



St Cuthbert's CofE Junior School

Newsletter

14/01/2026

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

It has been lovely to see the children back in school last week and hear all their stories about their Christmas holidays. They all returned so positively and enjoyed seeing and being with their friends again. They have also displayed a fabulous attitude towards their learning. We're looking forward to a busy Spring Term!

What to do in the event of snow/ice.

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are sometimes affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.



Every effort is taken to keep our school open. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances, those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be on school site or it is too dangerous to travel to school.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn and we will always do everything we can to make this happen.

How will we let you know if the school is closed?



If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, this may lead to the decision to close the school.

Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via Class Dojo and ParentMail and update our website. We aim to inform parents as soon as possible but by 7.30am at the very latest.

If the school is closed for the day, teachers will endeavour to send learning to the children via Class Dojo should parents choose for the children to complete this.

Please can I ask that children wear suitably warm clothes and shoes while the weather is cold and wet.

Attendance

I would like to thank parents for your continued support since the beginning of September, particularly in ensuring that children attend regularly and arrive on time each day. I have noticed a significant decrease in requests for term time holidays.

As we head into the colder months, I would like to take this moment to remind everyone of the ongoing importance of good attendance and punctuality. Every day truly matters in your child's learning journey, and arriving on time helps them settle smoothly, feel secure, and engage fully in the day's activities. They will have no gaps in their learning.

New Year is a great time to set positive goals for the term ahead. Good attendance plays a huge part in your child's progress, wellbeing, and confidence, so aiming to improve attendance – where possible - can make a real difference.

Top Tips to improve attendance

1. Set a regular bedtime so children get enough sleep for calm, smooth mornings.
2. Prepare the night before by laying out uniforms and packing bags.
3. Keep wake-up times consistent to help children feel settled and ready for school.
4. Plan your journey and leave a little early to avoid delays.
5. Use a family calendar to track school events and deadlines.
6. Book appointments outside school hours to reduce missed learning.
7. Keep school updated about any issues affecting attendance.
8. Encourage independence with dressing, packing bags, and simple routines.
9. Praise good attendance to keep children motivated.
10. Stay positive and consistent - a calm routine helps children feel confident and ready to learn

Come and talk to us in school if you have problems with punctuality or attendance – we can help!

Our whole-school attendance is currently 94.6% and every day in school helps your child stay on track with their learning and feel fully involved in class life.

Attendance

There are 190 days in a school year



100% >> Perfection

% equates to

4 Missed school days << **98%** >> Impressive

8 Missed school days << **96%** >> Good

9 Missed school days << **95%** >> Nearly there

11 Missed school days << **94%** >> Needs to improve

19 Missed school days << **90%** >> Concerns

29 Missed school days << **85%** >> Serious concern

Swimming Update



Swimming has started for Rockies class. Children will leave school at 9.10am to start their session at 9.30am at Wells Leisure Centre.

We ask parents if they could make a voluntary contribution to their child's swimming lessons in order for them to be able to continue in the future.

Swimming is part of the PE curriculum and children are not able to opt out of this activity. If you have any concerns about your child swimming, please speak to either the class teacher or myself and we will be happy to help.

Uniform Reminder

Could I remind parents that we expect children to wear school uniform for school. We have started to see some variations of the uniform and I need to be clear what we expect. Children should be wearing a blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan. Children can wear black or grey trousers or black or grey skirts.

We have started to see children wearing hoodies and different coloured jumpers and sweatshirts. Please can you make sure children are in correct and appropriate uniform when arriving at school.

Jewellery and Nail Varnish

In addition to uniform expectations, I would also like to remind parents that children should not be wearing any jewellery for school and they also should not be wearing nail varnish. We are having an increasing problem with children coming to school in jewellery. Children are wearing necklaces, rings and bracelets. If your child needs to wear earrings, these must be stud earrings. Children should not be wearing hooped earrings, necklaces and bracelets. These can be lost, broken or stolen which causes a lot of upset. They also pose a safety risk if these items get caught or pulled.

Choir and Band

Mrs Jenkins continues to take the choir and school band on Tuesday lunchtime. The choir and band regularly perform at all of the key services and assemblies we have throughout the year.

The choir and band performed beautifully at St Thomas's church just before Christmas where they were singing alongside The Good Afternoon Choir.

There is no cost for this club, just come with a lot of enthusiasm and a commitment to come every week.

Pyjama Day – Change of day

Pyjama Day has been changed to **Friday 23rd January** due to one of our classes being out on a library visit on the original day.

Tori and Tiff are two of our wonderful parents who are competing in the London Marathon to raise money for Young Lives V Cancer. This is a charity that supports children and young people facing cancer and their families. Cancer is something that has probably touched all of us in some form or another and I really appreciate how generous people are when we fund raise for charities like this.

We are asking for a small cash donation, with 100% of proceeds going to Young Lives vs Cancer.

If you'd prefer, you can also donate directly via their JustGiving page:

Tiff and Tors is fundraising for Young Lives vs Cancer

Year 6 SATs tests

Y6 SATs

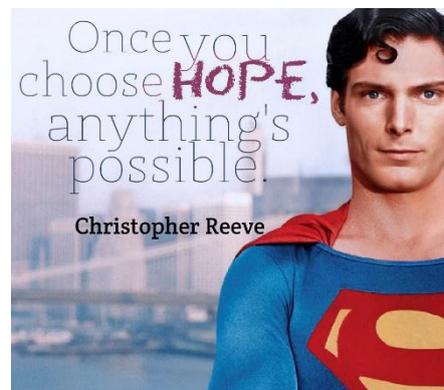
We have had enquiries about the dates for Year 6 SATs tests this year. The SATs week is Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May. It is crucial that children are in school this week.

Please do not book any holidays during this week.

This term's Christian Value is HOPE

Our value this half term is hope. Hope is not always easy but we give our children all of the tools needed to develop qualities such as determination and commitment to promote hope.

Hope is the moral value that enables us to believe in the good of humanity, even when we ourselves have been hurt. Hope enables us to be generous, kind and giving to others; through hope we believe that things will get better because of our or someone else's efforts.



Hope is different than positivity, but allowing our children to be aware of positive current events can help create an environment more likely to make them feel hopeful. Help offset the smog of negative news by showing our children that there's good out there, too.

Please could you discuss 'Hope' with the children at home, and explore ways to reinforce it.

Safeguarding

St Cuthbert's Junior School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Helen Mullinger (Head Teacher). Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Liz Ramsay, Frances Hazell and Lisa McLaurie. The Governor with responsibility for safeguarding in our school is Hazel Callaghan.

Reporting a concern

If you are worried about a vulnerable child and would like to help, please don't stay silent. Contact Children's Social Care and report your concern.

Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Helen Mullinger

Head Teacher



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.