



# St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School November 2023 Newsletter

School website: [www.stcuthbertscrook.org.uk](http://www.stcuthbertscrook.org.uk)

Twitter: [@stcuthscrook](https://twitter.com/stcuthscrook)

*Live the light, share the light, be the light!*

<http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it seems as if we are hurtling at speed to Christmas and time is going too fast - for me anyway!

It is really difficult to ignore all of the Christmas items in the shops and on tv but we know that the time of Advent is an important preparation time for us as Christians.

There is a lot coming up over the next few weeks. We will try to ensure messages are sent too but please be patient with us.

Advent begins on the 3rd December. At this time we will put up our Christmas tree but rather than decorate it with baubles we will be sending home a star to write a prayer on or the name of a person that you would like us to pray for - these will be in the hall for all to see.

Children are beginning to bring home a Bible in a bag. (Travelling Bible) please take time to share a story from the Bible and record in the book either the main points of the story or what it means to us today for the older children.

Alongside this they will also have the opportunity to take home a travelling crib to think about the Christmas story and share the special story of Jesus' birthday. Any photos, pictures or writing would be fantastic to see.

Monday 4th at 10am, Penitential Service in school hall with Father Nick for KS2. A chance to prepare yourself for Christmas. All are welcome.

Tuesday 5th December at 7pm - Rotary Club Carol Service. Our school choir will be singing at this event. Stanhope Silver Band are also playing. Tickets for parents are available from school at £5 (including refreshments) all proceeds go to Rotary charities. This is always a joyous event with opportunities for participation. A lovely way to begin Christmas proceedings.

Wednesday the **6th December** Own clothes day and bring a bottle in to create a tombola for the Christmas Fayre. (It can be any type of bottle: drinks, shampoo, shower gel, etc...)

Wednesday 6th December THE EVENT 6pm - 7.30 in the school hall for any Year 5 or 6 children interested. This is a celebration of the Word with singing and dancing and activities. Free to attend and pizza included. We will ask for confirmation of attendance just for catering purposes. Other schools will also be joining us.

Thursday 7th Christmas Jumper Day £1 with all proceeds going to Save the Children.

**13th December** Christmas lunch day. Who will take on the sprouts challenge? (Don't panic - sprouts optional)

**14th December** Foundation Stage and KS1 Nativity. KS1 performance at 10am and Foundation parents at 2pm in the hall. Tissues at the ready.

**December 15th** is our Christmas Fayre. 1pm start and finishing at 4pm.

Please note that children cannot go home before 3.15pm.

Lots of fun to be had by all:

Santa will be in his grotto

Tombolas

Cake stall - (All donations of cakes and biscuits gratefully received)

Raffles

Games stalls - e.g. Guess the reindeer name

Refreshments will be served

If you can help in any way please let us know, we will make sure it is a fun time for you too.

Monday 18th December **KS1 party day**. Children can come to school in their party clothes but please bring a coat too.

Tuesday 19th December **Early Years party day**. Children can come to school in their party clothes but please bring a coat too.

Thursday 21st December **KS2 party day**. Children can come to school in their party clothes but please bring a coat too.

Friday 22nd December - Carol Service with whole school in the church at **2pm**. Please join us as a school family to round up our term in a joyous, prayerful, celebratory manner. All singing voluntary for parents. For this day we would like each child to bring an item to donate for children less fortunate. Items suggested are: Balls, slinkies, skipping ropes, toiletries, toothbrushes, colouring pencils / books etc

### **Book Fair**

The book fair will be available in school from the 27th November before and after school. The school will receive 100% commission from the sale of the books so please consider Christmas gifts too.

### **First Holy Communion**

Please remember if your child is in Year 4 and is interested receiving this sacrament please contact school or Father Nick to let us know.

Well done Macy and Niko for explaining to the class their journey of faith but also how they have continued through serving on the altar.



Family Mass on Sunday 26th November at 10.30 in Church. Please join us for a lovely celebration. Miss McElhone and Miss Ball will be there to supervise if needed.

Thank you for your generosity with all of our recent fundraising.

MacMillan coffee morning raised £351.25

Our school disco raised £257

£61.30 was raised for Yellow Mellow for the 'Young Minds' group (to provide valuable support for children with mental health needs)

Our foodbank for the International World Day for overcoming poverty - 'Putting Dignity into practice for all had an amazing response The food will be taken to the Salvation army and will continue to support our community.

Our Fairtrade stall is working really well and helps reinforce such an important message about the importance of choices we make when buying products.



### **Attendance** **New Years Resolution**

I am aware that many letters were given out recently about attendance which can worry you as a parent. We understand that there are times when children have genuine reasons for not being in school, however we must follow Government to inform you when your child's attendance is lower than 96%.

We are trying hard to improve attendance at school and ask that you help by doing the following things:

- Do not book routine doctors and dentist appointments during school time unless absolutely necessary and bring an appointment card to the office.
- Holidays will not be granted unless exceptional circumstances. You must apply for leave of absence prior to booking any holiday to see if permission would be granted.
- Please only keep your child off if they are really ill and not just under the weather. We can always contact you if we feel they need to go home.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to improve attendance.



