



St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School
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30th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now a month in to our academic year and school is settling back to some kind of normality (ish). Things are different for the children, staff and for you as parents and we ask for your patience and understanding as we strive to provide the best for your children. Below are a number of dates for your diaries - most importantly parents evening and a chance to talk to your child's teacher by phone - we hope that everyone will welcome this opportunity, as it is vital that we continue to communicate with each other despite the challenges. For parents new to the school, please ensure you are registered with Schoolcal (see office), follow our Facebook page or provide an email address so we can email letters to you. Thank you

New PSA

We will welcome Mrs Rebecca Garside to our staff on October 12th. Mrs Garside will be available on the playground to speak to parents each morning and to ensure all children are safe and well in school and at home. She can signpost parents for any help or support that is required - whether it be financial, housing, personal or health. We look forward to welcoming her to the staff.

Parent's Evening

On the 3rd and 4th of November there will be the opportunity to speak to your child's teacher via the phone. Appointments will be five minutes and the call may come from an unknown number - please ensure you answer the call - you will be given prior notice of the time and date. Many thanks

Mental Health Practitioner

We now have a mental health practitioner working in school each Wednesday to provide help and support to our children, staff and parents. A number of courses and wellbeing opportunities will be available over the coming months. Phil Howard has been introduced to all children and will be working with small groups over the coming months with parental permission.

Mental health awareness day - Friday October 9th

We are raising awareness of the importance of keeping our minds healthy and we will be wearing yellow or a bright colour to school on October 9th. We will be looking at ways to relax and take time to be mindful and how to keep a healthy mind. The day will also incorporate 'little people, big dreams' activities about raising aspirations and setting goals to achieve.

Times table rock star day - Thursday 22nd October

We have a wonderful programme for children to use at home on phones, ipads or a pc called timetables rockstars. The children can practise their tables, playing against others to achieve different rankings. To relaunch this as 'home learning' we ask that all children come dressed as a

rock star on Thursday 22nd October - we will be completing maths and tables' challenges all day! We look forward to seeing Freddie Mercury or Axel Rose in the playground! (Or possibly some modern day heroes, of which I've never heard!)

Seesaw app

We have a new app which will be used for home learning and in the event of a local or national lockdown. You will have received a letter with how to access the app and all children are being taught how to use it in school. Mr Tennant will be offering sessions for parents on how to use the app - **please contact the office** if you would be interested in these - they will take place over zoom so a phone, ipad or PC will be required.

Bishop Hogarth Trust

As stated in our last newsletter - St Cuthberts will be joining the Bishop Hogarth trust in March next year and will become an academy. Signage and letter headings etc. may change but there will be no changes to uniform.

School visits and trips

We are planning visits for the children in a covid secure venue to enrich our curriculum. All classes will have a visit or visitor during the school year and lots of opportunities are being made for more outdoor learning where possible. Mrs Colley's class will be visiting Summer Hill tomorrow to do some den building. (1st October)

Thank you from Macmillan

A huge thank you for the £338. 55 raised from our recent non uniform day for Macmillan Cancer trust. We are very thankful for your generosity and support.

First Holy Communion children

At last our Y5 children will be making their long awaited sacrament of the Holy Eucharist during October at St Joseph's church. We wish them well and hope that this is the first communion of many. Please keep them in your prayers. We wish them and their families a wonderful and blessed day. God bless you all.

Governors

A huge thank you to all our school Governors who give their time and support to the school and ensure we are aiming high and continuing to improve. They are a great help to myself as headteacher offering challenge and support. The names of our Governors are below and also on our school website. Special thanks to you all for the support over lockdown:

Karen Merifield, Chair of Governors, Catherine Jordison, Vice chair, Louise Robson, LA Governor, Katie Armstrong, Jill Ord, Nick Mackenzie, Foundation Governors, Amy Jorgeson and Kirsty Hall, Parent Governors and Father Jim Angus, Parish priest and Claire Mudd, Staff Governor.

Kind regards

Mrs Joanne Wilson

Headteacher