



St Cuthbert's CofE Junior School

Newsletter 07//09/23



Welcome back! Can you believe we have waited 6 weeks for the sun to start shining and it finally made an appearance on the Monday that we returned to school! I hope you still managed to make the most of the holiday despite the weather not being as good as everyone was hoping.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our families and wish a warm welcome to families who are new to our school.

We have welcomed back a lot of very smiley children (and parents) this week. Our Year 3 children have been looking very smart and are very eager to learn. Our older children are doing a great job nurturing our Year 3 children and making them feel welcome.

We look forward to an action-packed term ahead and lots of exciting learning!

Considerate Parking Please

Please be respectful to the residents who live near to school on the estate. It had been reported last term that parents were parking in front of garages and blocking driveways. Please park with consideration to the local residents on Keward Estate and Keward Walk.

We have also had concerns raised last year regarding the speed that some cars drive into Keward Walk. Please slow down and be very mindful that a lot of children from both juniors and infants are walking in this area.



Attendance and Punctuality

This year we will be continuing to focus heavily on good attendance and punctuality. It is vital that your child is in school each day and on time.

Reporting an absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office before 9.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will call or text you to find out why your child is not in school. If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

It is extremely important that children arrive promptly at school ready to begin the day's lessons with the rest of the child's class. Arriving late can be very distressing

for the child who is late and disruptive for both the teacher and the rest of the class. When children arrive late they miss vital teaching time and the main introduction to the learning for the day. This has a detrimental effect on a child's learning.

Persistent Absence

Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more of absence a year.

If you are having difficulty with attendance or punctuality please come in and speak to us and we will do everything we can to help.

Every Second Counts
8.15am doors open Your child has arrived in good time to meet friends and get ready for the school day
8.55am register is taken
9.00am Your child is late and has missed the first 5 minutes of the school day 5 minutes late means 3 days absence every year
9.15am Your child is 20 minutes late 20 minutes late a day means 12 days absence every year
9.15 registers close Anyone arriving after 9.15am will be marked as an unauthorised absence

Friday Assembly

Our Friday assembly is our celebration of the children's achievements and parents are welcome to attend. Assembly starts at 9.00am in the school hall and usually lasts for approximately 30 minutes. If you would like to attend, please enter through the school main doors.

Autumn Term Christian Value



Our Christian Value this term is endurance.

Endurance is recognition that life is sometimes difficult and painful and that it is important not to give up in the face of adversity. Endurance and perseverance are only possible where there is hope and that hope is based on the enduring nature of God's love and faithfulness.

In our school, this means that we don't give up as soon as things go wrong. We know that we can learn from mistakes and keep improving. Even when we are faced with challenges, we remember that we are not alone. Please encourage your children to keep trying at those things they find difficult.

Choir and Band

Mrs Jenkins leads the school choir and band. Children from all year groups are invited to join the choir or school band if they wish. The choir and band perform at all of our church services and often visit local care homes to sing to the residents throughout the year.

The choir and band meet every Friday lunchtime and Mrs Jenkins would love to have some of our new children joining her. There is no cost to join this club, Mrs Jenkins only asks for a commitment to attend every Friday.

Ukulele

Year 3 and 4 children will be learning the ukulele again this year. Each class will have a full term of tuition. This will be funded by school. We will supply the ukuleles and we have enough for the whole class to use; the children are all very much looking forward to it. Snowdon class will be the first class to receive tuition and I know they are really looking forward to it.

PE reminder

PE kit is part of the school uniform in school. Last year, I noticed a number of children not wearing the correct PE clothing and a lot not wearing PE kit at all. Please make sure that you have the correct PE clothing on your PE day.

We are continuing to ask children to come into school in their PE kit on their allocated PE day.

Below is a reminder of PE days for each class.

Alps (Mrs Allen) – Tuesday

Pyrenees (Mrs Hazell) – Tuesday

Snowdon (Mrs Smith/Mrs Tait) – Wednesday

Himalayas (Mrs Ramsay/Mrs McKie) – Wednesday

Rockies (Mrs Shimmin) - Thursday

Atlas (Miss Faulkes) – Thursday

Swimming Lessons

We are very pleased to say that swimming will resume again for all year groups this term. Each class will have 10 sessions in the pool and lessons will be every Tuesday morning. Swimming is part of the PE national curriculum so all children will be expected to take part.

Swimming will start on Tuesday 19 September and will continue until 28th November.

The first 2 classes to start swimming will be Alps and Pyrenees. Parents in these classes will receive further information via Parentmail.



Our Beautiful Farm Area

Over the holidays Mrs Johnson spent a long time working hard in the farm area dismantling the old poly tunnel and erecting a new one. This will enable the children to continue to plant and nurture the seedlings and then plant them out into the



raised beds in the farm area. Whilst taking a photograph to show the new poly tunnel, I could not resist taking a photograph of the outstanding display of sunflowers the children have planted this year. A superb job Mrs Johnson, thank you!



Lost Property

A wallet was found outside of school on Tuesday morning during the time children were being dropped off at school. If you have lost a wallet, please speak to staff at the school office.

Mobile devices

Many children have mobile phones, smart watches or I pads. We do a considerable amount of work to ensure that our children know how to keep themselves safe online. Children learn about age appropriate issues during their weekly PSHE lessons and also during their computing lessons.

I have attached an online safety newsletter to help keep parents up to date with what is new and what could potentially be dangerous. If you need to discuss anything relating to online safety, please come in and talk to us to see if we can help.

Thank you very much for your continuing support,

Helen Mullinger

Head Teacher