



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (NC)

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 7

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Lord Jesus Christ,
child in a manger,
thank you for your
gifts of peace, hope,
love and joy. We pray
for the world into
which you were born.
We lift to you those
living in poverty,
those who are op-
pressed, those forced
to flee their homes.
Recognising their sto-
ries in the tale of
your nativity.

Phew! We have made it and it is almost Christmas! It has been a busy couple of week since the last newsletter. The snow was extremely exciting and very pretty but it was rather disruptive to our plans; thank you so much for your support and understanding as we re-arranged Christmas plays and performances. It was greatly appreciated—and we have made it with every performance completed.

In the last two weeks every class from Nursery to Year 6 has taken part in a Christmas performance of some type. It takes such a lot of work on behalf of the staff and children, that I always worry whether we do too much—but the children love it and audience numbers remain high— I must remember not to worry next year! We have also had a visit from Santa, enjoyed our Christmas dinner, taken part in a school prayer service and Christmas Mass; made a selection of wonderful cards and given them to the local community. Whew! Everyone deserves a break. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Goodbye Mr Kelly

Today we say so long to Mr Kelly. He has been deputy head of St Cuthbert's for four years and a term and he leaves us to become headteacher of St Andrew's. We are immensely proud of him and send him off with all our good wishes. We hope that he enjoys his new role and that he takes some of the St Cuthbert's spirit with him.

He has been very touched by your generosity and best wishes and asked me to pass on his thanks to you all. He said it has been a pleasure to work with you and your children.

Good luck Mr Kelly—this headship job is a walk in the park (!)

Many thanks

I would like to thank you all on behalf of myself and all the staff of St Cuthbert's for your generosity throughout the term. From the Macmillian Coffee Morning, to the Poppy Appeal to the Gift Night collection you have supported these worthwhile causes generously. Thank you.

I would also like to add our thanks for your kind Christmas wishes in the cards and presents that you have sent into school. It is greatly appreciated by all the staff—there is never any expectation of cards and gifts but when you send them in we do value your best wishes.

Swimming

Swimming begins on Tuesday 9th January in the NEW Stechford Swimming Baths—although the new facility is very impressive we anticipate some teething problems in the organisation and logistics of our swimming lessons. For this reason we have decided to take just Year 4 swimming in January until half term, and then Year 3 after half term. We need to work out how we will take 60 children in the new facilities. The changing rooms and space have changed, there will be a 'blue shoe' policy for all people entering the baths (i.e. you have to put on plastic blue covers over your shoes when you walk in) and there are only two swimming zones for the children. If we feel that we can take Year 3 and Year 4 together after a couple of weeks I will let you know. I hope you can understand why we have taken this decision.

Weekly Attendance for
St Cuthbert's:

96.03%

Class Weekly Attendance

Reception— 93.9%

Year 1— 86.6%

Year 2— 95.5%

Year 3— 100%

Year 4— 95%

Year 5— 92%

Year 6— 91.1%

Many congratulations to
Year 3 who won the attend-
ance last week with a mag-
nificent 100%. Brilliant—well
done.

We continue to award our
weekly attendance prize.
Well done to Izzi in Year 1
and Calum in Year 6 who won
the prizes for the last two
weeks.

A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth
of Jesus,
that we may share in the
song of the angels,
the gladness of the shep-
herds,
and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all
over the world.
Let kindness come with eve-
ry gift
and good desires with every
greeting.*

*Deliver us from evil by the
blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry
with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy
children,
and Christmas evening bring
us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.*

Attendance

A massive congratulations to Year 6 who won the class attendance for the first term. However I must say that there were 4 other classes with attendance over 96% including Reception and Year 1 which is incredibly impressive.

Many congratulations to about 70 children who all received 100% attendance for the term—a brilliant achievement.

Mr Wilson and I have sent out a number of letters to parents whose child/children's attendance is below 90% for the term; we have sent these letters even if we are aware of the reasons for absence. It is vitally important that you work hard to improve your child's attendance.

Punctuality

Mr Wilson and I have also sent out a number of letters to parents whose children are persistently late for school. We accept that an occasional late may occur but there is no reason that children shouldn't be on time regularly. It is incredibly disruptive for the children and the class when children are regularly late. If you received a letter please ensure that you work hard to improve your child's punctuality.

Teacher Training Day

We had one teacher training day that had to be arranged for this academic year. I can now confirm that this will take place on **Monday 26th February 2018**. I have been waiting to confirm the date of some Speech and Language training for staff and this has now been arranged for this day.

Return to school

Term begins on Monday 8th January at normal time. The bell will sound at 8:55am.

Swimming for Year 4 will be on Tuesday 9th January.

Brass resumes for Year 4, 5 and 6 on Wednesday 10th January

Mass on Friday 12th January will be presented by Year 4.

All classes will be giving out their dates for the term and curriculum over-views in the first week back.

Brass Assembly

Year 4, 5 and 6 presented a Brass assembly on Wednesday afternoon. I watched the rehearsal and listened to the performances and was incredibly impressed with the musicality of each class, the scholars and the level of concentration and improvement that the classes had made. Thank you to the many parents who came to support their child/children on Wednesday afternoon, it was lovely to see you all.

Corpus Christi Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve—Nativity Mass (children) 6:00pm

Carols by Candlelight—Christmas Eve—11:30pm

Christmas Midnight Mass—Midnight

Christmas Day— 10:30 am

All are welcome.

Father Andrew, Father Vipin, Father Biju and the sisters of the parish all wish you a blessed Christmas season.

Finally I wish you all a happy and festive Christmas; and pray that 2018 is a blessed, happy and healthy year for us all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!