

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

The Cuthbert Chronicle- Issue 7- February 2023



Love to learn, learn to love

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Dear Families and Carers,

Catholic Life and Mission

Ash Wednesday 22 February 2023-the season of Lent begins.

Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies group will begin on Monday 27th February for those children from Y3-5 who have already completed an application form. The sessions will run weekly between 3:15-4:00p.m.

CAFOD - The Big Lent Walk

We will be taking part in the CAFOD, 'Big Lent Walk' to raise awareness and money for global poverty. More information will be available after the half-term break.



First Holy Communion Session

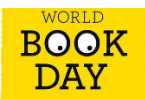
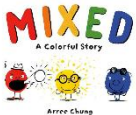
Session five of the First Holy Communion Programme has moved to Tuesday 14th February.

Quality of Education

Thank you to parents from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who joined our phonics lessons earlier this term. I hope you enjoyed observing the lessons and having the opportunity to ask questions about phonics.

Learn to read, read to learn

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 2nd March. The book we will cover is 'Mixed' by Arree Chung, which is an inspiring story about colour linked to our PSHE curriculum. Children are encouraged to come to school in their PE top or a coloured top of their choice.



Y6 SATs and residential meeting

We would like to invite our Year 6 parents/carers to join us for an information session about the Y6 SATs and the residential trip on Monday 13th February at 5:00 p.m. Please contact the school office if you are unable to make the meeting.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is due to arrive in school on Wednesday 22nd March.

Y5 Time to Act - Royal Shakespeare Research Project

Year 5 will shortly begin work on the Royal Shakespeare Research Project. The learning programme will teach the children the value of using rehearsal room approaches to Shakespeare—the same techniques used by RSC actors and directors. We are delighted to have the opportunity to be part of this exciting research project. A separate letter with additional information for parents will be sent out.

Community Links

If you would like to speak to the Welfare Rights Officer, Lyndsay Mallen, about any help you may need with regards to entitlement to benefits or advice, please contact her on 07867 538272.

Tree Stumps

As part of our School Development Plan we are looking to develop part of our school field into a Forest School. This will allow our children to play, explore and discover the outdoors in nature-based learning that will focus on their holistic development.

To begin our journey, we are looking for a set of thirty tree stumps or logs for the children to use as a seating area. If you have any contacts that could help us with this or the development of our Forest School, please could you contact the school office.



Wider Strategies

Important notice -Change to the time of the school day

Consultation on the change to the school day is now closed. Thank you for your comments. As planned, 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 will be taken. **School will end at 3:15 p.m.**

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week runs from 6th- 12th February. The theme is 'Let's Connect'. This is about making meaning connections for all and how we thrive in communities and the importance of connections for our wellbeing.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 7th of February, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**'.

Poverty Proofing the School Day

On Friday 3rd February, we received the verbal feedback from our poverty proofing audit which took place late in the autumn term. Firstly, can I thank the children, parents, staff and governors for their cooperation. This confirmed we are doing lots of things in school to support our children. We have some further opportunities for improvement and further information will be made available to you when we receive the written report.

Jewellery

Jewellery (including earrings) is not permitted to be worn in school for health and safety reasons.

Parents' evening sessions

The spring term parents' evening sessions will take place on Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March 2023. Bookings for the sessions will open on Monday 27th February.

Volunteers needed

If you would like to give some of your time to help school, please get in touch. We would arrange for you to have a DBS check and cover the cost. We are looking for volunteers to help in the following; a) support children with their reading; b) help to get the school garden/ forest school up and running; c) help with a school education trip; d) help fund raise; e) have knowledge of writing bids; f) talk to classes about the job you do. It all helps!

Attendance is safeguarding

It is vital that children attend school and that we can account for their whereabouts. 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.



Attendance 2022 -2023

Each week the class with the highest attendance wins the attendance trophy and a special treat.

Having the best possible 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 **93%** you will receive a letter from school.

As you are aware, holidays during term time **cannot be authorised**. The table below shows the impact that school absence 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 are exceptional circumstances 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 or 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.

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.

Dates for your diary

February 2023			
Date	Event	Time	Class
27.01.22-02.02.23	Newcastle Sumdog Contest		Y1-6
03.02.23	NSPCC Number day		All
03.02.23	Y1 Heights and Weights		Y1
06.02.23-12.02.23	Children's Mental Health Week		All
07.02.23	Safer Internet Day		All
08.02.23	Closing date for applications for the SEN TA post		

13.02.23	Deadline for application supporting evidence for a place in Reception Class 2023-24	4 p.m.	
13.02.23	Y6 SATs and residential meeting	5 p.m.	Y6 parents only
14.02.23	First Holy Communion Session 5		FHC children
W/c 20.02.23	Half-term holiday school closed		All
22.02.23	Lent begins (Ash Wednesday)		
27.02.23	School opens for Spring 2 term	8:40 a.m.	All
27.02.23	The Big Lent Walk begins		All
27.02.23	Mini Vinnie Group begins	3:15-4:00 p.m.	Y3-5
28.02.23	NEU planned day for Industrial Action		
March 2023 (advanced notice)			
01.03.23	Parents' evening sessions		All
02.03.23	Parents' evening sessions		All
02.03.23	World Book Day		All

School closes on Friday 18th February at 3:10 p.m. for the half-term break and re-opens on Monday 27th February at 8:40 a.m.