



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School

'Come in and learn with Jesus; go out and serve with love.'

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Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Families

[Please read our full newsletter here](#)

Thank you to everyone who completed the Wallsend Children's Community survey. Our response rate has been really high. We appreciate your support and the active role you play in our home/school partnership. If you have not already completed the survey, please take a couple of minutes to follow the link in the full newsletter which is open until the end of the day. The survey explores the experiences of parents and carers in Wallsend, focusing on your well-being, views on learning and education, and financial situation during these challenging times. Your feedback will help local schools and organisations improve support for families in this area.

Thanks also, to all of you who attended the meeting with Deborah Mordain from the Parent Carers Forum on Wednesday and to everyone who has attended children's Celebrations of the Word throughout the past couple of weeks. The children really do love to see you in school.

Well done also to the Year 5/6 **Hockey Team** who excelled themselves both on and off the pitch at the St Thomas More Tournament. Mr Stephenson was immensely proud of every single one of you. Thanks to him for coaching the team and for running our after-school clubs this term.

A huge well done to the girls playing for our County Football Team who played really well again this week. See our wider curriculum section for a match report.

Last week our **Year 5 & 6** pupils attended the residential activities centre at **High Borrans** as part of their extended **PE Curriculum**. I have been listening to tales of adventure all week and they clearly had a fabulous time. The children who did not attend held a wellbeing focus and spent the week completing a range of activities closer to home. See below for some photos of the week. Thank you to all of the staff involved for going above and beyond to ensure the children enjoyed themselves.

As a result of Wellbeing week, where many of the children shared that they love to play chess, Miss Steel has offered to start a Chess Club on Wednesday Lunchtimes as a drop-in session in the library. Thanks to her for giving up her time!

Safer Internet Day was held on Tuesday 10th February. See the video below for information on keeping your child safe.

We have begun our Jubilee Year of St Francis in school. See below for information.

If you are out and about during half term, please take a photo of your child reading in an unusual place for our 'Get Caught Reading' campaign. Books can be taken anywhere and sometimes a story or information book is just too interesting to put down. Upside down on a slide or a trampoline are just some of the places we have already heard about – but photos please – or it didn't happen! We are hoping to share some of the best photos in school or on the newsletter.

As I mentioned last week, **2026 is the 'National Year of Reading'** and there are already lots of reading activities for you to get involved in with your children both at home – and more to come in school. Please see our **We love Reading** section below to see what the children have been doing – and to **access a great (absolutely free!) reading resource for home called Authorfy**. Sign up to this for hundreds of reading activities and author interviews.

Mrs Strutt has very kindly volunteered as parent-helper to listen to children read in school in order to support regular reading to ensure the children have the best start in life. Many thanks to her for volunteering. If you would be interested in doing the same, please contact the school office.

World Book Day (5th March) will not be 'dress up in costume or pyjamas' but simply '**wear comfy clothes**' Children will be making hats and costumes in school on the day – so please don't buy anything new! If you are having a clear-out this half term, please keep any books that are no longer wanted. We will hold a book exchange after half term.

Advance notice of the Faith In Action Mlni Vinnie's Bake Sale on 18th March to raise funds for our Peter Rabbit Trail in aid of St Oswald's. See below for details.

Advance notice of the date for Parents Evening: Tuesday 24th March from 2.30pm. Booking details nearer the time.

See below for an event at Wallsend RFC during half term as well as the usual information about events and sports sessions in the area.

I hope that you have a lovely half term break (with perhaps some decent weather!) The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday during the week on Wednesday 18th February. We look forward to seeing the children, and you, again on Monday 23rd February.

These newsletters will hopefully keep you up to date with what is going on in school week by week and also direct you to useful organisations and suggestions to support your child's education and development. Please check your Arbor and Seesaw Apps regularly for information from school. The Arbor system is now being used by all schools in Bishop Bewick CET and does work slightly differently from our previous messaging systems. Newsletters are sent to your Arbor account and also via Seesaw – and are uploaded to our website at least every 2 weeks.

Outbreaks of Chicken Pox, Norovirus and general colds and viruses mean that our attendance figures are very very low at the moment. Please contact us if you are having difficulty in getting your child to school when they are well due to parent/carer or sibling illness.

N.B: Please update your contact details as soon as you change your phone number/ email address.

In the Newsletter this week:

- *Curriculum – Wider Curriculum, PE, Wellbeing and Creativity*
- *2026 National Year of Reading*
- *MHST Updates*
- *RE Spring Term Curriculum Plans Info for parents*
- *Faith in Action – Peter Rabbit Trail – Show Racism the Red Card*
- *Attendance*
- *Statements to Live By & Catholic Social Teaching*
- *Catholic Social Teaching – Faith In Action Prayer Stations*
- *Support for Families/ Clubs In Our Area*
- *The Wellbeing Hub*
- *Love Reading: National Year of Reading – Authorify Link – Children in School*
- *Caterpillar App*
- *Keeping Children Safe – Safe Internet Day Video*
- *Safeguarding Team in School*
- *The Wednesday Word*
- *PTA*
- *Feeding Families – How To Collect Your Shopping*
- *Cost of Living Support For Parents*
- *Connect Mental Health Support*
- *School Lunch Link*
- *Admissions Information*
- *Wallsend Children's Community*
- *Dates for the Diary*

If you have any queries about any of these items, please get in touch via the school office.

Best wishes
Ms Lalor