

# St Bede's Catholic Academy Parents' Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2024  
Issue 20



## Science Reading Strategy

This year in Science we have introduced a new reading strategy in KS3 to help prepare the students to 'Read Like a Scientist'. Every half term students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are given a booklet that contains 3 different scientific journals. These are real journals, written by scientists for students and are selected to engage them in the subject, develop their scientific analytical skills and show them what careers science has to offer. The booklet makes it clear when each article is set and when it is due by.

Students have 2 weeks to read the assigned article and then answer the questions at the end of the article. They are encouraged to annotate the article, (a skill they learn in English) and watch any videos' online which will help them understand it better and help them answer the question. The website address is at the bottom of each article to access the online resources. We encourage you to read the articles with the students, highlight keywords and find the definitions, help them to describe graphs and what the results tell us and watch the video's with them.

This half term (Lent 2), the first article has been set this week and will be due the week commencing Monday 11th March. Please check your child's booklet/planner to see the exact date/lesson it is due. If your child loses their booklet, We have attached an electronic copy of the booklets to the bulletin. There are higher and lower reading levels so please select the correct one.

Thank you and happy reading  
The science department



## Thursday 7th March is World Book Day

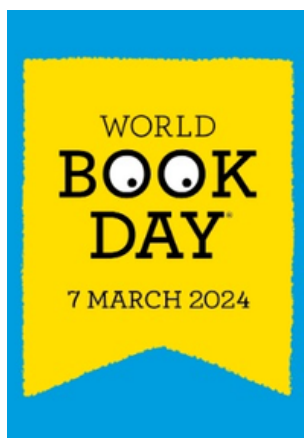
In the library at lunch time, students will have the opportunity to design and make their own bookmarks.

If students want to, they can bring their own design such as a picture of their pet, or they can use the materials provided.

We will also have design competitions and book vouchers to give away.

Please check out the World Book Day website for ideas of how to celebrate World Book Day at home!

Many thanks  
Mr Robinson  
School Librarian



## Diary Dates

2024

Monday 4th March  
National Careers Week

Tuesday 5th March  
Yr 9 Consultation

Friday 8th March  
Girls Games Day

Monday 11th March  
Yr 11 English & Maths  
mock exams

Wednesday 13th March  
Yr10 Day of Reflection

Thursday 14th March  
Yr 9 options  
With Me in Mind Sleep Corridor  
Workshop

Monday 18th March  
GCSE Food exam  
Yr11 Photo  
Yr 7 & 8 reports

Tuesday 19th March  
GCSE Food exam  
Yr11 Additional Consultation  
Evening

Wednesday 27th March  
Whole School Mass

Friday 29th March - 3.05pm  
School closed for Easter

## Meal Price Increase

The Trust and our catering partner Aspens wanted to inform you that effective from 4th March the meal price in our schools will increase to £2.80

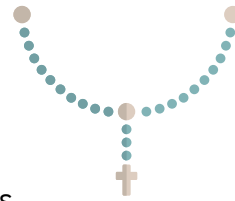
The challenges we're seeing in our kitchens are the same as those you're likely experiencing at home. Ingredient prices are rocketing, and energy costs are sky high. Additionally, we're funding important National Minimum wage increases for the catering teams. Here is some background information that we would like to share with you.

As is the case for supermarkets and restaurants across the UK, we are experiencing weekly increases in the prices of food and drink, with the inflation of 12.2% in September and a further inflation of 6.7% in October according to the Office of National Statistics. Supply volumes have dropped, due to factors such as the invasion of Ukraine, bird flu, swine fever and extreme weather internationally, driving prices up. Aspens are working closely with our chefs and supply partners to introduce new products and dishes, along with driving the best deals we can but these mitigations have limits.

The Government is increasing the minimum wage by 9% in April. This is a positive move that will mean our teams are better able to address the cost pressures they are under, which is great progress, but does subsequently create funding pressures.

The situation is far from ideal, we would like as many students to enjoy our services as much as possible and we appreciate price increases make this harder, particularly when many families are feeling the effects of the general cost of living crisis. That said, we believe our food continues to offer excellent value for money against the £2.95 meal cost in the local authority schools.

As always, thank you for your support and understanding. We will continue to partner with schools, students and parents to explore new approaches and gain input and feedback as we navigate this challenging period.



## Lourdes Pilgrimage

We are thrilled to say that we are going to be part of the Lourdes Pilgrimage this year. Fr Simon Gillespie, secretary to Bishop Patrick, sent out details this week confirming the schedule as outlined below:

- Outbound departure - Saturday 13th July, Nottingham, 2pm ish, by coach
- Arrival - Sunday 14th July, Lourdes, 12 noon ish
- The main part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage will arrive at about 1.30pm on Monday 15th July
- Accommodation - Hotel Mediterranee, Lourdes
- Cost - £649 (excluding insurance, including two polo shirts, prayer book, Robin Hood hat)
- Return departure - Friday 19th July, Lourdes, 12 noon ish, by coach
- Arrival - Saturday 20th July, Nottingham, 12 noon ish

This is open to year 10 and year 11 students this year, both Catholic and non-Catholic. We encourage as many students as possible to make this wonderful pilgrimage. Students have been given information on the Pilgrimage, if you would like your child to attend please confirm their place with us, **a £150 deposit needs to be paid on Arbor by 15th March.**



### PSHCE - VR Interactive Session

On Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th March, Year 10 will be participating in a VR interactive session as part of their PSHCE curriculum. If you do not want your child to participate, or you have any queries please contact Ms Taylor or Mrs Frost at school. Thank you.

### Yr9 Consultation - Tuesday 5th March

You can now log into Arbor and book your slots for the Yr9 Consultation, we would advise that you do this at your earliest convenience as slots do fill up quickly.

### TikTok

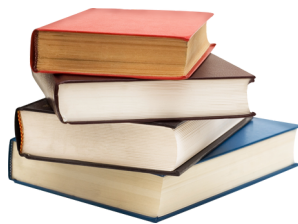
It has been brought to our attention that another Tik tok account has been created listed as St.bedes.wetties along with the previous account @littlemissstbedes. This has been found to have content shared involving some of our students and mostly in a negative way. Please speak with your child about this and encourage them to report the account so that it can be removed. If your child is identified as either following the account or being followed by the account, please ask them to unfollow or block.

As I am sure that you will appreciate this is an area of concern from a safeguarding aspect regards whom your children are accepting and following on social media also identifying their place of education. Therefore, we are asking that you as parents support the school by encouraging your child to remove themselves from the account associated within the next 48 hours. Anyone who is identified as still following or being followed after the 48 hours will be subject to appropriate sanctions within line to our school behaviour policy around acts of defiance.

If anyone has any further information on where the account originated from please feel free to contact the school and it will be dealt with anonymously. Alternatively, please email [kking@stbedesscunthorpe.org.uk](mailto:kking@stbedesscunthorpe.org.uk)

**Closure of ParentPay** During the half term ParentPay was closed to all parents and payments for school lunches/trips/bus money, additional items ie revision guides etc will need to be paid using the Arbor app. If you have still not set this up please do so as soon as possible. All credit/debit balances in Parentpay have been moved over to Arbor. Please make all future payments using Arbor. To make a payment onto your childs' lunch balance. Please select Active Payments, then select meals, then Top up account. There is also a school shop for other miscellaneous items.

## ST BEDE'S READS

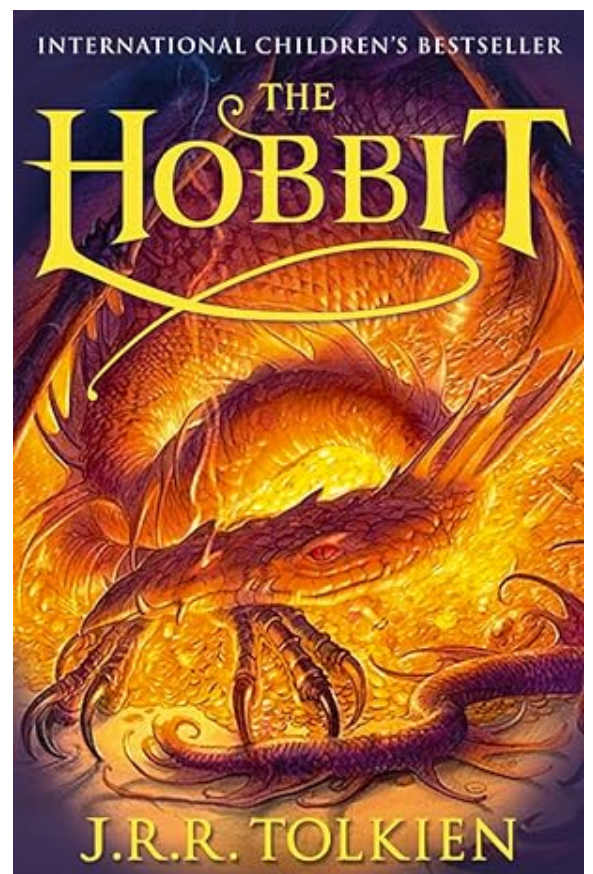


The Hobbit is the unforgettable story of Bilbo, a peace-loving hobbit, who embarks on a strange and magical adventure.

A timeless classic.

Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services – as a burglar – on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.

Seldom has any book been so widely read and loved as J. R.R. Tolkien's classic tale, 'The Hobbit'. Since its first publication in 1937 it has remained in print to delight each new generation of readers all over the world, and its hero, Bilbo Baggins, has taken his place among the ranks of the immortals of fiction.



## **Digital Leaders Focus of the Week - Bullying**

### **1. Watch for behaviour changes**

Children who experience bullying tend to change behaviour and may become more quiet or anxious and may ignore you from time to time. A shift of attitude towards existing friends or parents/carers could be a sign that your child is a victim to bullying.

### **2. Think things through**

Before acting think to yourself if this is really bullying or just a big coincidence. Think about if this is the right time to report bullying. Jumping to conclusions may trigger your child and they might not want to open up to you.

### **3. Be open and understanding**

Speak in a calming tone. This will encourage them to speak more openly and reveal more to you. Don't seem mad at them or they might not reveal anything. When they say they're "angry" do they mean frustrated or enraged. This will allow you to get through to them easier

### **4. Summarise your child's experience**

Make sure you have summarised exactly what your child has said is right. Then report this information to the school so proper action can take place and we can sanction the perpetrator appropriately.