

# St Aidan's Newsletter

April 2022



## Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to everyone. I trust that you had a very relaxing and restful Easter break. The children have returned raring to go and it has been fantastic to see some of the exciting new topics they have begun in their classes.

## Recruitment

We have advertised for a permanent Deputy Headteacher to join the staff team. The advert went live on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April and will close on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May. We hope to have appointed a permanent Deputy by 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Many of you will be aware that there were a number of temporary teaching posts appointed within school due to my secondment in September. As I have now been appointed permanently, I hope to formalise the staffing across school over the coming months. The amount of permanent posts is obviously tied to the appointment of a Deputy Headteacher – so this appointment will need to take place first. We expect to be able to share the staffing structure for September 2022 by the end of June this year.

Before Easter, I offered permanent posts to Miss Leaver (as a Teaching Assistant in Saplings class) and to Mrs Robertson (as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant working across EYFS/KS1). I am delighted that they have accepted their roles on a permanent basis. Mrs Robertson has adapted to her new role incredibly well and it seems like Miss Leaver has always been here. I am so pleased that they will be part of this new, exciting chapter in our school.

**All teachers currently working within school will remain with their classes until the end of this academic year.**

## Academy Conversion

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, we (finally!) joined the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust – we are now officially known as St. Aidan's Catholic Primary School. It is very exciting to be part of such a big network of other Catholic Schools in the North East and we have already felt the impact of the Trust through the way I have been supported as a new Headteacher.

School Trends, our uniform supplier, has been sent a copy of the updated logo and any new uniform will contain the new badge with our new name. All old uniform may continue to be worn until it needs to be replaced.

## Nursery

We still have Nursery places available for September 2022. If you know anyone who may be looking for a place, please let them know about us. We are also able to negotiate wrap around care on an individual basis should parents require this.



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The 30-hour provision has been extremely successful since being introduced this year. We are currently full as of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

We currently have applications for places in the Nursery as far forward as April 2024, which just shows you how popular our provision is. It is a huge testament to Miss Wright and Mrs Dodds, who provide such a stimulating learning environment.

We also have plans to run a toddler group in school from September for those who will be preparing to join us in the future, to support parents and future pupils in getting to know the school – watch this space.

## Year 6 SATs

Year 6 will sit their SATs assessments on the week beginning the 9<sup>th</sup> May. On this week, a breakfast club will be provided for the children so that they are in school in good time and well settled for their examinations. It is essential that children attend school in the next 2 weeks to make sure they are fully prepared.

I must stress, that these assessments are nothing for the children to worry about, they are simply a way of measuring how we have recovered as a school since the pandemic. I have seen the incredible amount of work Mrs Teer and Miss Farrar have put into preparing the children and I am incredibly encouraged.

I'd wish them luck, but I'm sure the hard work and dedication the children have shown this year will be enough to see them perform extremely well.

## Trips/Residential

I am absolutely delighted that the children have been able to go on trips again after missing out for so long.

The staff have tried incredibly hard to organise a lot of exciting, curriculum enhancing visits which the children will never forget. We have a number of very exciting ones planned for the

end of this year and some already booked in for the future. Wherever possible, we have heavily subsidised the visits we go on, so that they not only provide good value for money but also provide experiences in places many of the children might otherwise not get to experienced.

**With that being said, I am aware that the financial costs for a number of parents might prohibit children going on a trip. Please note, that financial costs of a visit will never be a barrier to one of our children going on a visit. If this is an issue, please speak to myself, Mrs Teer or one of the office staff in confidence and school will do whatever we can to allow children to attend.**



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## **School Council**

The School Council's organised disco was incredibly popular. All of the children had such a good time and it supported the councillors in raising £527.32. This will be added to the profit they have already made this year. They have more events planned before the Summer and they will reinvest their profits in something that all of their classmates benefit from.

## **Parish Links**

We have held a number of events this year which have been aimed at strengthening the link between St. Aidan's Church and ourselves. Fr. Shaun regularly says Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month and has said a number of Masses within our different classes.

A number of parishioners attended the Seder Meal before Easter and attended Mass in school – all parents are now able to attend Mass in school whenever it is said; please look out for announcements.

After a recent meeting with the Parish financial committee, St. Aidan's church has also committed to donating a substantial amount of money towards purchasing a school minibus which will be shared by the parish. School will contribute a similar amount and I am looking at funding avenues to support the remainder of the cost. I really can't emphasise enough how important this will be to our school. We live so near to so many amazing things, but they are sometimes out of reach due to the cost of a coach.

I am incredibly grateful to Fr. Shaun and the parish for agreeing to support this.

## **First Holy Communion**

The FHC Mass will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at St. Aidan's. Families should have received all details from the Catechists about the day by now. Unfortunately, the seating is limited due to the size of the Church, but I'm sure you'll keep our Communicants in your prayers for their big day.

## **Cancer Run**

The annual Greggs Cancer Run takes place at Gosforth Park (Newcastle Racecourse) on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Anyone who wishes to run with us as a school is able to join us. Our start time etc. will be communicated shortly. It really is a fantastic cause, and we're so pleased to be able to support it again. Please contact the office for details.

## **Leave of Absence**

Please note that, in line with our new attendance policy, no leaves of absence will be granted during term unless in exceptional circumstances. Please note that a family holiday taken during term time due to costs or shift patterns, will not qualify as exceptional circumstances.



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## School Uniform

A gentle reminder that children should continue to wear full uniform, including shoes (not trainers). Earrings should be removed and there should be no extremes of hair style (i.e. dying or bleaching).

## School Website

A few of you may have noticed that the school website has been redesigned. It is an ongoing process, and a number of small tweaks/uploads still need to be made but hopefully all of you should find the new design much easier to navigate and find what you're looking for.

## Parent/Carer Consultations

Meetings will take place face-to-face in the school hall on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Wherever possible, I would ask that children do not attend. If this is not possible, a room in the school will be set aside showing films whilst consultations take place. **Please note, children will not be able to sit in on teacher/parent discussions.**

## And finally...

...thank you all again for your ongoing support. Many of the wonderful things we do in school would not be possible without your good will. We have an incredibly supportive parent body, and that fact is not lost on us as a school. **Mr Moran.**



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