



Be yourself, but be it very well.

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*'Every child has the right to the best possible health.'* Article 24

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of another very strange year, worldwide, in our community and in our school. Two weeks ago I wrote that we had had some semblance of 'normality' as six classes enjoyed Sports Days with their parents and four classes got out of school on trips! How all that changed in a fortnight! Since then we have had two classes isolating, a total of eight staff isolating, three trips cancelled and no parents at Year 2 Sports Day!

However, we have made it to the end of the year and I think we can really celebrate our achievement as we have worked together to keep our school community safe, we have adapted to (lots) of change at short notice and our children have been nothing but stars! They have shown great resilience in the face of uncertainty and change and have kept us going with their smiles and laughter and their ability, still, to love life. We owe each and every one of them a great deal for helping us adults get through the last sixteen months or so. THANK YOU CHILDREN - YOU ARE FANTASTIC!

This Newsletter is really all about catching up on last minute news, before we all go off to enjoy our much deserved summer break!

**House Points:** The final totals for the term were as follows:

1. Bede House - 2036
2. Joseph House - 2021
3. Aidan House - 1586
4. Godric House - 1525
5. Nicholas House - 1498
6. Cuthbert House - 1142

As you can see, it was very close at the top, with only 15 points separating 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. But it was Bede House who enjoyed the House Point Treat on the field yesterday morning. They have been very ably led by Captain, Oliver and Vice-Captain, Niamh this year. Well done to everyone!

**Sports Day Results:** We were finally able to total up the Sports Day scores after Year 2 completed their events 'behind closed doors' this morning. They were however, wonderfully cheered on by Year 1 who came out onto the field to watch. So, the points having been counted, the results are as follows:

1. Nicholas house - 178
2. Bede House - 170
3. Joseph House 149
4. Cuthbert House 123
5. Aidan House 114
6. Godric House 108

Well done to all our sports people who competed with great determination and fairness, they really did us proud and huge congratulations to Nicholas House, led by Captain Daniel and Vice-Captain Katie, for their victory.

**Class Arrangements for September 2021:**

Just in case you missed it last time - class organisation will remain as it is currently in September and so will be:

Reception Class: Ms Ball and Mrs Tallentire

Year 1: Miss Noble and Mrs Short

Year 2: Mrs Fox and Mrs Short

Year 3: Mrs Graham (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday), Miss McCabe (Wednesday), Mrs Loughlin

Year 4: Mrs Bewley (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), Miss McCabe (Thursday, Friday), Mrs Herdman, Mrs Loughlin

Year 5: Mrs Kerr and Mrs Mallinson

Year 6: Miss Anthony and Mrs Mallinson

Mrs Redpath will continue to support throughout school and Mrs Clark will be on maternity leave!

Which brings us now to the end of this term...!

### **Year 6 Leavers:**

Today we will say a very fond farewell to our fabulous Year 6! They will be leaving us to continue the next stage of their education in secondary school. They are a really wonderful group of children who, in the strangest of years, have really done us proud. It has been a delight to watch them flourish and grow, despite it having been an unusual time to be in Year 6. They have shown great fortitude in the face of disappointment, but have fully embraced the opportunities which have been able to go ahead. The whole school are incredibly proud of them; they are a real credit to their families.

We will be sorry too, to end our association with families who have had their children at our school for a very good number of years! Everyone goes with our sincere good wishes and prayers for the future.

We were so happy to celebrate Mass with our Year 6 pupils and the families in church last night, it was a very special occasion to celebrate the achievements of a very special group of young people. It was a joyful end to their time at St Cuthbert's. A special thank you to Father Chris for celebrating mass for us.

**Foundation Governor:** I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Maeve Collier, who is retiring as Foundation Governor this summer after nine years. Maeve became a governor when her sons, Elliot and Finn, were at St Cuthbert's, when they left, she continued in her unstinting support of school. Maeve worked quietly, and tirelessly, behind the scenes, attending meetings, being a sounding board, offering support and advice and sending in treats for the children. I personally, am indebted for the support she has given me over the years and I know she will be a huge miss on the governing body - now known as the Local Governing Committee. On behalf of all the school community, I would like to give enormous thanks for her service to our school, it's staff, it's children and it's community. THANK YOU

**Lunchtime Supervisor - Mrs Bartlett:** Mrs Bartlett is also retiring tomorrow and will be hugely missed by children and staff. She is a bundle of energy and I know the children love being with her on the playground. We wish you a wonderful retirement Mrs Bartlett, we hope you get some peace and quiet!

### **Huge Thank You's to our School Community**

*I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone in our school community, past and present, for your kind words, your thoughtful messages and your very generous gifts. It has taken my breath away! I am truly overwhelmed, and humbled by all of your good wishes. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with you and your children for the past thirteen years; I have been truly blessed. I shall miss every one of you, but I take away a heart full of*

*love and special memories. Take care of yourselves, and take care of each other and thank you so much once again. Mrs Swales*

As I come to the end of nearly 30 years at St Cuthbert's School, I would like to say an enormous thank you for the very generous gift from PALS and Parents, along with the very special messages and to you all for your good wishes, cards and other lovely gifts which have completely overwhelmed me. I'm so touched by your kindness - I'm blown away! You are all truly amazing.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work within the community of St Cuthbert's and I will take with me into retirement the memories of the wonderful people I have been fortunate enough to meet and the incredible 'superstar' children who are such a credit to themselves and their families. The families of St Cuthbert's and the staff who work here are indeed a real blessing to the school.

I wish you all a wonderful, safe and healthy summer and send you my best wishes for the future.

Bernadette Greensitt

*I would just like to give heartfelt thanks to everyone in our school community, past and present, for all of your kind messages, cards and gifts as I retire. They were totally unexpected but are much appreciated. It has been lovely to meet so many families in my time at St Cuthbert's; to be introduced to new born babies, then watch as they start in Reception Class and then grow into amazing young people each with their own talents and personalities. You will be remembered in so many different ways. Thanks again. Andrea Jones*

### **The end of an era!**

As you will know, we have three members of staff retiring today: Mrs Swales, Mrs Greensitt and Mrs Jones. It truly is the end of an era!

First of all to Mrs Swales, we wish you a lovely relaxing and happy retirement and we thank you for your devotion, determination, love and support in the thirteen years you have been our Head Teacher. Our school has changed so much for the better with you leading us and we know that the staff and pupils will miss you tremendously. The children will certainly miss you greeting them, by name, at the gate. We hope to see you back for some tennis coaching and sewing club!

To Mrs Greensitt, thank you for your care, dedication and for keeping the children and staff organised in everything we do. The office won't be the same without you and after twenty nine years here, you deserve to enjoy your retirement!

To Mrs Jones, thank you for your wonderful work in the office over the twenty years you have spent here. Your commitment to St. Cuthbert's has shown through your kindness and hard work. Enjoy your retirement, we will all miss you.

From all the staff and pupils at St. Cuthbert's

**And finally...**

As Charles Dickens so eloquently put it, 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...' and I think this sums up our year in school perfectly! It has been a difficult year but it has made me so incredibly proud to be Head Teacher

of a school where the whole community has worked together to look after one another, to support one another and to **'be themselves, but be it very well.'**

More especially than ever, I would like to say the most enormous thank you to our wonderful staff - teaching, teaching support, administration, cleaning and kitchen - who have continued to work incredibly hard, often in very difficult circumstances to make sure we were able to continue to give our best to our school community. They have been incredible and have made me so very proud. **THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you to our governors, it has been an exceptional year of huge decision making as we converted to an academy within the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. They have supported me with their wisdom during the pandemic, ensuring our community stayed safe and have mastered the complexities of meetings and interviewing via Teams! **THANK YOU ALL!**

Thank you to Fr Chris, who has been a huge support to all in school and has often poured calm on troubled waters throughout a stressful year! **THANK YOU!**

The biggest thank you must, of course, go to our wonderful children, without whom St Cuthbert's would not be the school it is. They make us laugh, they make us cry and we are so incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Words cannot express how much I will miss them. They are a credit to you, their parents and families, and I give heartfelt thanks to you for your support and encouragement, this year and all before.

Wherever you may travel this summer, I hope you have a wonderful, relaxing time with family and friends. Stay safe and Mrs Garrity will be ready to welcome you all back on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Have a super, sunny summer!

Goodbye and very best wishes for the future,

*Clare Swales*

Mrs Clare Swales

