



St Cuthbert's RC Primary School October 2020 Newsletter

School website: www.stcuthbertscrook.org.uk

Twitter: [@stcuthscrook](https://twitter.com/stcuthscrook)

Live the light, share the light, be the light!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

At a time of everchanging news and unavoidable worry, we wanted to give you some positive messages, so our teachers would like to share some news with you.

*There are many words we can use to describe our children in **Early Years**; happy, motivated, excited, inquisitive, thoughtful, caring, kind and busy. Over the past few weeks, we have spent time exploring our environment both indoors and outdoors through our topic 'Little Kingdom.' We have seen the children develop some of the skills they already had and learn and practise new ones. We have seen them share these skills with one another and try hard to work independently, in pairs, in small groups and as a whole class. They have learnt about fire safety and what to do in an emergency in our secret garden, made potions and cast spells, built bridges, designed a truly magnificent broom, experimented with colour mixing and oh of course we have made time to develop our handwriting and knowledge of letters, sounds and number! We have been forming new friendships, following school routines and finding our way around the classroom. Saying we are proud of you just doesn't seem enough. You have amazed us in how well you have settled and adjusted to the ever changing rules and stipulations of today's world. You are our little superheroes. Myself, Mrs Cass and Mrs Hollins would like to say a great big THANK YOU to each and everyone of you.*

Year 1, you have made a fantastic start to Key Stage One. I have been really impressed with the way you have settled so quickly into the Year 1 routines. You are really great at remembering how to stay safe in school by washing hands regularly, staying in your bubble and looking after your own equipment. You have been busy learning lots of new sounds to help with your reading and writing and you have been learning about whole and part numbers in maths. I think we are going to have a brilliant year because you are all such good friends and know how to play together so well. We have been learning about families in RE and it feels like Year 1 is our very own little family. I would like to say a very special welcome to our three new classmates, Gabriella, Harley and Maya. It is lovely to have you join our school family. Have a brilliant half term.

Year 2 children have been working very hard this term, particularly in their Read Write Inc lessons and phonics practice. It is lovely to see their enthusiasm and excitement for the different topics we are learning about this year. They have especially enjoyed their Art lessons recently; they have been making some land sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy and painting some animals in the Tanzanian Tinga-Tinga style. Keep up the hard work, Year 2!

Year 3 what a great start you have had to Junior life at St Cuthbert's! Myself and Mr Yusuf are so proud with the way you have all settled back into school even though things are a little different due to COVID 19. Your attitude towards your learning in school and at home has really impressed us and you are all showing us that you want to succeed. We love the way you have welcomed our new friends Daniel and Anthony into our school family. This shows what kind and caring individuals you all are. Keep up the good work!

Year 4, I am so proud of you all, you have come back to school and settled into our new class and routines really well. You are so grown up and sensible washing your hands and keeping each other safe. It has been lovely watching you all enjoying being back together and spending time with your friends. I can see how much you have missed each other. We have had a fantastic start to the year and have enjoyed many fun lessons already; reenacting the digestive system, making models of our teeth and making Roman pots. What a fabulous start to Year 4!

What a great start to the year! **Year 5**, you have been excellent so far with all your efforts and hard work. You have welcomed two new pupils, Harry and Finbar, with open arms and they have both settled in very well. It has been strange having separate break times, lunch times, washing hands continuously and social distancing, but you have not let that phase you. Your response to your work and completing homework has all been brilliant and I am looking forward to the remainder of the year.

It has been lovely to welcome back **Year 6** for their final year at St Cuthbert's. The children have returned eager to get back into the swing of things and have been producing some great work. We have been enjoying a survival story and learning about the world's forests whilst steadily recapping over a range of mathematical calculations. The children know that this year is going to be a challenge but I have no doubt that they will rise to it and put in the effort needed to succeed.



Covid Safety Measures

As the North East is classed as at a high level for Covid transmission please could all adults wear a mask on the school site. School cannot legally enforce this but please support us in this unless you have a medical reason for not wearing a mask. We ask that you are respectful of other people.

Traffic

You may have noticed a Police presence outside school this week. This was in response to parking on the zig zag lines.

We realise that parking is difficult and that the bank can get very busy but for the safety of all our children and families we ask that you consider parking further away and walking to school. Please be mindful of local residents and do not block access to their property.

Attendance

Please remember that attendance is statutory even at this difficult time. If your child is off school please let us know via email or phone stating the reason for your child's absence. We have a duty to monitor your child's absence and report to the Local Authority if required. Letters will be sent home if your child's absence falls below 96%.

P.E

As the weather is changing it is becoming more difficult to ensure children receive their lesson outside. Therefore we have looked at alternative options whilst still ensuring we comply with guidance to keep children safe. From now on if the weather prohibits outdoor lessons, PE will be held in the school hall. In order to do this we will split the class and do half sessions each. That way we can still ensure children are distanced from each other and lessen the risk of spreading particles. Children should still attend school on their allocated day in PE kit.

Halloween

Due to us not being able to hold a disco we have decided to allow children to dress up in Halloween costumes for the last day before half term - 23rd October. £1 to be paid in class.

Safety



As the nights are getting darker, please consider whether your child can truly be seen if walking home. Please check that they have reflective strips or shapes on their coats etc. **BE SEEN BE SAFE!**

School Fund

Thank you to those parents who have already paid a contribution to their class fund. If you have not done so yet there is still time to pay through Parentpay.

School Payments

Please remember that all payments for breakfast club, lunch and after school club must be paid in advance. Once debts reach over £50 we have no alternative other than to withdraw services and refer debts to the County Council. If your circumstances have changed please contact the office to see if you are eligible for support.

Internet and laptops at home

You will be receiving a form via Parentmail asking about access to equipment for remote learning. Please could you complete and return this as we need to have this information in order to provide alternative work in case of self isolation or lockdown.

Benevolent Fund

If you need help towards the cost of a winter coat/shoes for your child please contact our school for a form, The fund is administered by Thornhill Primary School.

School Applications.

This is a busy time for Year 6 as they begin to choose the Secondary School that they will attend next year. This is an important decision and made even more difficult at the moment due to the difficulty around visits. The deadline for application is 31 October 2020. Please also note that the deadline for Primary School applications is 15 January 2021. We will be advertising our school in the local 'Out & About' magazine and through social media. Please can we ask that our families promote our school as we cannot offer the usual Open Days for prospective families to look around.

Parents Evenings

Parent meetings will take place over the phone after half term. You will need to book a timeslot with your child's teacher on Parentmail. Information to follow next week.

Stars

Reception - Elliott Carruthers & Xander Stewart
Year 1 - Willow McPherson Ringwood
Year 2- Lola Mason
Year 3 - Finlay Brennand & Arron Burrows
Year 4 - Leo McCabe
Year 5 - Jay Smurthwaite & Tilly Wilson
Year 6 - William Cumming

