

21st July 2015

Dear Parents and Children,

So the end of a very busy and highly successful year both in and out of the classroom. This final newsletter is just to highlight some important issues for the beginning of the next year.

Leavers Assembly at St Cuthbert's:

What a fabulous memory to leave us all with – one of our Governors (an ex head teacher) said it was the BEST LEAVERS ASSEMBLY she had ever seen and I can't disagree with that. Not only did it highlight the talents of all the class but also of the care, respect and love that their teachers had shared with them over what at times was a difficult time for some. What leadership and care our children displayed with some outstanding results for them personally and for St Cuthbert's. Of course *You ALL have talent* it's how you use these talents for your and everyone's good which was the strong message. Some fantastic *firsts* in sport and extra-curricular activities with such a high number graduating through Children's University. Raising £1,000 for Cancer Research and over £200 for Marie Curie through our choir and pantomime.

This year's SATs results, following on from 100% Level 4 last year, just fell a little short with 96.4% BUT some fantastic and BEST EVER Level 5+, including several Level 6 which is obviously HIGHER than expected from Year 6. The progress and added value they have made is fantastic and will reflect so well against local and national expectation. Again our children reaching *national heights*, building on our tradition of trying to be one of the best schools in the country – an aspirational target to provide the best we can.

Year 6 – what a fantastic year so many of you have had with wonderful outcomes. We are proud of you all and send you on to your next school hoping, no, *expecting* to hear about the great things you go on to do. Use your talents, volunteer for everything and get involved in the good things ahead of you. We are confident that you have NOTHING to be nervous about and you have so much to give.

Can I also thank, not just the Year 6 parents who may be leaving us BUT all other parents and children who are leaving to start in new schools. Thank you and you go with our best wishes. If, for any reason, you need advice and support just contact us, we are family and we want to give you our full support.

Year 6 – go and WOW them next year like you did for us yesterday.

May God bless and protect you all in your futures

Staff Leaving

We have already said our goodbyes. A school is only as good as the people in it. Our federation is so lucky to have such talented people who gave so generously to your children. They give their best which is why our children do so well. So to all who are either retiring or moving to new schools the heartfelt thanks of myself, your colleagues, the children and parents. Remember once part of our family always part of the family.

Attendance

Essential for Success: New standards expected in September 97%. The Government accepts no reason to have holidays in school time and insists that schools and Head Teachers have this view. Our attendance of some children is dreadful and some is outstanding. The schools attendance figure is compared to national expectations and this is a worry. This area is down to parents. How can parents take children away so that they miss the last four weeks of their school life? I really can't understand this especially emotionally.

Parent/Guardians Behaviour Policy

This has been agreed by the Governors. It is the first time we and other schools have implemented such a policy. This is in response to what I can only describe as aggressive, abusive and threatening language used to staff including myself on the phone, via emails, on the yard and other areas of the school site.

I have informed the governors that I will not respond to emails or letters which imply that we disregard the Safeguarding of our children either physically, emotionally or educationally. No do I expect any of my staff to do the same. Being approached outside school to make complaints is completely unacceptable.

Our federation is open from 7.15am to 8pm most nights so we are very available for discussions. Please remember you have a right to complain and the way to do this is on our websites. Also if you do feel that strongly to use inappropriate language either directly or indirectly against members of the school community then quite frankly you have your children in the wrong school and I would be encouraging you to look for another school you would be happier with.

Unfortunately parent's similar letters are being sent out in other schools. So sad especially as we hear "Oh I'm sorry" or "I need to control my temper you know I don't meant it." This is not acceptable and the governors will do all they can to protect our children and staff.

Uniform

Please do not try to create your own uniform. We have a strict uniform policy which includes, shoes, PE Kits, dress, hair, jewellery. A Uniform means just that "the same" - it is our school identity. Please ensure you have the correct uniform for your child at all times.

An exciting year ahead that the staff have already well planned out, they are looking forward to their new classes!

All have a great holiday, nice and restful. Don't forget Holiday Splash is happening from Next Monday 27th July 2015 so come along and support this fantastic opportunity.

Mr Hardiman

Executive Head Teacher