



15 December 2021

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

I hope you and your families and friends are all safe and well.

#### **Christmas Lunch**

The Christmas Lunch was absolutely delicious this year, as always. Miss Waggott and her kitchen team have really surpassed themselves and provided us all with a veritable feast of delicious turkey with all of the trimmings. We've also had some lovely feedback from our parents and carers telling how much the children enjoyed their school Christmas Lunch. Well done and thank you again to Miss Waggott and the team.

#### **Christmas Raffle Bonanza and PTFA Fundraising**

Thank you again to everyone who donated and who was able to buy tickets for the Christmas Raffle. It's been a huge success and coupled with our Christmas at the Movies events, we've been able to raise just over £2,000 for School Fund. We will be consulting with the children and our Student Leaders in the spring term on how best to spend the money to develop our school and the experiences we can provide for our children and school community. We cannot thank our PTFA enough for their hard work, creativity and unwavering support. The last couple of years have proven to be a real challenge for them in terms of raising funds for St Cuthbert's because all of the historic PTFA events have been held as larger, face-to-face gatherings in school. The PTFA have really had to think outside of the box and I'm sure you'll agree that they have done St Cuthbert's and our wider community proud.

#### **Christmas and the Wider Community**

Our Student Council and School Chaplains, alongside Mrs Ramplin and Mrs Fisher, have been very busy collecting toys and gifts for Mission Christmas and carol singing at a local residential care home. Thank you for all of the amazing donations made for our Mission Christmas Appeal. Mrs Ramplin's car was literally overflowing with fantastic toys and gifts which will all be distributed in the local area of Kenton and Newcastle bringing some much-needed Christmas joy to some of our city's most vulnerable children and families. The Student Council and Chaplains also organised a reverse Advent Calendar for staff to collect items for Kenton Food Bank. The children at St Cuthbert's know the true meaning of Christmas.

#### **Christmas Productions**

Our Christmas productions will be shared via our school website on Thursday 16 December. I know the videoed performances are not ideal but I do hope you enjoy them nonetheless and that they add to your own family traditions and preparations for Christmas. The children and staff have all worked hard to retell the Story of Christmas in their own unique way.

#### **Poverty Proofing the School Day – No Gifts for Staff Policy**

I know many of our families have chosen to support the school's new Poverty Proofing Policy by opting to send donations into school for either the Mission Christmas Appeal or the PTFA fundraisers in lieu of sending gifts into school for the adults this Christmas which is just brilliant. As you know, we are no longer accepting gifts into school from our children and families. **Any gifts which are sent in will be donated to local charity shops.**

#### **COVID-19**

We find ourselves in another very unsettling period of time because of new COVID-19 variants and the prospect of further restrictions. If anything changes between now and the beginning of the new term, we will contact parents and carers as soon as possible.

## Household Support Fund

Newcastle City Council has issued just under 10,000 letters inviting parents or carers whose children are in receipt of free school meals to apply for a one-off £50 payment for support with their utility bills.

More information about the scheme can be found at [www.newcastle.gov.uk/householdsupport](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/householdsupport)

Any parents/carers who are not digitally enabled and need support (or who have not received a letter and believe they should have) should call 0191 278 7878 and ask for Household Support Fund – this line is open Monday to Friday 9:30 – 15:30 (open 9:30 - 13:00 on 24 December 2021). It will reopen on 4 January 2022 at 9:30.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout what has been an incredibly challenging year for us all. Please try to rest and enjoy this special time of year with your family, friends and wonderful children. We need to stay strong and carry on working together as a community to ensure we keep each other safe, keep St Cuthbert's open and most important of all, keep our children safe, happy and learning in school.

On behalf of all of the governors, staff and children of St Cuthbert's, I wish every member of our school community a happy and holy Christmas. See you in the New Year.

*ABullerwell*

**Mrs Anne Bullerwell**  
**Headteacher**



### Attendance up until December 14

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.4%	95.1%	92.5%	96.5%	94.5%	96.9%	95%

**Green Zone: 97% and above; Amber Zone: 91-96%; Red Zone: 90% and below**

Well done, Year 5! Best attendance so far!

### Dates for your Diary January – February 2022

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens for teaching purposes
	Year 5 Robinwood Trip
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 CHEFF
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception - Balance Bike/Road Safety TBC
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception - Balance Bike/Road Safety TBC
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	U11 Boys' League at Walbottle High School
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Nursery and KS1 Road Safety TBC
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 4 – Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Cuthbert's Church; Year 4 parents are welcome to attend
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 CHEFF
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 – Smart Walker/Road Safety TBC
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception - Balance Bike/Road safety TBC
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception - Balance Bike/Road safety TBC
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 CHEFF
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	West League U11 Boys at Kenton High School
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 5 CHEFF
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 CHEFF
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	West League U11 Boys at Excelsior Academy
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 CHEFF
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Smart Scooter/Road Safety TBC
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closes for Half-term Holiday
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	School Reopens

Please note that we do our best to adhere to the dates set in the diary however the above may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.