



Newsletter Summer Term

April 2021

Welcome back

We hope that you all had a happy and Holy Easter and managed to spend some quality family time together. We are excited to welcome you all back to school and are thrilled that we are finally all under one roof, after having our new heating system installed. It has been a very long and difficult process, but we can now finally look forward to our Summer Term together and are excited about returning back to school and to some normality in the coming weeks.

He is Risen

During our break we celebrated one of the most important and significant events in the Church's year, the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. During the coming days and weeks, in school, we will be focusing on the events leading up to Pentecost, with children learning about how these events link to the Gospel Values that we live out every day at Our Lady of Lourdes and in our lives.



Some important upcoming religious dates

Feast Day of St Bernadette	Friday 16th April
St. George's Day	Friday 23rd April
The Ascension	Thursday 13th May
Pentecost	Sunday 23rd May

The Year of St. Joseph



Pope Francis has asked us to dedicate this year to the Year of St. Joseph. We celebrated St. Joseph's day on 19th March and will continue to focus and learn each month, about a different aspect of St. Joseph's life. St. Joseph is particularly important to our school community, as our partner school is St. Joseph's Blackhall. We look forward to both schools working together to celebrate and learn about the life and qualities of St. Joseph.

Thank you

St. Bede's

We would like to say, once again, a huge thank you to Mrs Craik and all of the staff at St. Bede's Comprehensive School. From the outset, once we knew that we needed our heating system replacing, they could not have been more helpful, supportive and

accommodating. This made it possible, throughout the Spring Term, for all of children to continue with their education during very difficult times. Our whole school community extends their thanks to St. Bede's and we are all in agreement that it has been so lovely to see the true meaning of partnership, Gospel Values and collaboration in practice. St. Bede's is a wonderful school, our children and staff felt very comfortable and looked after there, and we look forward to continuing to work with and support our feeder school in the future.



Mr Baldasera

A huge thanks goes also to Mr Baldasera, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the school is clean, safe and warm for our children to return. Without his efforts and hard work, across sites at both Our Lady of Lourdes and for some weeks St. Bede's, we would not have been able to get the school ready and open for return after Easter.

From all of us Mr Baldasera, thank you very much for your hard work, determination and effort in ensuring the school was ready for our planned full school reopening.

Social Media

During recent months, there has been an increase in the amount of incidents, that school have been informed of, where inappropriate comments, videos etc are being sent by pupils to other pupils, out of school hours. Please could I ask parents to be very vigilant about this and to please monitor the content of your child's messages and correspondence with peers. All of these incidents are taken very seriously and often children do not realise the impact of their words and actions towards others until it is too late. These incidents can quickly escalate and we want to avoid any further action having to be taken. We will continue to promote e-safety and responsible use of technology in school and would appreciate parent support with this at home.



Catch Up

We have been working hard on devising Summer Term Timetables to ensure that all children have access to catch up provision to support with any gaps in learning that they may have after the very difficult year that we have had. Some of this will take place during school time and some sessions may take place before or after school. Staff will be in touch to discuss any booster sessions outside of the ordinary timings of the school day.

Parent Consultation Meetings

This term Parent Consultation Meetings will take place via Teams . The proposed dates for these meetings to take place are:

- Tuesday 11th May
- Monday 17th May

More information will follow, and invites will be sent out to parents to arrange appointments.

Parent Governor Vacancies

Recently 2 Parent Governor vacancies have arisen in our school, due to governors' terms of office coming to an end. Mrs Hood and Mr Roberts have been Parent Governors since 2017 and we thank them for their ongoing hard work, time and work for our Lady of Lourdes RC School. The role of the governor is voluntary and requires a huge commitment in time and effort. If anyone is interested in becoming a parent governor, please express your interest to Mrs Ashton, via email, by Monday 19th April. If more than 2 parents are interested, then the positions would have to go to a vote.



Covid-19



We would like to remind everyone that the Covid-19 virus continues to be around us and impacting on our school and wider community on a daily basis. It is easier, now vaccines have been rolled out to many, to become a little complacent and relaxed around the rules of social distancing, masks and handwashing; however I ask that we all continue to work together to ensure that these things are followed rigorously enabling us to keep all of our school family, and wider community as safe as possible.

Therefore, whilst on the school site please remember to:

- ♦ **Keep your distance from those not in your household/ bubble**
- ♦ **Wear a mask at all times when dropping off and collecting your child unless exempt**
- ♦ **Wherever possible only 1 adult to drop off and collect their child reducing the amount of people on site**

Speed of traffic on site

We have noticed that some vehicles are entering and travelling around the school site at speed. Can I please remind you that the speed limit of 5mph whilst on site, is there to ensure the safety of our children and all members of our school community.



School Crossing Patrol

As you will know, for many years we have sought to secure a school crossing patrol to safely cross our children and school community outside of school. We previously had a school crossing patrol in place, however when she left, the surveys and figures at the time did not allow for a new crossing patrol to be appointed. We are pleased to share that circumstances have changed, and Mr Robinson, one of our parents, has recently been appointed by Durham County Council as our new school crossing patrol. Please try to make as much use as possible of this safe crossing access and walk to and from school wherever possible.

Let Us Pray

Canon Michael McCoy

We join with Bishop Robert and members of our Diocesan family in praying for the repose of the soul of Fr Michael McCoy who has sadly died. We pray for his family, friends and all who knew him at this very sad time.

Canon Michael was a well-loved and respected priest of our Diocese and was Dean of St Mary's Cathedral. He was instrumental in developing school chaplaincy in our Diocese, as well as nationally in his role as National Coordinator for School Chaplaincy for the Bishops' Conference. He collaborated closely with the Diocesan Department for Education and was a great supporter of our work and that of our schools. He touched the lives of so many people and he will be greatly missed.

Quote from Deborah Fox, Director of Education, Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

The Duke of Edinburgh

Our deepest sympathies also go to her Majesty the Queen and all of the Royal Family, on the death of Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh. We thank him for his service to our country and will remember him in our thoughts and prayers.



There will be a message of condolence made on behalf of our pupils at Our Lady of Lourdes, on the online book of condolence.

If anyone would like to leave their own message you can do so using the following link <https://www.royal.uk/condolence>

Important Dates

May Day Bank holiday	Monday 3rd May
School Closed for Election	Thursday 6th May
Parent Consultation Meetings	Tuesday 11th May
Parent Consultation Meetings	Monday 17th May
Break up	Friday 28th May
Return to School	Monday 7th June
School breaks up for Summer	Tuesday 20th July
School Returns Autumn Term	To be determined