



St. Cuthbert's RC Primary School

You are unique, talented and loved by God.

The children have been enjoying getting back into the swing of things after half term. It is a busy half term and we have a number of planned sporting events coming up. We also have lots of exciting things planned as we approach Christmas. A list of dates is attached.

As part of our OPAL play, children have the chance to engage in role play, adventurous activities and imaginative spaces. The children have LOVED the chance to play with friends and engage with different forms of play. Lots of our play spaces are on our field and in the inclement weather it is **essential** that all children have a change of clothes and outdoor footwear (wellies) to access these areas on the field. Please send in indoor shoes/plimsolls. **Children will not be allowed to do PE in the hall using their dirty outdoor shoes.** PE time is being cut short as we cleaning the hall.



ADVENT

Advent begins on Sunday 1st December. Advent is the start of the Christian year. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus,' which means 'coming' or 'arrival' to signify the birth of Jesus. Advent is a time for celebration; anticipating Christ's birth and looking forward to when Jesus will come again. In school we will be having Advent services each week and trying to prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus by saying sorry for the things we have done wrong, and helping others.



PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (Years 1-6)

Parents of Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5 and Y6: there will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher to discuss how they have settled into their year group and their progress on the afternoon of **Wednesday 4th December**.

Parents of Y3: Your parent/teacher meeting will be on the afternoon of **Wednesday 20th November** before Miss Huntley goes on maternity leave.

We will be in touch with you with details about how you can make an appointment. Please do not ring the school office for an appointment. Thank you.



FOOD BANK

If you are able, we would like to ask your help once again to support our local food bank who have more families than ever to help this Christmas. Dry and tinned food with a decent shelf life would be ideal. It would be lovely if we could send some Christmas products too (mince pies, Christmas puddings etc). Donations can be sent in with your child not sent to the school office.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

CHILDREN IN NEED - Friday 17th November

This year the theme is SPOTtacular! Children can come to school in something with spots on (can just be an accessory), or they can wear a Children in Need top or ears if they feel comfortable. Donation of £1 which will go to Children in Need.



Christmas Jumper Day - Tuesday 19th December

If you are able, we would welcome donations of £1 which will be donated to Save the Children.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas dinner will be served on **Wednesday 18th December**. If your child does not usually stay for dinner and would like to, please let the office know **no later than Monday 9th December** so kitchen staff can prepare. The cost is the same as usual school meals - £2.50. Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 do not pay.



THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our wonderful families! You raised an outstanding £2500 in our sponsored colour run. This has enabled us to buy our new creative shed for our OPAL play and resource it.



THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our parent support group, the 'Friends of St Cuthbert's' for organising our Autumn disco. A lot of work goes into the evening and Mrs Parlett and I are looking forward to seeing everyone having a great time. Please 'like' the 'Friends of St Cuthbert's' Facebook page and watch out for further things they have organised in the coming months!



PARENT PAY

All trips, school meals and breakfast club payments should be made on ParentPay. We are already over £1430 owed in unpaid breakfast, lunch, trip monies and after school clubs (not including Y4/5/6 residential and activity days). This is unsustainable for school. If you have fallen behind with payments, please bring your ParentPay account up to date. This year we must follow the Trust's 'No Debt Policy' as we do not have the funds to subsidise lack of payments. If you are falling behind with payments, we will remind you, but if no payment is received you will be asked to send a packed lunch for your child. For school trips such as the Emmaus Youth Village, Grinton Lodge and Y6 activity days, payment will need to be received before the child travels and if you have agreed to the place, then cancel, you will be responsible for some of the cost (depending on the organisation's terms and conditions). If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do get in touch with us and enquire about possible alternative arrangements. We need to support each other so the children are not missing out on experiences and activities. Many thanks for your understanding on this matter.

(*Lunch payments do not apply to children in Reception/Year 1/Year 2 and those who receive Free School Meals)



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Seaham

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

We have vacancy for a Foundation Governor and would welcome applications from local practising Catholics keen to make a positive contribution to our school. In this voluntary role, you will work as part of a team and play a vital role in ensuring the Local Governing Committee is connected with parents and the community.

What does a good governor need?

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for pupils
- Good interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn, develop new skills and attend relevant training.
- The ability to support and challenge the school and contribute to the vision and direction of the school.
- The ability to attend and contribute in meetings whilst maintaining confidentiality.
- The ability to work as part of a team and value the contributions of others with alternative views to your own.
- To visit the school in between meetings to gain a greater understanding of how school functions.

For more information about the Role of a Governor visit: www.bccet.org.uk/governance/
For an informal discussion please contact the Headteacher or Chair of Governors office@stcuthbertsprimary.com

0191 5813090

www.stcuthbertsprimary.com

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

As of August 19th, the government legislation around leave of absence changed. No holidays will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances (even if you are under 5). Any holiday over 5 days will also be subject to a penalty notice. Lateness and absences must now be monitored closely too.

If you are going on holiday, please do tell us and don't ring to say your child is ill. The children tell us (or someone else's child does)! If you are late (after 8.55), please come into school with your child. We also need proof that your child is attending a medical appointment if it is in school time (lots of parents are great at showing us this - so thank you!)

RIGHTS RESPECTING ARTICLES for November - Anti-bullying

Article 2 - Non discrimination of children - whatever their race, religion or abilities, whatever type of family they come from.

Article 12 - Every child has the right to have a say and to have their views taken seriously.

Article 13 - Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive information

Article 19 - Children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.



SOCIAL MEDIA and WHATSAPP

We very much value the relationship between home and school. We take any parental queries and concerns seriously and are pleased that most queries and concerns are resolved by classroom staff. Social media is great for parents to network about birthdays and quick questions but it is not a platform to comment on school issues or staff (even as a joke). Any negative remarks on these sites can be seen as defamation of character. If at any time you have an issue, your first port of call should be the class teacher. If it remains unresolved, then contact Mrs Parlett or Mrs Noble and if you are still dissatisfied, you will find the complaints policy on our website. All necessary action will be taken to deal with any material posted on sites and in group chats that is in our opinion distressing or harassing in any way. Thank you for your support with this.



Autumn Term Dates

November

- Friday 8th Year 2 Celebration of the Word, 9am
Autumn disco KS1 4 – 5.30pm
KS2 6 – 7.30pm
(Friends of St Cuthbert's)
- Thurs 24th Flu Immunisations
- Friday 15th Year 1 Celebration of the Word, 9am
Children in Need Day
- Wed 20th Year 3 Parent/Teacher meetings
- Fri 22nd Mini Vinnies Assembly
- Mon 25th Year 3 Christmas woodcraft - afternoon

Separate information will follow about sporting events.

December

- Mon 2nd Rec/Y1/Y2/Y3 Mass, 9.30am
- Wed 4th Parent/Teacher meetings Y1/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6
- Fri 6th Y4 and Y5 Christmas Craft Workshop
- Mon 9th Y4/Y5/Y6 Mass, 9.30am
- Wed 11th Christmas Show at the Town Hall
(Friends of St Cuthbert's)
- Thurs 12th Violin/Guitar concert, 9.30am
- Fri 13th Reception Class Nativity, 2pm
- Mon 16th Christmas Fayre. 1.30pm
- Mon 16th End of term Mass (whole school), 9.30am
Y5/Y6 Christmas party (afternoon)
- Tues 17th Christmas Jumper Day
Festive Run (afternoon)
- Wed 18th Whole School Carol Service, 10am
Christmas Dinner
- Thurs 19th Y3/Y4 Christmas Party (morning)
- Fri 20th Rec/Y1/Y2 Christmas Party (afternoon)
Pyjama, movie and hot chocolate day
SCHOOL CLOSURES, 1.30pm
- Tues 24th Christmas Eve Mass (Time TBC)

Please note: All children in Reception class and Years 1,2,3,4, can come to school wearing their party clothes on the day of their party, no change of clothes is necessary.
Children in Year 5/6 can bring a change of clothes as they should be in uniform for our Mass on the morning..

All parents/ families are invited to Masses and the carol service.

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School



School Holidays 2024-2025

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-opening Date
Summer (6 weeks, 1 day)	Friday 19 th July 2024 (1.30pm)	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024
Autumn Half Term (1 week, 1 day)	Thursday 24 th October 2024	Monday 4 th November 2024
Christmas (2 weeks)	Friday 20 th December 2024 (1.30pm)	Monday 6 th January 2025
Spring Half Term (1 week)	Friday 21 st February 2025	Monday 3 rd March 2025
Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 11 th April 2025 (1.30pm)	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday (1 day)	Friday 2 nd May 2025	Tuesday 6 th May 2025
Summer Half Term (1 week, 1 day)	Friday 23 rd May 2025	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025
Summer	Thursday 17 th July 2025 (1.30pm)	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025

Please note that School will be closed for five Professional Development days in 2024/2025. These are:

Monday 2nd September 2024

Friday 25th October 2024

Monday 2nd June 2025

Friday 4th July 2025

Friday 18th July 2025/

Children will finish school at the usual time, unless stated otherwise above.

Year 6 SATS will take place week beginning Monday 12th May 2025

Year 2 assessments will take place throughout May 2025

Year 4 Multiplication Tables check will take place from Monday 2nd June to Friday 13th June 2025

Year 1 Phonics screening will take place from Monday 9th June to Friday 20th June 2025

SCHOOL CANNOT AUTHORISE ANY HOLIDAYS WITHIN TERM TIME

Calendar Change:
Please note, school closes to pupils on Thursday 17th July, not Friday 18th July.