



Be yourself, but be it very well.

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Visit us at <http://www.st-cuthbertsrc-chester-le-street.durham.sch.uk>

Dear Families, Governors and Parishioners,

It may not feel it in the outside world, but in school the weeks are flying by! This week's Newsletter contains important information as well as school news and dates for your diary.

#### COVID-19 Updates

- **Social Distancing:** We are all aware that COVID rates are rising at an unprecedented rate in our local area. To try to help control the spread of the virus, **PLEASE DO NOT REMAIN ON SCHOOL PREMISES, OR GATHER AROUND THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE ONCE YOUR CHILD HAS COME THROUGH THE SCHOOL GATES. WHILST YOU ARE WAITING FOR YOUR CHILD TO COME OUT OF SCHOOL, PLEASE KEEP 2 METRES APART. WHEN THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, PLEASE TAKE EXTRA STEPS TO STAY SAFE AND WEAR A FACE COVERING.**
- If you, or a member of your household, tests positive for Covid-19, please contact school as quickly as possible. This is because a number of things must be put in place immediately, for the safety of our pupils and staff. Please screenshot your test result and send it via email to [clsstcuthberts@durhamlearning.net](mailto:clsstcuthberts@durhamlearning.net) with the title 'POSITIVE COVID' - this includes over the weekend, when emails are checked regularly.
- Our updated COVID Risk Assessment is now on our website, please use it to check guidance for COVID routines.

**Remote Learning:** The Leadership Team have been looking carefully at the array of remote learning platforms which are now available to schools. We believe that we have found the one which completely fits our school needs and which children will enjoy using, should they have to continue their education at home for any period of time. We are using our Professional Development Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> October to really familiarise ourselves with the platform, which means we will be ready to roll it out after half term. In the mean-time, if children need to learn at home for COVID reasons, then we will email work from the class email account. **Look out for a brief survey coming to your email next week, about the technology you have at home to access remote learning. It would be a huge help to us if you could respond. Many thanks!**

**Cold Weather Uniform:** We will continue our practice of having the classroom windows and doors open to ensure good ventilation. As the weather gets colder, this will be for shorter, frequent periods of the day. Please be assured, staff will have the comfort of the children, as well as their safety, foremost in their minds. However, if you wish, your child may wear layers - sports skins, thermal underwear etc - under their uniform, coats too will always be used, as a last resort.

### Coronavirus Reminder

Adults and children must not come to school if they display any of the main symptoms of coronavirus.

They are:

- **A high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **A new continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child is unwell, and you are uncertain as to whether it may be a symptom, please contact NHS.

You can also check the symptoms sheet on our website.

If anyone is experiencing difficulty booking a test for your child, please contact school.

Our aim is always to keep school fully open to all children and your co-operation in all of the above will help us to continue to do so. Thank you.

### First Holy Communion

This time last year, 22 of our current Year 5, then Year 4, pupils began their preparation to receive Holy Communion for the very first time. Unfortunately, COVID and lockdown restrictions meant that the celebration Mass could not go ahead as planned. However, thanks to the hard work of Fr Chris and catechist, Helen Newton, the children are going to be able to make their first communion at masses during the weeks ahead.

We are so pleased that the children are able to make this next step in their journey in faith, and we ask that you, the school community, keep them in your prayers at this special time for them and their families. They are: Ava, Tate, Maggie, Joe, Alexander W, Harry, Daniel, Sam, Gabriel, George, Isaac, Johnathan, Amelia, Sammy, Elizabeth, Alfie, Lily, Oliver, Niamh, Alexander R, Louise and Cameron.



### Virtual Games Success

For two weeks in September, Years 1, 2 and 4 took part in the Virtual School Games Event based on the game of rounders. The children took part in four challenges, competing against their peers in other primary schools. We had great success! Year 1 and Year 2 came first in their groups against five other schools, and Year 4 came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8.

In the **catching** challenge, **Max** and **Natalia**, **Year 1** achieved bronze and gold respectively, in the **bowling** challenge **Adam**, **Year 4** achieved bronze. The **running** challenge saw **Leo**, **Year 1** and **Jakub** and **Adam**, **Year 4** each achieve bronze! Well done to all our competitors and thank you to Miss Noble, our new PE Leader, for arranging the event in school.

**Hallowe'en Day:** We can't hold our traditional PALs Hallowe'en Discos this year, so instead, we'd like to invite the children to come into school dressed in their Hallowe'en costumes on the last day of half term, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We'll have our own Hallowe'en Fun Day in school. If you would please donate £1 per child to School Fund via ParentPay this would compensate in a small way, for the loss of funds that are usually made at the disco. Many thanks!



**Bonfire Celebrations:** Communal firework displays will not be going ahead this year. Durham County Council ask that you do not host your own and adhere to social distancing brought in by the government to try and control the spread of coronavirus.

**Flu Immunisation Programme - all pupils:** This will take place in school on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November** and I'm sure you'll agree with me that this year, more than ever, it is important to protect our children from flu symptoms. You need to register your consent at <http://www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent>, School Name St Cuthbert's, Code 114242. Full details can be found in the [Letters & Notices](#) section of our website. If you don't have internet access or have any questions please ring 03000 032554.

Take care and have a good week - it's getting very autumnal now!

With best wishes,

*Clare Swales*

Mrs Clare Swales, Head Teacher

