



25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Once again our school community has been an example to us all about how to adapt to new situations and make the best out of them. Our students continue to thrive in their new reality despite the limitations of it. Young people are often the most resilient and adaptable of us all and certainly here at St Cuthbert's that is true.

You will no doubt be hearing and reading the news that schools are constantly sending home large numbers of students. Locally and nationally this does continue to be the case but I do not think the problem is nearly as dramatic as has been portrayed. Here at St Cuthbert's we have informed you of some more cases of positive tests and everyone who is affected has been informed and required to self-isolate. We discuss all such matters with Public Health England and the NHS and then follow their guidance on what course of action to take. Unfortunately people will contract COVID-19 and we have to respond accordingly. It is absolutely the case however that school remains as safe as anywhere and no positive cases are a result of anything in school.

We are increasingly looking at how we can support parents and students during these times. Very soon you will be getting more details on '*Remote Learning*.' This is essentially how your son or daughter can access teaching and learning from home if they have to work from there instead of school at any point this year. It is essential that everyone engages with this and does what is required as it may be a necessary and essential part of education for some time to come. The details you will soon be receiving will make it absolutely clear what needs to happen and what you need to do.

You will soon be provided with an opportunity to find out about everything your son or daughter is studying at school and how you can help them. Further details on these events and what they include will be shared very soon.

I wish you all the very best at these most challenging times. We will do our very best to ensure the quality of our provision is the best that it can be. We will endeavour to keep you informed of any developments as soon as is possible.

NOTICES

- It is essential that all students are in **correct PE kit**. Details of this can be found on the school website and on the school Facebook page. Some students have taken to wearing items which are clearly not acceptable items of clothing and this must stop. Details of where the correct kit can be purchased are on the website.
- Next week we will be re-introducing the **form period** from 8.20am – 8.45am, students will see their form tutor each morning who can support with any day to day questions they may have. Please can we ask parents to use communicate with your child's form tutor as the first port of call.
- Whilst in form there will be both **equipment** (including bags) and uniform checks. Students must also have a reading book with them
- **Parent Pay** - Please ensure your child's parent pay accounts are checked regularly to ensure they have sufficient funds at the start of the week to be able to purchase food. Students are not allowed to go overdrawn.
- **Dropping off & collecting your child** – Please try to drop off and collect children away from the school gates. This is to ensure everyone is safe and buses can have clear access.

- **Punctuality** – Please ensure your child is in school **by 8.20am**. Our gates are closed at this time so that we can ensure all additional safety measures that are in place are followed. We do, however, appreciate there may sometimes be exceptional circumstances why your child may be late.
- **Buses** – Please remind your child that masks should be worn at all times on their journey to & from school, failure to comply with the TfGM transport rules may result in a bus ban.
- **Social distancing** - We would like to thank all students and parents who are adhering to the social distancing restrictions at this time. Can we kindly ask parents to remind your child of social distancing out of school hours and on their journey home especially if they are collecting siblings from other local primary schools or if they are in and around any recreational areas, in particular the Balderstone Park area.
- **Remote Learning** – if your child is absent from school due to a COVID-related issue, their teachers will set work for them on ClassCharts, which follows their in-school timetable. To avoid multiple and unnecessary notifications, you will **not** receive an email when your child's teacher uploads their work. Your child needs to check ClassCharts on daily basis, complete the work that has been set for them and submit any work that is requested either via ClassCharts or by email. There will be some changes to remote learning in the coming weeks. Your child needs to make sure that they have downloaded and can access the following applications: ClassCharts, Microsoft Outlook (email) and Microsoft Teams (this will enable your child to remote-in to live lessons). Both Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Teams can be found on Office.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 28th September: Form Period starts again.
- October: Virtual Information Evenings for all parents in all year groups. Exact dates to be confirmed.