

St Cuthbert's RC Primary

5813090

Newsletter



A big welcome back to all our children both old and new !

It has been a real joy to see all of the children return from their summer holidays looking so smart and we would like to thank all of our parents for their efforts in this. Last year the school made real progress towards our goal of being judged a good school and all of the staff are working hard to make sure that progress continues. We welcome four new members of staff this year, Mrs Wilkinson, Miss Murton, Mrs Sayers and Mr Lowery. I know they will be a great addition to the school and will use their talents to the full. I look forward to working with everyone this year.

Ofsted!!

As you know the inspection process for schools carries on. Under this process we know that at some point this year we will be being inspected. One of the things that inspectors look at is the views of parents. I would urge as many parents as possible to log on to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to register their views about the school.

New Curriculum

As you will have seen on the news there have been some changes to the national curriculum. We are working with the new curriculum and there are details of the topics that your children will be studying on the website. It is true that some areas of the curriculum have been slimmed down while other parts are new. We will continue to look at our curriculum and constantly evaluate how we are doing so that we can make sure we are doing the best we can for all of our children.

As we start a new year this is an ideal time to remind people of some of the expectations we have as a school.

Dinner monies are £1.95 per day or £9.75 per week. We would ask that dinner money is brought in on a Monday into your child's class in an envelope marked with your child's name. Children in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Years 1 & 2) now receive free school meals through the governments new initiative.

Two weeks' notice in writing is still required should you wish to change your child's meal pattern.

If you think you are entitled to free school meals please contact the school office as the school receives funding for those pupils **entitled** to free school meals.

As I said I have been impressed with how smart many of the children are looking. May we remind you that uniform states black shoes and brightly coloured trainers are not school uniform.

PE

I know that many schools have banned the wearing of earrings due to health and safety concerns. Our policy has been to allow children to wear studs only and that they **must** remove earrings to Take part PE. I have already noticed that some children are not keeping to this policy and I would ask for your support in this. If children are wearing long earrings we may have to stop them using equipment such as the climbing frame. We must take every precaution to minimise the risk of injury to the children.

Teacher Meetings Year 1 - Year 6

There will be a chance to meet your child's teacher on **Monday 15th September** to discuss any issues and class routines. There are 2 sessions available 5.30pm & 6.00pm.

Early Morning Routines

- Access to school is via the footpath next to the church. If you are arriving by car, please join this footpath, so leaving the school gates free for deliveries etc.....This is for the safety of the children.
- Children should be arriving around 8.45am to ensure they are ready to line up when the bell goes.
- When the bell rings at 8.55am, we would like parents to allow the children to line up **independently** please. Parents should not be standing in line with children holding their bags etc, or walking into school with their child's line

Absence

We have a messaging service on our school telephone number(5813090) for parents to record their child's absence. We ask that this is done as soon as possible at the start of the school day on the first day of absence.

Lateness

Lateness can cause serious disruption to the learning of all children in school. There can be NO excuse for children being late on a regular basis. The new Durham County guidelines state that lateness will be recorded on your child's report and will remain on their report throughout their school life.

Children arriving after the close of registration (**9.15am**) will be deemed absent without permission.

Attendance

As mentioned in previous newsletters the government has given new guidelines to schools that mean that family holidays during term time cannot be authorised. Any holiday requests will unfortunately have to be declined unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Collecting Times

Just a reminder, Reception class and key stage 1 children finish school at 3.00pm and Key stage 2 children at 3.15pm. While we understand that there may be siblings finishing at different times, **ALL** children should be collected by 3.15pm.

Snacks

Healthy snacks are allowed at break times. Snacks should not be put in children's lunchboxes. Please send them separately. No sweets/chocolate or crisps. Water/flavoured water is allowed in school, no juice or fizzy drinks please.

Please be aware that we have children in school with serious nut allergies when giving your child a snack.

Reception class, Years 1 & 2 still receive a free piece of fruit daily.

Music Lessons

Years 4, 5 & 6 Guitar lessons - Thursday

Years 5 & 6 Violin/Viola lessons - Monday.

Please ensure your child brings their instrument on the relevant day.

Texting Service

If you have a new mobile number in the school holidays or you have changes such as addresses, home numbers etc, please let the school office know as soon as possible.