St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School
Year 6 Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year and a very special welcome to the Year 6 children who have now begun their final year at St. Cuthbert's. The children have made a great start and are already showing a lot of enthusiasm and interest in what's going on!

As I am sure you are aware, Year 6 is, of course, the year in which the children take their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs). The SATs represent a challenge for everyone – children, teachers and parents alike, but I know that we can all work together to ensure that the children work hard, do the very best that they can do and still have a great time! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at year6@stcuthbertsk.org

English

Our English work this term will focus on writing linked to our class novel, 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens. We will also be completing a range of reading activities of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts.
Children will also be developing knowledge and skills in grammar, spelling and punctuation (GPS), which will continue to be taught discretely each day. We are especially trying to focus on broadening the vocabulary of the children, and working hard to apply lots of the tricky curriculum vocabulary into our written work.

Spellings

We follow a spelling programme linked to the 'Spelling Shed'. Your child will be given new spellings to learn for a test each week. Your child will bring a copy of these spellings home and they are available for them to practise on the Spelling Shed website (they each have an individual login for this).

Maths

This year, the children will be taught as a whole class for maths with the support of Miss Thompson. The children will work on activities to develop their mathematical knowledge and understanding in 5 key areas:

- Numbers and the Number System
- Calculations
- Reasoning
- Geometry
- Statistics



Due to the challenging nature of the curriculum, it is recommended that all children know their **times tables and related division facts** to 12 x 12 off by heart. These will be tested regularly but not on a set day. The children should also continue to use Times Tables Rockstars

at home to maintain their fluency and rapid recall (the children also have an individual login for this site / app). We are also using Assertive Mentoring which is a maths assessment tool to monitor progression and support intervention work. As part of this, the children complete a weekly skill check each Friday.

Science

This term we will be learning all about 'Living Things and Their Habitats'.

Religious Education



The topics for this term are:

- Covenant and Creation
- Prophecy and promise

History

Our history topic is a breadth study and focuses on conflict through time. Throughout this topic we will be studying conflict and how it has changed over time from the Stone Age right up to World War II.

Geography

Our geography topic this term will focus on Ecosystems.

Design and Technology

Our D&T topic this term is all about the design process and evaluation. Children will design, make and market a reaction game.

Computing

The computing topic this term is Programming and will link with our Design and Technology project.

French

After October half term, the children will continue French lessons with Madame Dryden.

Music

After October half term, the children will continue with Ukulele lessons building on skills learned in Year 5.

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Notices

PE days have been shared on the school newsletter for this half term (Monday and Friday). This is likely to change after half term but you will be notified of any changes. Please ensure that children have a complete kit, including trainers and a non-branded white t-shirt and plain navy/black tracksuit bottoms / leggings, with each item clearly labelled with their name. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days.

Uniform – Please ensure children come to school in full school uniform and plain, black footwear. All items of uniform should be clearly labelled with the child's name – especially jumpers and cardigans. Please refer to the school uniform section of the website regarding earrings and haircuts. There was an increase last year of children wearing brightly coloured trainers and highly decorated and logoed jogging bottoms and leggings. Please note, school uniform is black shoes or trainers with no coloured logos and the PE kit is plain black or dark blue school shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings. Any children coming to school in non-uniform items will be provided with plain items we now hold in school. These will be washed and cleaned after every use.

Homework

Your child will be getting a homework folder and they will be set weekly homework. Homework will be given on a Tuesday and collected the following Tuesday. Tasks will differ each week but will focus on the basic skills of reading, maths, grammar and spelling. Homework is given in Year 6 to help the children prepare for the transition to secondary school. We would very much appreciate it if you would check your child's homework with them.

Homework will continue as follows:

- The learning of times tables should be treated as ongoing; they will be tested regularly.
- Children should be reading their reading books every day and reading to an adult at home when possible. We expect the children to complete their Reading Records each week with a comment about their reading – this could be a comment about their school reading book or something else they are reading for pleasure. Parents can also write comments in reading records when you have read with your child. Reading records will be collected in every **Tuesday**.
- Reading Eggspress - children have a login for Reading Eggspress and use the website in school. We will also set tasks to complete at home.
- Children who do not complete homework will be given additional time and support in school at break and lunchtimes.

We are very much looking forward to working with you and your children.

If you have any questions or anything to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at year6@stcuthbertsk.org.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Mrs Ferguson and Miss Thompson