



3 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope this letter finds you, your family and friends all safe and well.

### COVID-19 and the Spring Term

The spring term at St Cuthbert's begins for all children on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. In relation to COVID-19, St Cuthbert's will be continuing on as we were before Christmas following the four COVID-19 control measures which are:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

In addition to the above at St Cuthbert's, adults are also wearing masks in communal areas unless they are medically exempt, and we are continuing to minimise the mixing of children and adults in larger groups wherever possible. We have found both of these measures to be extremely helpful in keeping COVID-19 cases to a minimum in our school.

We are not changing any times or locations for the dropping off or collection of children but are still asking parents/carers to leave the school grounds promptly and support and maintain the safety of our whole school community by adhering to social distancing.

All of the above remains under constant review by the school to ensure we are keeping our school community as safe as possible and are able to keep St Cuthbert's fully open for all of our children.

Whilst there are no changes to COVID-19 measures in primary schools, there has been a change to the isolation and testing guidance and **the vaccination programme for at-risk 5 to 11 year olds.**

### Isolating and Testing Guidance

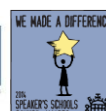
*Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.*

*Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or carer discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.*



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**Immunisation advice on COVID-19 vaccination for at-risk 5 to 11 year olds**

On Wednesday 22 December, the government accepted advice from the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) that a primary course of vaccination should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS is working through updated guidance and will set out how this is going to be operationalised shortly.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing our families and welcoming the children back into school. We will always do our utmost best to ensure the children are safe, happy and learning and that they are getting the very best out of their school days which is no less than they deserve.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support, as always, it really is appreciated and has made such a difference to our school and staff morale and well-being during what can only be described as the worst of times for us all. There will be more challenging and difficult times ahead, I am sure, but I know our school community will continue to work together in partnership for the good of all of our children.

If you would like to discuss this further or have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

Mrs Anne Bullerwell  
Headteacher

**Dates for your Diary January 2022**

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens for teaching purposes
	Year 5 Robinwood Trip
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 TBC
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 TBC
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
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	West League U11 Boys at Kenton High School TBC
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	West League U11 Boys at Excelsior Academy TBC
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.**