

The Cuthbert Chronicle– Issue 3 November 2025



Love to learn, learn to love

Head Teacher: Mrs C Barrett

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs S Walsh

Chair of Governors: Mrs B Bookless

Telephone: 0191 267 5956

Email: office@stcuthbertsw.co.uk

Website: www.stcuthbertsw.co.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Catholic Life and Mission

Thank you for your very generous donations for the harvest which we have shared with the Missionaries of Charity Sisters. Our Head Boy and Girl helped to deliver the food parcels for which the sisters were incredibly grateful.

Macmillan Donations -update

The final total raised for this amazing charity was £249.37. Thank you for your support and generosity.

November the month of Remembrance

As we enter the month of November, a time traditionally dedicated to remembering those who have died, we invite everyone in our school community to take part in our Book of Remembrance.

This special book is placed in the school entrance, where you are welcome to write the names of loved ones you wish to remember. Alternatively, you can email the names to school and, we will ensure they are included.

Each week during Whole School Celebration of the Word, the Book of Remembrance will be placed on our focus table as a symbol of our collective prayers and reflections.

Together, we honour those who are no longer with us, keeping their memory alive in our hearts and school community.

Special visit: Bishop Stephen – Wednesday, 26th November 2025

We are delighted to announce that Bishop Stephen will be visiting our school on Wednesday, 26th November 2025. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children and staff to welcome our special guest and share in a moment of reflection, celebration, and community. Bishop Stephen will spend time with the pupils, tour our school, and bless our new kitchen, entrance, and Early Years Area.

Year 6 Faith in Action- Operation Christmas Child

As part of Year 6 Faith in Action work they will be organising the Operation Christmas Child Appeal. This is a global project run by Samaritan's Purse, where individuals and families pack a shoebox filled with toys, school supplies, and personal care items. Each Class will be asked to pack a box for a particular age group. Your child should have received a letter detailing items to include but if not please ask for a copy. Collection will take place week commencing 10th of November 2025. Packing a shoebox is simple, fun and has a significant impact on a child's life.

Annual Christmas Fair – Friday 28th November 2025
Hosted by the Friends of St Cuthbert's

We are excited to invite all families to our Annual Christmas Fair, right here in school from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Come along for an afternoon of festive fun, including:

Santa's Grotto

Gifts, Bottles, Chocolate, and toys stalls

Cakes and treats

Raffle and games for children

It is a wonderful way to start our Christmas celebrations and support our school community. All proceeds go towards enriching school activities and resources. We look forward to seeing you!

To help support the fair, children are invited to wear their own clothes to school on the following dates in exchange for contributions:

Friday 7th November – Bottles for the bottle stall (e.g. drinks, sauces, bubble bath)

Friday 21st November – Gifts

Friday 28th November - Chocolate

As always there will be a toy stall, and donations of toys can be dropped off at school at any time prior to the 28th of November.

All donations will help make the Fair a magical and successful event for everyone. Look out for the Friends of St Cuthbert's Christmas Fair Poster for more information. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Nativities- Dates for Your Diary 2025

We are delighted to share the Christmas Nativity performances dates in advance so families can plan to join us in celebrating the festive season.

Performance schedule

Years 3 to 6 - Tuesday 2nd December at 09:15 a.m. performing 'Bells Ring Out'.

Years 3 to 6 – Tuesday 2nd December at 10:45 a.m. performing 'Bells Ring Out'.

Reception, Year 1 and 2 – Tuesday 2nd December at 2:15 p.m. performing 'The Nativity'.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – Wednesday 3rd December at 09:15 a.m. performing 'The Nativity'.

Year 3 to 6 – Wednesday 3rd December at 2:15 p.m. performing 'Bells Ring Out'.

All performances will take place in the school hall, and families are warmly invited to attend. **Further details about costumes and tickets will be shared closer to the dates. We look forward to celebrating this joyful time together! Recording of performances is prohibited.**

Wider Strategies and safeguarding

Christmas Jumper and Lunch

On 11th December 2025 we are holding our Christmas Jumper Day and will serve Christmas Lunch too. All children who receive a school lunch will automatically be included in the school lunch numbers. If your child brings a packed lunch from home and they would like to have a Christmas lunch, then please complete the letter which will be sent out to Years 3 to 6 and return to school no later than 1 December 2025. Food orders must be placed with our suppliers on this date.

Winter Clothing Reminder

As the colder months set in, we kindly remind parents and carers to ensure children come to school dressed in suitable winter clothing that is clearly visible for safety. Please make sure your child comes to school with

- a warm coat, hat, and gloves (please ensure all of these have your child's name on)

- Waterproof footwear for wet or icy conditions
- Some reflective detail to help them be seen in low light.

Children spend time outdoors during breaks and outdoor learning, so it is important they stay warm, dry, and visible.

Parents Evening Feedback

We would like to thank all families for attending our Autumn Parents' Evening sessions. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us to continue improving our school community.

One concern raised was parking during busy times. We want to reassure you this is something we take seriously:

- **Parking reminders** are included in newsletters to raise awareness and encourage safe, respectful parking.
- Each year, we liaise with **The Engine Public House** to confirm families may use their car park during drop-off and pick-up.
- **Turning Circle Drop-off:** The turning circle at the front of school is for quick drop-offs only- no parking is allowed. When available, a member of staff is present to help manage traffic and keep vehicles moving safely. Please be polite to them as they are helping to keep our children safe.
- **Safety First:** Please **do not double park** in the turning circle and **do not allow children to exit vehicles on the roadside**, as this poses a serious safety risk.
- We operate the **Travel Tracker Initiative** – to encourage healthier and safer travel choices. Children can earn badges by choosing active and sustainable travel options such as:
 - Walking
 - Cycling or scooting
 - Park and Stride
 - Park and ride

This initiative not only promotes physical activity but also helps reduce congestion around the school.

- **Seeking Further Support:** We will be contacting Newcastle City Council for advice on additional strategies to improve traffic flow and safety around school.

Another point highlighted was the need for more consistent feedback (e.g. more newsletters). In response, we will continue to:

- Share our monthly newsletter via email to the email addresses you have provided
- Post a copy of the newsletter on the school website
- Provide a paper copy if requested
- Share information from Reception Class and Year 1 using Tapestry
- Text and email alerts for urgent messages and time-sensitive updates. Text messages do incur a cost especially when sending frequently or large group messages.
- Update our website diary and refresh it regularly to keep information current and accessible
- Post on our Instagram page key events happening the following week

We are always looking for ways to improve communication while being mindful of cost and accessibility. Therefore, we will aim to provide an additional newsletter each month should we have more up to date information to share.

Other news

Nut Free School- Important Information

Our school is a nut free environment, please ensure all snacks sent in packed lunches do not contain nuts. This is to safeguard pupils within our school community who have a nut allergy.

Birthday Treats

We love to celebrate birthdays at school, and it is a favourite time during whole school celebration assembly on a Friday. We appreciate you may want to send something in to school for your child's birthday so here is a reminder to help keep our school a safe environment.

Please make sure that any birthday cakes or treats are nut free. This includes ingredients like peanuts, almonds, hazelnuts, and any nut-based spreads and oils. If you are unsure about the ingredients, please check the packaging carefully or speak to a member of staff before bringing in the treat.

Our school day is packed with learning and includes support staff helping children to embed learning through addition sessions. If you are sending in a cake, please can you cut it prior to bringing it to school. We give all treats out at the end of the school day to take home. Thank you for your help.

St Cuthbert's Wraparound Care

Our Wraparound care sessions start from 7:30 a.m. to 8:35 a.m., when school begins and from 3:15 to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. If you wish to find out more, please contact the staff in the school office who will be happy to help.

Child Health- important events

3rd November - Child measurement for Reception and Year 6

12th November - Eye screening for Reception Class

19th November - Flu immunisation for all children whose parents have given consent.

Quality of Education

Bikeability and Balance Bike Training (PE)

The training will take place this month for Year 4 and Reception Class as part of our PE offer. We are delighted to support this nationally recognised programme that teaches children to balance, build their coordination and how to be a responsible, safe, and confident cyclist. Please see the final page for dates, additional letters have already been distributed to Year 4.

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 – Starting with Odd Socks Day (PSHE)

We are proud to be taking part in **Anti-Bullying Week**, which runs from Monday 10th November to Friday 14th November 2025. This is a national campaign to encourage kindness, respect, and inclusion across all schools.

To start the week, we will celebrate **Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th November**. Everyone is invited to wear odd socks to school to celebrate what makes us all unique. Then throughout the week the children will take part in a variety of activities to promote friendship, kindness, respect, and inclusion.

As a community we will work together to make our school a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and celebrated.

Kindness Day- 13th November (PSHE)

Kindness Day UK and World Kindness Day both fall on 13th November and coincides with Anti-Bullying Week. Children will be asked to take part in acts of kindness on this day, and this will be the focus for the Good Samaritan Award at Friday's Celebration Assembly.

First Aid Training for Children in Years 3 to 6 (PSHE)

We are pleased to announce that children in Years 3 to 6 will be taking part in First Aid awareness sessions on Tuesday 11th November.

These age-related sessions are designed to help children:

- Understand basic first aid principles
- Built confidence in responding to minor injuries
- Learn how to get help in an emergency

The sessions will be delivered by trained professionals and include hands-on activities, role-play, and important safety messages. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to develop life-saving skills and grow in responsibility.

Year 6 Parents – SATs meeting

We will be holding a Year 6 SATs information meeting to help parents and carers understand what the SATs involve and how best to support your child. This meeting will take place on Thursday 20th November at 3:30 –4:00 p.m.

UK Parliament Week-24th to 28th November in school (PSHE)

UK parliament week is a nationwide event that aims to engage children with the UK Parliament, democracy, and how they can make their voice heard. It helps children understand their rights, and responsibilities. Events will take place throughout the week in each class.

Additional information will be shared shortly regarding the Finale of the Year of Jubilee and the Bishop's visit.

Please see page 6 for all those important dates.

St Cuthbert's Key dates for your diary in November 2025

November 2025		
Date	Activity	Year groups etc
03.11.25	Child Measurement	Reception Class and Year 6
06.11.25	Balance Bike Training	Reception Class
06.11.25	Bikeability Group 1	Year 4
07.11.25	Own Clothes Day- bottle donations	All year groups
w/c 10.11.25	Anti-bullying week- Monday 10.11.25 Odd Socks Day	All year groups
w/c 10.11.25	Operation Christmas Child Collection	All year groups
11.11.25	First Aid training for children	Years 3 to 6
12.11.25	Eye Screening	Reception Class
13.11.25	Kindness Day	All year groups
13.11.25	Balance Bike Training	Reception Class
13.11.25	Bikeability Group 2	Year 4
14.11.25	Children in Need Day- own clothes and a donation for the Charity	All year groups
14.11.25	Open morning for parents of Reception Class children for 2026-27	09:00 to 11:00
w/c 17.11.25	Road Safety Week	All Year groups
19.11.25	Flu Immunisation	All pupils whose parents have given consent
20.11.25	Balance Bike Training	Reception Class
20.11.25	Bikeability Group 3	Year 4
20.11.25	Parents meeting SATs 3:30 p.m. in Year 6 classroom.	Year 6
21.11.25	Finale of Year of Jubilee	All year groups
21.11.25	Own Clothes Day – Gifts	All year groups
w/c 24.11.25	UK Parliament Week	All year groups
24.11.25	Safety Works – school trip	Year 6
26.11.25	Bishop Stephen Visit	All year groups
27.11.25	Balance Bike Training	Reception Class
27.11.25	Bikeability Group 4	Year 4
28.11.25	Own Clothes Day Chocolate	All year groups
28.11.25	Annual Christmas Fair – Friends of St Cuthbert's	3;30-5:00 p.m. All families welcome.
December 2025		
01.12.25	Advent begins in school and runs until 24.12.25	Whole School Community
w/c 01.12.25 to 18.12.25	No after school clubs will run during this period e.g. Zumba, Football, Netball, Y6 SATS, Latin and Mini Vinnies. St Cuthbert's Beads Wraparound will still be offering their service.	
02.12.25	Christmas Nativities	All Year groups
03.12.25	Christmas Nativities	All Year groups
03.12.25	Christmas Carols at the Cathedral	Year 5
Other dates to be confirmed		
19.12.25	School Closes at 3:15 p.m. for the Christmas Holiday	

Tuesday 06.01.2026 School re-opens for the Spring Term at 8:35 a.m.