



Love to learn, learn to love

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Dear Families and Carers,

Catholic Life and Mission

Month of Remembrance

This November, we have a book of remembrance open in school where children and parents can add the names of their loved ones they wish to remember at this time. The book is located in the school entrance and you are welcome to come in and leave your messages in the book, alternatively, you may wish to email the names of those that you would like to be included and a member of staff will take care of this for you.

More than Dance

We are delighted to have the More than Dance Team join us on Monday 28 November working with KS2 pupils on Liturgical dance. **Please ensure pupils in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 wear their PE kits on the day.**

Y5 Christmas Carols at the Cathedral

Our Y5 class will be joining the other Y5 classes from our Catholic Primary Schools in Newcastle on Wednesday 7 December for a Carol Service in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Newcastle. Due to the number of schools attending, parents/carers are not invited to the service.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Children taking part in the First Holy Communion programme will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 15 December at 2:00 p.m. in St Cuthbert's Church.

Nativity Performances (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and the story of the First Christmas with Carols (Y3, 4, 5 and 6)

The Nativity and the Story of the First Christmas with Carols will take place over two days on the 20 and 21 December in the school hall. Please see below the times of the performance.

Tuesday 20 December 10:30 a.m. Reception, Y1 and Y2

Wednesday 21 December 9.30 a.m. Reception, Y1 and Y2

Wednesday 21 December 1:45 p.m.— Reception, Y1 and Y2

Tuesday 20 December 9:30 a.m. Y3,4, 5 and 6

Tuesday 20 December at 1:45 p.m. Y3,4, 5 and 6

Wednesday 21 December at 10:30 a.m. Y3,4, 5 and 6

Information on how to buy a ticket will be sent out in a separate letter to follow.

Bambinelli Sunday

The beautiful Advent Tradition, Bambinelli Sunday, was instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II during his Papacy. The tradition follows that on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peters Square where they are blessed by the Pope. All children and families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to be blessed.

Children will be making their own Bambinelli in school which will be blessed by Father Martin in church on the third Sunday of Advent. We will then be sending them home with children the following week.

Advent Mass

Father Martin will celebrate Mass with us on the very last day of the autumn term, Thursday 22 December at 9:30 a.m in the school hall. Parents/carers and parishioners are welcome to join us.

Travelling Crib

As we prepare to welcome the gift of Jesus during our Christmas Season, all families will have received a simplified version of our Travelling Crib to enjoy at home this year. Please send any pictures of the Travelling Crib in your home via email to school



Congratulations to Mr McMaster and Charlotte on the safe arrival of a little boy born on Sunday 20.11.22, weighing in at 6lb 9 oz. Mother and baby are doing well.

Community Links

Poverty Proofing the school day

We were delighted to welcome back the Children North East Charity to our school this week. We enjoyed working with Craig and through this work coming up with ways we can help our pupils and families.

Lyndsey Mallen, the Welfare Rights Officer from Newcastle City Council visited our school on Monday 21 November. If you would like to speak to her about any support you may need with regards to entitlement to benefits, please contact Lyndsey on 07867 538272. This opportunity is part of the work school is involved in through the North Tyne Combined Authority.

Parking and Travel Tracker

Parents are reminded that the turning circle is for a quick drop off only, children get out of the car and walk into school watched by their parent or carer before driving off. If you walk your child into school, you must park away from school. The Engine Public House are happy for parents to use their car park. If your child arrives at school after 8:55 a.m. you will need to bring them into school and record the reason for their lateness.

Friends of St Cuthbert's

The Friends of St Cuthbert's will offer the opportunity for your child to make a Christmas Bauble for a small charge of £1 on Friday 2 December. The letter from the Friends should have been sent home, please check bookbags.

The Friends of St Cuthbert's will also be holding their annual Christmas Fayre in the school hall on Friday 16 December from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Please see the additional information on the letter (sent home) and flyer. All monies raised go to supporting activities for our pupils. We do hope you can support them.

Wider Strategies

Important notice -Change to the time of the school day

In March 2022, the Department of Education stated that all state-funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. The white paper opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child, sets out the expectation, and requires schools currently offering below 32.5 hours to increase their hours by September 2023. The time of the school day runs from registration time not from the time the school door opens. **As of Monday 17th April 2023**, the school will operate a soft opening (as now) with doors opening at 8:35 a.m to allow children to enter school ready for the **official start time of 8:45 a.m.** when registration is taken and **school will finish at 3:15 p.m.** **On behalf of the Local Governing Committee, I would welcome any comments with regard to this proposal so that they can be taken into consideration by Friday 16th December 2022.**

Christmas Jumper Day

This year we will be taking part in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or their own clothes on Friday 9th December. Donations can be made by scanning the QR code below.



Attendance is safeguarding

It is vital that children attend school and that we know where they are. If your child is too unwell to attend school, please ensure that you contact the school office before 9:30 a.m. on the first day, giving details of their illness.

Our family support worker/ attendance officer Jan Gurkin visits school every Thursday afternoon if you need to discuss any concerns.



Jan Gurkin

Attendance 2022 -2023

During November **25.4%** of students met or exceeded the persistent absence threshold of 10% of sessions missed.

Having the best attendance at school is vitally important, as this leads to improved learning for your child (knowing more, remembering more and doing more).

If your child's attendance has dropped below 90% you will shortly be receiving a letter from school.

As you are aware, holidays during term time **cannot be authorised**. The table below shows the impact that time out has on learning. Please note, the Local Authority may issue a Penalty notice to each parent of each child who is withdrawn from school during term time.

100% Attendance	0 weeks of missed learning	Best chance of success. Fantastic!
95% Attendance	1 week, 4 days of missed learning	Chance of success. Well Done!
90% Attendance	3 weeks, 4 days of missed learning	Persistent Absentee. Worrying- At risk of legal action from the Local Authority.
85% Attendance	5 weeks, 3 days of missed learning	Poor Attendance. Very worrying.
80% Attendance	7 weeks, 3 days of missed learning	Very Poor Attendance Very concerning.

If you feel there is an exceptional circumstance where your child needs to have a leave of absence from school, then please complete the 'Exceptional Circumstances form' and return to school at least 14 days in advance of any request for absence. The form can be obtained from the school office and from the school website under parent information—attendance/absence. An appointment with a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be arranged to discuss your request.

Please see below details of attendance recorded in school from the start of the autumn term. Pupil attendance at school has been mandatory since September and the usual rules on attendance apply, including:

- Parents duty to ensure that all children attend at all times
- Schools responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with the code of conduct from the local authority.

Please remember to contact school before 9:30 a.m. if your child will be absent from school.

Year	Attendance since 06/09/2022 until 25/11/22
Reception	94.7
1	93.8
2	95.4
3	96.1

4	97.2
5	94.4
6	96.1
Whole school	95.4

Dates for your diary

November 2022		
25.11.22 Friday	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Non-uniform day- donations of toiletries/gifts of any kind	All year groups
28.11.22	More than Dance- children to come to school in their PE Kits	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
30.11.22	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Deadline for Personalised Bauble Orders	All year groups
December 2022		
02.12.22 Friday	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Non-uniform day- donations of bottles	All year groups
02.12.22 Friday	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Christmas Bauble Decoration	All year groups
02.12.22 Friday	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Santa Booking Session (After School see Friends at school door)	All Year Groups
07.12.22	Year 5 Christmas Carols at the Cathedral (Year 5 classes from Catholic Primary Schools in Newcastle).	Year 5
08.12.22	Christmas Dinner Day	All year groups
09.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day	All year groups
09.12.22 Friday	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Non-uniform day- donations of sweets and chocolate	All year groups
09.12.22 Friday	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Santa Booking Session (After School see Friends at school door)	All Year Groups
12.12.22	Christmas Party- Party clothes	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6
14.12.22	Christmas Party- Party clothes	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
15.12.22	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Children taking part in the First Holy Communion
16.12.22 Friday	New* Friends of St Cuthbert's Non-uniform day- donations of cakes	All year groups
16.12.22 Friday	Christmas Fayre 3:30-5:30 School Hall Friends of St Cuthbert's	Whole School
20.12.22	Nativity- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Carols and the Story of the First Christmas Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the school hall	Whole school
21.12.22	Nativity Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Carols and the Story of the First Christmas Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the school hall	Whole school
22.12.22 9:30	Advent Mass in the school hall	Whole School
22.12.22 3:10 p.m.	School Closes for the Christmas break	