



# School News

## SEPTEMBER EDITION

It is lovely to have everyone back for a new school year!

The staff have been delighted to see everyone and the children have been happy to see their friends. Children have settled into the routines of their new classes very well so far. We look forward to seeing our Reception Class make new friendships with each other, while children in other classes develop their relationships with each other and their new teachers. Throughout the school, children are excited about new topics. We have an exciting term ahead and we are looking forward to seeing some great work over the coming weeks!

Thank you all for your support on our return to school and we look forward to working with you all this year.



## Curriculum Information evening

A huge thank you to those parents who were able to come to our curriculum information evening last week. It is a great opportunity for parents to find out what your child will be learning, routines, logins and how you can work with school to support your child. If you were unable to attend, the curriculum information slides are on the website on the relevant class pages, along with a long term overview which shows what your child will be learning about each term.



## School Office

All schools receive extra funding for those families on a low income and who are entitled to free school meals. In addition to free school meals, school also provides free milk for these children and we can support families with clubs, music lessons (violin and guitar), residentials and events in school. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please call at the office with your name, date of birth and NI number. Thank you.

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

## Welcome...

We are delighted to welcome Father Charles to our school and parish community. Fr Charles has already celebrated our first whole school Mass!



## Uniform

Many thanks to you all for following our uniform policy! Just a little reminder that zipped hoodies are not included in our uniform policy and children must not wear plastic retainers for PE. If your child cannot remove their plastic retainers, then they need to be removed before school. Retainers cannot be covered with plasters.

## Music Lessons

Years 4, 5 & 6 Guitar lessons - Monday  
Years 4, 5 and 6 Violin lessons - Thursday

As part of their music curriculum, school pays for Year 3 to have First Access violin lessons from Durham music service. This happens every Thursday afternoon and violins are kept in school, not sent home like private music lessons. Watch out for some fantastic concerts through the year!

## Come and pray with us...

Please see the calendar of events for the whole list of class Celebrations of the Word and Masses.

Our first celebration is next week with a special assembly by Year 6 to welcome our new reception class.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm** – families of reception class and Year 6 are welcome to join us.



Families are also welcome to join us for Mass in church. We do not have any dates yet as Fr Charles is just settling in, but these will be communicated to families as soon as we have the dates.

We love as many people as possible to join us at Mass and participate, however, please do respect that it is a prayerful space. Please do not bring refreshments to church (tea/coffee) and please do not use mobile phones at all. Thank you for your understanding.

## Reading Workshop

Following the Celebration of the word for Reception Class and Year 6 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, there is a meeting for parents of children in Reception class where Mrs Wilkinson will talk to you about how your child will learn to read at school and how you can support them at home.

## Safeguarding

Information about safeguarding our pupils is on our website. There is a code of conduct for parents from our Trust to safeguard our staff.

We have a child friendly safeguarding policy that we share at school and you are welcome to share at home. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please see Mrs Noble, Mrs Parlett, Miss Huntley or Mrs Lambert.



### Starting School

**Will your child turn 5 between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027?**


If so, you need to complete an application online to tell us which school you would like your child to attend from September 2026.

Visit [www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces](http://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces) where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. The easiest way to apply is online. If you are unable to apply online, paper application forms are available on request.

You still need to apply even if your child attends the nursery unit attached to the school, or already has a sibling at the school. You will also need to apply for a place for year 3 in a junior school if you wish your child to attend there.

**Applications open 1 September 2025 and close midnight 15 January 2026.**

For more information please contact  
School Places and Admissions Team  
@ [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)  
03000 265896

### St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

#### School Holidays 2025-2026

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-opening Date
Summer (6 weeks, 1 day)	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 (1.30pm)	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
Autumn Half Term (1 week, 1 day)	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025
Christmas (2 weeks)	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 (1.30pm)	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Spring Half Term (1 week)	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026
Easter (2 weeks)	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026 (1.30pm)	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Day Bank Holiday (1 day)	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Summer Half Term (1 week, 1 day)	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
Summer	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 (1.30pm)	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026

Please note that School will be closed for three Professional Development days in 2025/2026. These are:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

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

Year 6 SATS will take place week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Year 2 assessments will take place throughout May 2026  
Year 4 Multiplication Tables check will take place from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
Year 1 Phonics screening will take place from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026

SCHOOL CANNOT AUTHORISE ANY HOLIDAYS WITHIN TERM TIME

## Holidays and Absence

We do understand that many of our families take holidays during term time due to individual circumstances. Unfortunately, school guidelines are that we cannot authorise holidays – these are recorded as unauthorised absences. Fines are issued by the local authority for unauthorised absence above 5 days (10 sessions). Please complete a holiday form if you are going away – if you ring in sick or attach a sickness to a 4 day holiday to avoid a fine, we are required to follow this up. If pupils are 20 minutes late on a morning, this will also be recorded as an unauthorised absence.