



St Cuthbert's CofE Junior School



Newsletter 10/01/25

It's great to be back in school after a wonderful Christmas break. I hope you and your family enjoyed some special festive time together. Despite the exceptionally long autumn term, it was lovely to have that bit of extra time after the New Year to fully recharge and prepare for the term ahead.



The weather is very, very cold at the moment so could I ask that parents check to make sure children are coming to school with warm clothing on please. Some children have still been coming to school without a coat. Please make sure that coats, fleeces and other warm clothes have your child's name written in the label. We have an extraordinary amount of clothing in lost property already so please check if you have lost something.

Severe Weather Procedures

In the event of severe weather conditions such as heavy snow or ice, it may be necessary to close the school for the safety of pupils and staff. The school may partially open if there is enough staff and non-curriculum activities will be planned for the day. We will aim to assess the situation by 7.30 am

If a decision is made in the morning to close the school, parents will be notified by a ParentMail text and email and class dojo, and it will also be published on the school website.

If the weather worsens during a school day and the decision is made to close the school, parents will be contacted via ParentMail to collect their children. We will keep children at school until they can be collected.

Online Safety

It is likely that many children will have received electronic devices over Christmas. While I am sure they have been excited about this, can I please ask that you monitor their use very carefully.



We have had some issues with online bullying or sending inappropriate messaging when children are using Apps very late into the night unsupervised.

- Please give your child a finish time (ideally no later than 7pm) when all devices stop.
- Remove phones from your child's bedroom – even if they promise not to use them, they are a huge temptation especially if messages start to come through.
- Monitor chat regularly to make sure it is not inappropriate.

I have sent out an online safety update with this newsletter and it gives a lot of advice and really useful websites you can access.

Attendance and Punctuality

This time of year, we always have a lot of coughs, colds and sickness bugs. If your child is poorly then we expect you to keep them at home. We do however, have a lot of children whose attendance is very low. If your child's attendance is below 90% then they are classed as a persistent absentee. Too many children are below 90%. Please make sure that your child is in school every day unless it is unavoidable. We cannot authorise days absent for other reasons.

Attendance Matters



We have had a reduction in term time holidays being requested – thank you! Just to remind parents that if you book a term time holiday of 5 days+ then we will have to look into issuing fines. Although this is something I do not wish to do, we need to make sure that all children attend school all of the time. We sent out information before Christmas about the new government guidelines and how /why fines will be issued. Please ask the office if you need another copy of this.

Punctuality

Please remember our register closes at 9.15am and children will be marked absent for the morning if they arrive after that. We have a lot of children that arrive late on a regular basis which disrupts their education as they miss their reading lesson every day.

Please come in and speak to Mrs Mullinger if you are having problems getting your child into school, we may be able to help.

Changes to PE and after school clubs

Mr Cottrell will be leaving at the end of the month for a few weeks as part of his maternity leave. As a result of his absence we may need to re-arrange your child's PE day. Each class will inform parents if there are any changes.

Mr Cottrell's absence will also mean that his after school clubs will no longer be running. **From the Week beginning 3rd February**, the clubs available will be:

- Tuesday – computer club
- Wednesday – chess club
- Thursday - cookery club (Year 4 children only this half term)
- recorder club

To book your child onto **computer and recorder club**, please sign the consent form on ParentMail. There will be limited numbers so if you want your child to join, please don't wait too long before booking. Booking will be available from Tuesday 14th February.

To book **chess club**, contact Mr Oleksandr Matlak directly. The cost of the club will be £5.00 per session and payment until the end of this half term (6 sessions) will be £30.00. Payment will be made directly to Mr Matlak using BACCs payment.
Sort code: 30-99-29 Account number 47669360

Sports Festival at the Blue School

Wednesday 22nd January – Snowdon

Wednesday 5th February – Himalayas

Wednesday 14th May – Rockies

Wednesday 21st May – Alps

The Festivals start at 1.45 pm and finishes at 2.45pm. We will be leaving St Cuthbert's at 1.15 pm and will be back at St Cuthbert's before 3.20pm. **Please make sure your child wears their PE kit to school, brings a coat and a drinks bottle.**

We do need some parent volunteers to accompany the children if you are able to help please let your child's teacher know.

Swimming

Atlas class are swimming this term, a reminder to parents of Atlas class to drop their child at the swimming pool at 8.45 am where a staff member will be waiting to meet the children. Please do not leave your child if there isn't a staff member present.

A request

We need a shed for our Forest School, does anybody know of a free shed that is being given away. Please let the school office know if you do. Thank you

Year 6 SATs

The year 6 children will sit their SATs test from **Monday 12th May and the last test will be on Thursday 15th May**. It is essential that your child is in school that week. We will send more information about arrangements for SATs nearer the time.

Year 6 Arrangements

Parents have been asking for dates for the Year 6 events at the end of the school year.

Year 6 play – Tuesday 8th July

Year 6 play – Thursday 10th July

Leaver's assembly (in school) – 21st July

Leaver's church service at St Cuthbert's Church – 23rd July

Date for the Diary	
Date	Event
Wednesday 22 nd January	Snowdon Sports Festival @ The Blue School
Thursday 23 rd January	Rockies Library Visit
Tuesday 28 th January at 4.45pm	Mill on the Brue Year 5 parents meeting – MOB staff to come in to give more information about the site and the activities.
Wednesday 5 th February	Himalayas Sports Festival @ The Blue School
Thursday 6 th February	Atlas Library Visit
Monday 17 th February	Half term holiday
Monday 24 th February	Return to school
Thursday 27 th February	Himalayas Library Visit
Thursday 6 th March	Alps Library Visit
Thursday 13 th March	Snowdon Library Visit
Friday 28 th March	Rock steady concert 2.30pm
Friday 4 th April	Easter Church Service 2.00pm
Friday 4 th April	Break up for Easter
Tuesday 22 nd April	Return to school
Thursday 8 th May	Class photos & year 6 leavers individual photos
Monday 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs
Wednesday 21 st May	Alps Sports Festival @ The Blue School
26 to 30 th May	Half Term
Monday 2 nd June	Return to School
Tuesday 10 th June	Moving up Celebrations year 6 Wells Cathedral

Date for the Diary	
Date	Event
Thursday 26 th June Friday 27 th June	Glastonbury Weekend INSET days
Tuesday 8 th & Thursday 10 th July	Year 6 play
Monday 21 st July	Year 6 Leaver's Assembly at school
Tuesday 22 nd July	Talent Show
Wednesday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leaver's service at St Cuthbert's Church Last day of term
Wednesday 23 rd July	Break up for Summer