

# St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

The Cuthbert Chronicle- Issue 1— October 2021



Love to learn, learn to love

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**Dear Families,**

A very warm welcome back to the beginning of another very different school year; all of the children are already hard at work and settling into their new classes. We welcome all of our Reception Class to our school community; it will be great to watch them learn and grow as part of St Cuthbert's school family. We also welcome the children who have joined us in other year groups and our new members of staff. We look forward to a year without disruption so that together we can ensure our children reach their full potential.

We are slowly introducing various activities and events while keeping a close eye on the number of COVID infections in Newcastle.

## **Catholic Life of the School**

The link to the Wednesday Word can be found in the home learning section of the school website and you can also use the link below to access the materials:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/change?pid=MTA101634&v=4.4>

We hope to hold a Harvest Festival Mass, however as we are starting to be informed about COVID cases that could impacted on school life, we will be limiting who will be in attendance. Some years groups are already out that day so it is likely to be only one or two year groups who will attend. Pupils are invited to send a donation of tinned food, pasta, cereals etc (no perishable items please), to be given to the Sisters from the 'Missionaries of Charity' who work with those who are homeless and in need in Newcastle. Please can we have all donations by the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021, in order to have them bagged up ready for delivery.

## **Love Your Neighbour - Canny Friday**

We have also re-introduced 'Canny Friday,' in order to keep supporting the homeless in Newcastle. We started this back in 2016-17 in response to what was happening locally, nationally and internationally at that time. It is needed more now than ever before. We ask you to send, if you can, a tinned item of food, pasta or cereal into school on any Friday.

When our container is full it will be bagged up and taken to the Sisters to feed those less fortunate than ourselves. I mentioned this two weeks ago in whole school worship, and we already have a full container. I am overwhelmed by your generous response.

### **Parking**

We understand that it can be busy but please park considerately around school, taking the opportunity to walk or “park and stride” wherever possible. Please do not park in the turning circle, on the zig-zag lines or outside the entrance to the school car park. If you have a younger child (Reception and Year 1) you will have to park away from the site and walk the child/children in. The Engine Public House on the main road are happy for you to park there. If you have older children, and use the turning circle, please let your child out of the car on the pavement side, we do not want our children to be injured by other cars coming in or out of the area.

Last week we have received several complaints about parking at drop off and pick up, which included a member of the public being verbally abused by a parent.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding of our children is everyone in the school community’s responsibility. At school we do our best to ensure your child’s safety by having a procedure in place which enables the teacher to know who has permission to pick your child up, which then in turn helps them to ensure they go home safely with the correct person. Part of this procedure is asking you, our parents, to stand behind the white line on the Key Stage 2 yard. This allows our teachers to safely bring their class out.

From today, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, I have asked the teachers in Year 2, 3, 5 and 6 to leave the buildings in that order, to walk their class to the area assigned to them on the yard, and when they have all the children in place, invite you, one by one, to come forward to the white line so that they can hand your child over safely. The Year 4 children will be collected from the fire exit door in the demountable, and Reception and Year 1 from their classroom door on the EYFS yard. Our teaching staff will give you a gentle reminder if you not in the correct place. Please help us to keep our children safe at this busy time.

### **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021**

As part of keeping children safe; our children learn how to keep themselves and others safe. With this in mind, we have added our child friendly policy to the safeguarding part of the school website. We ask that you share with your child the part that relates to their age range so that you can be part of their learning.

### **Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education.**

Last year, we introduced a new programme approved by the Diocese for the teaching of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education in

accordance with the Church’s moral teaching and in consultation with parents, staff, pupils and Governors. The programme is entitled ‘Life to the Full’ and is produced by Ten Ten. Our teaching staff are fully trained. The programme will run throughout the whole of the school year. To view the content of the programme, parents are reminded to visit the Ten Ten website to access the online parent platform:

**[www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal)**

School Username: st-cuthbert-ne15

School Password: bottle-green

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the Sex Education part of the programme which is not already taught as part of the Science curriculum. Should you wish to withdraw your child from these parts you should notify me in writing. **This request must be made every year.** School is happy to provide parents with materials to help with their child’s learning.

### **Attendance 2021 -2022**

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
- Schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct

As you are aware, holidays during term time **cannot be authorised**. Children who have an attendance of 90% or below are classed as persistent absentees. Our attendance target is 97% or above.

Year	Attendance since 7/9/2021
<b>Reception</b>	<b>96.2%</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>93.5%</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>97.6%</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>96.2%</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>95.1%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>97.9%</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>94.2%</b>
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>95.7%</b>

Congratulations to Year 2 and Year 5 for achieving over 97% attendance.  
Jan Gurkin, our family support/attendance worker continues to monitor pupil attendance and contact families to discuss concerns.

### **Uniform for 2021-22**

**Winter** Mid-grey (not black) skirt/pinafore or trousers (in the interests of safety, boys and girls should wear school regulation material trousers only – no joggers or leggings).

White polo shirt.

Navy Blue school sweatshirt or cardigan.

Black, navy, grey or white socks or tights.

Sensible black shoes – **no trainers**. Black boots will be allowed in winter but children must change into shoes once inside school.

#### **P.E. kit (Y1-6 to come to school in P.E. kit on P.E. days)**

Jogging pants and school sweatshirts can be worn in cold weather for outdoor activities.

House coloured t-shirt.

Black or navy shorts or jogging bottoms.

White socks.

Black or white sand shoes or lightweight trainers.

### **Jewellery**

For safety reasons children are **not** permitted to wear earrings in school, especially for P.E. lessons. Some of the children may have their ears pierced over the summer holiday period, but these must be removed for returning to school.

Extreme hairstyles, dyed hair, hair gel, holiday braids etc. are not permitted. Long hair must be tied back for safety and hygiene reasons.

**Every child needs to bring their school book bag containing their reading book to school each day. Back packs are not allowed.**

### **Free School Meals**

You can apply for Free School Meals by following the link below and filling out a short form online.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals>

Please complete the form if you think you may be eligible, even if your child is currently receiving a universal free school meal in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. You will need to make a separate application for each child in your household.

### **Ordering a school lunch**

Please give advance notice of any changes to your child's lunch arrangements. We are not able to accommodate children switching between school dinners and packed lunch on a day to day basis as the kitchen needs to be able to plan ahead.

We will be implementing a cashless payment system later this term and will share details once this is up and running, until then please continue to pay in cash for school meals. The cost is £11 per week.

### **Learn to read, read to learn**

At St Cuthbert's we are working hard to ensure that our children become fluent readers. School closures have impacted on this area of learning and to help us address this issue, we have purchased additional books to replace the books that have been lost during this time.

Research shows that children need to read at least 15 to 30 minutes per day to ensure they leave primary school being a fluent reader. Not being a fluent reader also has an impact on their learning in other parts of the curriculum. Please can we encourage all parents to listen to their child read and record it in the reading record book. We also encourage you to read to them as this has a huge impact on a child becoming a fluent, confident reader. In order to support you with this, you will be invited to attend a welcome meeting with your child's class teacher, when they will talk about reading and share tips on how to help your child. Please see the dates and times in the section at the end of the letter.

After half term, we hope to run the reading café once a month where you can come into school at the end of a specific day, relax and enjoy listening to your child read.

### Diary dates

Date	Event	Time	Class
01.10.21-31.10.21	Black History Month	Full month	All
08.10.2021	Sum Dog Maths Challenge starts	All day	Y1-Y6
10.10.21	World Mental Health Day	All day	
12.10.21	Y6 Booster class	3:15-4:15 p.m.	Y6 only
12.10.2021	Initial First Holy Communion Meeting – Parents of children in Year 4 or above who wish their child to take part in the programme.	5 p.m. School Hall	Y4 or above
14.10.2021	Y5 & Y6 Boys Football Match at Walbottle Campus	3.15 p.m.	Y5 & Y6 boys team
18.10.2021	Year 2 Welcome Meeting/ Reading	4.30 p.m.	Y2 Parents
18.10.2021	Year 6 Welcome Meeting/ Reading	5.30 p.m.	Y6 Parents
19.10.2021	Year 4 Welcome Meeting/ Reading	4.30 p.m.	Y4 Parents
19.10.2021	Year 3 Welcome Meeting/ Reading	5.30 p.m.	Y3 Parents
20.10.2021	Y5 & Y6 Girls Football Match at Walbottle Campus (Duffy league)	4.00 p.m.	
21.10.2021	Harvest Mass (awaiting further information to clarify year groups)	9.30 a.m.	
<b>22.10.2021</b>	<b>School closes for half term</b>	<b>3.10 p.m.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>01.11.2021</b>	<b>School re-opens to pupils</b>	<b>8:40 a.m.</b>	<b>All</b>
01.11.2021	Year 1 Welcome Meeting/ Reading	5.00 p.m.	Y1 parents
02.11.2021	Year 5 Welcome Meeting/ Reading	4:30 p.m.	Y5 parents
03.11.2021	Reception Class Welcome Meeting/ Reading	4:00 p.m.	Reception parents
03.11.2021	Y5 & Y6 Girls Football Match at Walbottle Campus	4.00 p.m.	