



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School

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

Coniston Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 0EP

Tel: 0191 716 0585 Email: office@staidans.school Website: www.staidans.school

Headteacher: Rachel Lalor

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

[Please read our full newsletter here](#)

Happy New Year to all of you – I hope that you had a lovely Christmas holiday. The children have all been very excitedly telling me about what a great time they had.

Tuesday 6th January was the feast of the Epiphany, when the Wise Men brought their gifts to the baby Jesus. Very well done to all of the children who received Headteachers awards this week for their commitment to sharing the light brought into the world at Christmas giving their 'gifts' of kindness, love and forgiveness to one another.

Given the wintry weather conditions elsewhere across the UK, I thought it would be timely to review our school closure procedure and just remind you of our current communication arrangements for such an event. Hard copies of the letter were sent home yesterday and I have attached it again below. It is important that everyone signs up for Arbor and Seesaw to ensure we are able to contact you in an emergency. Again, I must stress that we are not anticipating closure at all in the near future!

Next week, **Wednesday 14th January**, there will be another Parent Coffee morning in the Wellbeing Room at 9.15am with Mrs Walker and Mrs England. You are warmly invited. Jill Sandeman, our lovely Educational Psychologist, will also be in attendance and will be running a workshop on Child Development.

The North Tyneside Mental Health Support Team (MHST) have been working with Year 2 this week on a new programme – 'Fun Friends' – designed to promote positive relationships and good mental health.

Please also see the letter and invitation below from MHST who want your 'Parent/Carer Voices' to help them shape the service they provide to you and your children.

Below I have also shared a letter to parents from The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, and her recently published guide: **'What I Wish My Parent Or Carers Knew: A Guide For Parents On Managing Digital Lives'**. The guide is designed to support parents facing difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play. See below for details and a link to the guide and additional resources for parents.

2026 is The Year of Reading so we will be sharing with you lots of information over the coming weeks. We would love parents and carers to get involved with the activities we are planning as part of our celebration of reading throughout the year. Look out for information in the next newsletter (as I am aware there is already a huge amount this week!).

First Holy Communion and sacramental preparation will begin this half term. Mrs Alexander will contact parents and carers of the children involved directly with all of the information you need.

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 uploaded to our website every two weeks.

Our attendance figures are really low in the local and national league tables once again! 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.

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

In the newsletter this week

- *Invitation From MHST for Parent/Carer Voices*
- *Letter & Guide from Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner*
- *School Closure Procedure*
- *RE Spring Term Curriculum Plans*
- *Faith In Action*
- *Attendance*
- *Statements to Live By & Catholic Social Teaching*
- *Faith In Action*
- *Catholic Social Teaching*
- *Support for Families/Clubs in our Area*
- *The Wellbeing Hub*
- *Love Reading*
- *Caterpillar App*
- *Keeping Children Safe*
- *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