



St. Cuthbert's RC Primary School

You are unique, talented and loved by God.

Happy New Year to all our families! Thank you for sharing our Christmas celebrations with us.

A huge well done to all the children for their hard work and sharing their talents in the run up to the end of term. The nativity was fantastic, our choir has represented our school brilliantly in our school Mass and at Christmas eve Mass and we were so proud of Year 5 for leading us so beautifully in our carol service.

Thank you to the staff for their hard work too.

The staff and I would also like to thank you for the cards and gifts that were sent into school before the holidays. Your kindness is much appreciated. Many thanks for your kind donations to the Mini Vinnies' appeal and the Foodbank. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents and families.

MINI VINNIES

Well done to our Mini Vinnies who worked tirelessly in their Advent missions.

100 Advent bags were made for the parish to help people journey through Advent, they launched Advent Acts of Kindness in each class and they organised a Christmas food bank appeal.

Great work!



THANK YOU...

A huge thank you to our 'Friends of St Cuthbert's' for their Copper Challenge fundraising last term and the opportunities they have given our children. They recently have contributed to new reading books for classes.



Our 'Friends of St Cuthbert's' have lots more planned for the spring term (see dates) but welcome any suggestions from parents/grandparents and any volunteers.

ATTENDANCE

Please do not be offended if you have received an attendance letter from us. It is our duty to track attendance and keep you informed. Government departments track attendance figures and it is considered that attendance of 90% or below is persistent absence which should be closely monitored by school staff. We want to work with you to avoid your child's attendance becoming any lower.

Likewise it is really important that we work together to ensure children are in school on time. Arriving late is unsettling for children and learning begins promptly at 8.50am. The first lesson of the day is maths so regularly arriving late means your child is missing out on vital education. The school bell now works again so the gates will be shut at 8.50am prompt. Anyone later than this should be brought to reception by an adult.

Being 10 minutes late every day is the equivalent of 7 whole days over a year! Every second counts!

UNIFORM REMINDERS

Children are allowed to wear black trainers as part of their school uniform, but they should be all black; not white soles or colourful stripes.

Children are not allowed to wear earrings for school and if they have to wear plastic retainers, these are not allowed for PE.

Children with long hair should have their hair tied up in line with the school uniform policy and children should not have tram lines cut into their hair or their hair dyed.

If you choose not to wear school branded PE kit, then all hoodies and tracksuit bottoms/leggings should be unbranded (e.g. not Nike/Adidas). **PE bottoms should be NAVY not black.**

CLUBS

Thank you for your patience as we try to navigate a new way of signing up to after school clubs. Hopefully this will be more effective in the long run but we have naturally run into some teething problems as we use this system for the first time. This now appears to be resolved.

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-opening Date
Spring Half Term	Friday 21st February 2025	Monday 3rd March 2025
Easter	Friday 11th April 2025 (1.30pm)	Monday 28th April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday	Friday 2nd May 2025	Tuesday 6th May 2025
Summer Half term	Friday 23rd May 2025	Tuesday 3rd June 2025
Summer	Thursday 17th July 2024 (1.30pm)	Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Please note that School will be closed for three further Professional Development days this school year: Monday 2nd June, Friday 4th July and Friday 18th July.

The school holidays for 2025-2026 are available on our school website.

Calendar Change:

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



RIGHTS RESPECTING

Holocaust Memorial Day - 27th January

Article 1 - Everyone under 18 has rights



Article 4 - The government has a right to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

Article 41 - The laws of the country should apply protection for children.

Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. The theme in 2024 is 'For a Better Future'.

*'That is when the trouble started for the Jews.
Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of Anti Jewish decrees.'*

(Anne Frank diary entry, 20th June 1942 reflecting on May 1940 when the Germans arrived in the Netherlands)



SAFEGUARDING

St Cuthbert's is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all our children in school.

We believe that pupils have the right to learn in a caring and safe environment where staff are vigilant for signs of any pupil in distress and are confident about applying our safeguarding processes to avert and alleviate such problems.

Our designated safeguarding leads are:

Mrs N Noble (safeguarding lead)

Mrs E Parlett (Deputy Head and deputy safeguarding lead)

Mrs S Lambert (SENDCo and deputy safeguarding lead)



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Seaham

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

We have a 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.bccret.org.uk/governance/
For an informal discussion please contact the Headteacher or Chair of Governors office@stcuthbertsprimary.com

0191 5813090

www.stcuthbertsprimary.com

Important reminder from the office

Please ensure payments for trips, lunches and breakfast club are paid as soon as possible via ParentPay.

We adhere to a no debt policy and follow the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust debt recovery programme. All trips should be paid in full before the visit. Many thanks in advance.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week begins on 3rd February. The theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'.

On Friday 7th February we are having an 'Express Yourself' day, where children can wear something that makes them happy!



SPRING TERM PLANNER



JANUARY

- 14th First Holy Communion Session 4
- 17th Oases working with Y4, 5, 6
- 31st Mental Health Ambassador's assembly

FEBRUARY

- 3rd Children's Mental Health Week
- 3rd Year 5/6 Mass in church, 9.30am
- 10th Year 3/4 Mass in church, 9.30am
- 11th Y5/6 dance workshop (PE kit)
- 11th First Holy Communion Session 5
- 12th Y1 Multiskills festival (PE kit)
- 14th Y1 Assembly, 9am
- 17th Reception/Y1/Y2 Mass in church, 9.30am
- 19th Friends of St Cuthbert's Movie night (KS1)
- 21st Y5 Celebration of the Word, 9am
- 21st Friends of St Cuthbert's Silly Bingo night (KS2)
- 21st Break up for half term. usual times

MARCH

- 7th Y6 Celebration of the Word, 9am
- 10th KS2 Lent Mass in church, 9.30am
- 11th First Holy Communion Session 6
- 14th Mini Vinnies' Assembly
- 17th KS1 Lent Mass in church, 9.30am
- 19th-21st Year 4 residential at the Youth Village
- 20th Feast of St Cuthbert
- 21st Y2 Celebration of the Word, 9am
- 28th Reception Class Celebration of the Word, 9am

APRIL

- 1st First Holy Communion Session 7
- 4th Y3 Celebration of the Word, 9am
- 4th Friends of St Cuthbert's Easter Disco
- 7th Whole School End of Term Mass in church, 9.30am
- 11th Y4 Celebration of the Word, 9am
- 11th Break up for Easter, 1.30pm

Information about sporting events will be sent to parents of children who are taking part in the events.