEDED



We are looking to extend our Outdoor provision next year and would love some new equipment in excellent condition – water tables, sand trays, mud kitchen equipment, crates, planks, tyres, outdoor furniture, storage boxes etc.



In this Sunday's Gospel, John tells us that by loving Jesus means living his commandments and trusting in the Holy Spirit.



"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me"

WELL DONE YEAR 6!

SATs are over! Take a look at some of the photos from this week... well done Year 6 we are all very proud of you.



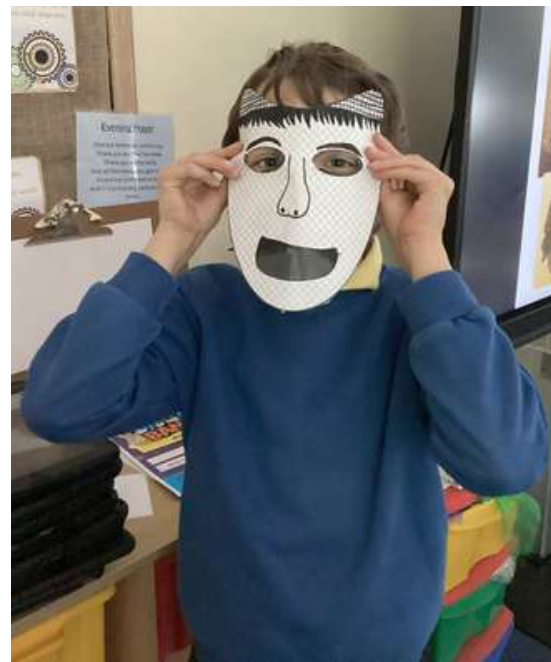




Year 3 Masks

This week Year 3 have been exploring ancient Greek theatre and the three types of plays: comedy, tragedy and satire. They have been learning about how the actors wearing masks do not speak and the chorus/choir does the talking and singing.

Fun Fact: the theatres had an altar in the middle to offer to the Gods



Next Week's Menu is Week 2...

Menu Week 2

APRIL 23rd - 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

*vegetarian alternative available

FOR ALLERGENS AND NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN ALLERGY OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENT. WE 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 2024

Thank you to Mrs Kennedy and Heidi H from Class 4 for providing a fabulous breakfast before SATs every morning this week

A reminder to PLEASE label all items of clothing.

Now that the weather is warmer children are taking off cardigans and jumpers both in class and on the field at lunchtime. It is then proving very difficult to return items to the correct child when things have no name inside them.

Thank you for your support.



Ask Better Questions



The art of asking questions is more complex than we might assume. Teachers ask hundreds of questions every day as they try to unravel what pupils are thinking. If we are to maximise the benefit of using questions to gather feedback, we should aim to ask a range of question types, from information recall to promote retrieval practice to higher-order questions which encourage the development of answers.



1. BE CLEAR



Ask questions which are clear and concise to reduce ambiguity and to ensure that pupils understand what type of response you are looking for. Repeat your question to provide clarity and give wait time.

2. PLAN AHEAD

When developing your scheme of work and planning a series of lessons, allocate time to discuss common misconceptions with colleagues. This will allow you to formulate questions to help dispel misconceptions pupils may have about your subject.



3. GIVE TIME



Give pupils time to process the question you have asked them and to think about their response. This will boost their confidence in sharing ideas without feeling that they are being put on the spot. Research suggests 3-5 seconds of wait time.

10. PRACTISE QUESTIONS

Make time to practise drafting and asking questions with colleagues. This can support the development of the clear and concise questions that you then ask pupils and reduce the potential for misunderstanding.



9. COLD CALL



Encourage pupils to share their ideas with the rest of the class by directing questions to specific pupils. For example, "What is the process of erosion, Tom?".



4. BUILD ENGAGEMENT

Take the time to build a classroom culture where pupils feel confident in sharing responses. You can do this by establishing expectations, and creating an environment where pupils feel that they can contribute without fear of retribution from their peers.



8. ENCOURAGE THEIR QUESTIONS

Build in time for pupils to ask their own questions, either to you, as the teacher, or to their peers. This will support their own development towards mastery in your subject.

5. PROMOTE EXTENSION

Pupils will want to find the shortcut that allows them to provide the shortest response. Instead, encourage pupils to extend on their initial response by asking them a follow-up question, "Can you give me an example...?".



6. MOVE FROM LOW TO HIGH

Use lower cognitive questions to establish foundation knowledge recall, and then build on this by subsequently asking higher-order questions to deepen understanding.



7. USE LOW-STAKE RECALL

Use questioning to gather information quickly about what pupils have understood. This can be achieved through closed questions that allow you, as the teacher, to uncover any misconceptions and gaps in knowledge of the subjects you need to re-teach.



The National College

This guide is part of The National College staffroom poster series. A collection of information posters for your school staffroom.



Meet the Expert: Michael Chiles
Principal Examiner, Curriculum Development Adviser and an experienced school leader.

Dates for Your Diary

20.05.26: Class 2 PE Trip PM

22.05.26: Pentecost Procession 2.45pm

22.05.26: Non-uniform day – crafts and 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 – sweets and chocolates

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 – prizes for raffle/tombola

29.06.26: Transition day in school (rescheduled from 02/07/26)

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: Year 5 Celebration of Sport– Gateshead International Stadium

03.07.26: Non-uniform day – £1 donation/tombola donations

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