



St Cuthbert's RC Primary School November 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,

Like us, I am sure you are monitoring Government information around Christmas and what is possible for families now that we have been placed in Tier 3. We thank God that we have our school family with us each day and are able to support each other through these worrying times. We keep in mind families that have suffered through the loss of loved ones or who may be struggling with financial hardship and remind ourselves that God is there for us all to talk to in our times of worry. The Diocesan website has lots of information and prayers that you may find helpful.

<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php>

This week Year 6 have linked with Durham University for a remote Science afternoon with experiments and information led by the University Students. Did you know that dragonflies were 70 cm long 350 million years ago, when Crook was still a swamp?

Year 2 have been working hard completing their Phonics tests. We are so proud of each and every one of them for their hard work and determination. The results will be shared with parents before the end of term.

Year 1 weather watchers are now informing the school each morning of the temperature through our tannoy system. Well done to Thomas who was the first to do the announcement. I know that some children in Year 1 have shared their timeline with class; this is a lovely exercise to do with your children particularly when families are not able to see each other, they would make a lovely family calendar.

As you may have seen in the paper or heard on the radio we have been commended for our International work. Despite current restraints we are keen to continue with this area of learning and to provide opportunities for children to learn about the diverse country we live in, to recognise and celebrate differences and similarities, and to prepare them for life in a multicultural society. As part of this work, Year 5 are involved in an exciting project involving links with a school from a different area and Year 3 will be taking part in a remote visit with some Chinese students from Durham University next week - they are all very excited.

As a school we are always looking to improve, ensuring we are meeting the needs of our children and parents. We are very aware that communication is tricky at the moment whilst following guidelines for social distancing but we are keen to maintain our links with yourselves and to work together to support all areas of school life for children and families. Thank you for all of the responses to our questionnaires that you have completed recently. We are analysing the results and will respond in a separate newsletter at a later date.

It is the first Sunday of Advent on the 29th November. A very special time of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. Sometimes we can get caught up in the commercialism of Christmas, and Advent is over before we have truly reflected on the meaning of this special time. We have considered various ways we can show that we are thinking of others, therefore over the next few weeks we will be taking part in a 'Hearts for Homes' project with our younger children delivering hearts with kind messages into local care homes to let them know that they have not been forgotten. If you know of anyone in the community who would appreciate a message from the children please just let us know. Each class will have a special focal point with an Advent wreath and a purple cloth to support children's faith journey to Christmas. If you have a prayer for a loved one that you would like to share please send it in and we will place them on our prayer tables in class.

We will continue to collect food for the local food bank in the large black box by Foundation Stage gate - thank you to those who have already contributed.

This year we cannot send the Travelling Crib home but we will be sending a link for a remote Travelling Crib so that you can share a prayerful time with your family and enjoy the Christmas story together.

We are planning a range of activities and events for children in their bubbles to provide as enjoyable experience as possible over the next few weeks - once finalized information will be shared.

Please follow the link below for a story to share with your children, following our Ten Ten worship resources.

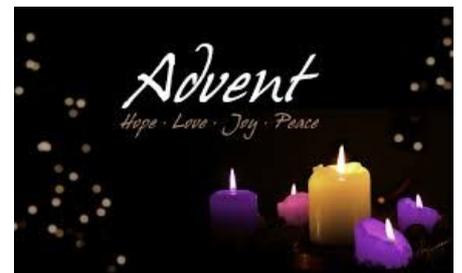
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

As a final note I would like to extend my congratulations to Mrs Murray who was appointed as our Deputy Head yesterday.

She was certainly put through her paces being interviewed by members of the Local Authority, Diocese and Governing Body. We know that she will continue to support our school and all of our children with the dedication and care she already demonstrates.

Kind Regards

M.McElhone





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. Please could parents of older children walking home unsupervised please support us by reiterating the message of social distancing whilst walking down the bank. We realize they are children and can be over excitable but especially at this moment in time it is essential that they respect others around them and keep a safe distance.

Christmas Cards

Due to Covid restrictions we are unable to follow our usual Christmas Postbox procedures, however to let your children share their good wishes with classmates we are going to place a box in each classroom for children to place Christmas cards into. They will be left for 72 hours before being handed out. Please could we ask that cards are only sent for your child's own class to reduce any risks of crossing bubbles. Cards can be sent into school from the 7th December with a deadline of the 14th December.

Self Isolation

If your family is entitled to free school meals due to your financial circumstances and your child has to self isolate, please contact the school if you would like support with meals during this period.

Mathletics

Due to the reduced number of children accessing Mathletics and its reduced impact we have made the decision not to continue with this programme in school.

Pantomime Roll up! Roll up!

The Giant is on his way - make sure your child has their ticket to enjoy the story of 'The Selfish Giant' during the week commencing the 14th December. The cost is £2 which also includes a small bag of popcorn and a drink. Once you have paid via parentpay your child will receive a ticket for the show. Please let school know if you do not wish for your child to have popcorn/juice.

School Applications.

Please 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.

School Lunches

If you wish your child to change their meal choice please let the office know by the end of term
Some comments by children are: Jessica - 'They are so lovely, we should pay more for them.' Harry - 'I love the dinners they are delicious I really like the dumplings'

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Appeal.

We will once again be supporting this fantastic charity through the payment of £1 on the 16th December to wear a Christmas Jumper. This can be paid through Parentpay or in cash on the day. If you do not have a jumper please feel free to decorate an ordinary top with tinsel, baubles etc. Our aim is for the children to contribute to the appeal without causing difficulties for families.

Don't miss the Deadline

A reminder that Christmas Lunch Day is on Wednesday 16th December. The deadline for ordering a Christmas Lunch for those usually on Packed Lunch is Friday 27 November.

Christmas Parties

We would love to have parties in school but need to consider the safest way to manage this, therefore please could we ask parents to send an individual party food box for their child on the 17th December and they will eat their own party food in their class bubbles. This is an extra to school lunch so please only send what your child will eat as we are unable to allow them to share. If anyone wants to donate christmas crackers then please do so the week before.

Stars

Raphael Cornelissen, Hugo-James Tomlinson
Elijah Johnson, George McManus, Kaiden Hutchinson,
Isla Hauxwell,, Nile Fernandez
Edey Donaghue, Chloe Henderson
Chloe Carruthers,
Henry Murray, Eva-Mae Fairgrieve,
Bobby Milburn