

**St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School**  
*EDUCATE; CREATE; WITNESS:*  
*CHRIST AT THE CENTRE.*  
**Grindon Lane, Sunderland. SR4 8HP.**  
**Head Teacher: Mrs. J. Ward**



Tel. 0191 528 5094 e-mail: [office@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk) visit at: [www.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020,

Dear Parents,

We have now come to the close of what has undoubtedly been a very different and challenging year for us all and the support you have given our school during this period has been greatly appreciated. We have tried our best to keep you up-to-date with developments and stay in contact with our families, whilst still trying to provide care and stability for the many key worker children who have been attending school throughout this whole period.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff at St Cuthbert's who have done their best to adapt to new ways of operating, including teaching and providing work for children both at home and in school. I won't lie; this whole period has been very tough! I would like also take the time to thank you, our families, for doing such an amazing job at home juggling careers and other responsibilities whilst still supporting your children's mental and emotional health and education. Throughout this whole period we have tried to remain supportive of our families and the fact that they have many different commitments and tried to not apply pressure to an already stressful and difficult situation and I hope, by in large, we have achieved this.

I also want to take the opportunity to wish our wonderful Year 6 children good luck as they move onto the next stage in their educational journey. They have been a great credit to their families and the school throughout their time with us. We will miss them but know they will continue making everyone proud in their chosen secondary schools.

### **September 2020 Arrangements**

We are now in the process of organising arrangements for September, when we will be welcoming all children back to school **on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**. Nursery and Reception children have slightly different start dates and this has been communicated with parents in separate correspondence- please notify us if you have not received this. Unfortunately, current guidance means school will not be fully 'back to normal' and there will still be new rules and routines in place for us all to adapt to. These will be based on revised risk assessments and continuing emphasis on hygiene and the adherence to school access arrangements and social distancing guidelines from the Department of Education. **Please note that all decisions we have made/are making have our pupils and their families' safety as paramount importance alongside ensuring children are back receiving the education they deserve.**

#### **Bubbles:**

Children will be mostly kept in class bubbles with a few exceptions where they will be paired with another year group bubble- Y5/Y6, Y3/Y4 and Y1/Y2- for drop offs and collections, access to toilet facilities and interventions to support children's learning. EYFS (Reception and Nursery) will be operating as a single unit/bubble due to shared facilities and outdoor space. The thought process behind this is to try and limit children's interactions with each other so if a child were to test positive we would hopefully only have to isolate 1 or 2 bubbles rather than the whole school.



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Breakfast Club and Afterschool Clubs:

We will not be offering breakfast club before Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at the earliest. This is due to the difficulties of ensuring children from different bubbles are not mixing. We will be contacting parents who have accessed breakfast club this academic year in the first instance, in September, to see if they still require their places, before opening it up to other children. We know Covid-19 has led to new ways of working so some parent's individual circumstances might have changed. We want to be able to provide this provision safely without compromising the other protocols in place in school. The last thing we want is to put children's education further at risk, through potential closures of classes, due to children mixing outside their class/es bubbles. We appreciate this will be an inconvenience for some parents initially but please bear with us as we find the safest way to run this.

Afterschool clubs will not be running until at least after October half term (unless there are significant changes to guidance). This is due to them being activities that are mostly sport based, mixed ages and take place inside which has a much higher risk of transmission of the virus between children.

Staggered Starts and Collections

Again, in order to avoid children from different year groups mixing and to prevent and minimise congestion of adults in the car park we will be operating a staggered start and finish to the school day identified below. If you have siblings in multiple year groups they are to be dropped off with the earliest child's drop off and collected at the latest child's collection time ensuring children don't mix and social distancing is maintained. Again we recognise this will be an inconvenience but safety must come first.

Year Group	Drop Off Time	Collection Time
Nursery	8:30 am	3:30pm
Reception	9:00 am	3:00pm
Year 1	9:00 am	3:30pm
Year 2	9:00 am	3:30pm
Year 3	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 4	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 5	8:30 am	3:00pm
Year 6	8:30 am	3:00pm

Lunches and Breaks

Breaks and lunches will be staggered and children will have designated areas in the yard and the field to play according to their bubbles, again to reduce the risk of children mixing. Nursery and Reception will be eating in the canteen, however all other year groups will eat their lunches in their classrooms. We will be providing hot and cold picnic meals until at least October if your child has school meals. We will send further information out regarding food choices and options when they are made available to us from the Local Authority Service we buy into.



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There will be further information uploaded onto the app and website regarding the procedures and protocols that will be in place for September in due course over the summer. We will also be looking at additional ways to improve our remote learning access for children to ensure that any future potential lockdowns, whether they are on a national or local scale, will not disrupt children's learning to the extent this current lockdown has. The government are currently looking at creating packages to support schools in doing this and once we have one in place this will again be communicated to parents- it will likely include a platform for direct communication with class teachers and a mixture of online and paper/book learning.

### Recovery Curriculum & Catch-up Programmes

We will also be looking at a recovery curriculum and as a school we will try and be sensitive to the needs of all our children and their families. The priority is to have our children return to school and settle into daily routines, some of which will be new to them. This will potentially take time and we will aim to provide the necessary support for their emotional and social wellbeing. We will not be operating a restricted curriculum, as always we will be offering a broad and balanced curriculum. However, there might be changes to how we structure this to allow for children to access interventions without missing out on other learning. We will also be baselining children early on in the term to allow us to assess where the children are currently at and any gaps they will have so that we can tailor support programmes to match needs.

You will also have heard about 'Catch-up programmes' through the media; it is our intention to support every child with their learning through a variety of strategies. Catch-up programmes may be one of those strategies. It is our intention that no child will be left behind and staff will identify the needs of all and tailor the learning and teaching to suit. **Please do not spend the summer worrying about this 'lost school time' – instead enjoy the summer holiday as best you can (and hopefully a bit more normality) and let us get on with the teaching challenges in September 2020.** All our children are in the same position, having missed so much time in the classroom. With your support, we can work closely to provide a stimulating school environment that will motivate them building upon the positive learning experiences, whether these have been academic or not, that our children will have acquired during this period of lockdown.

If you have a need to contact school during the summer, then please email us at [office@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk). We will be checking emails on a regular basis and will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. This has not been the school year any of us wanted but we have all played our part in this historic time and made the best of it. It shows what community can mean and what a special community we have here at St. Cuthbert's. I wish you all a restful and happy summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September for the start of a new academic year. Take care and stay safe.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs Steele  
Acting Head Teacher

