St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School
Year 4 Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year and a very special welcome to the Year 4 children. The children have made a fabulous start to the year and I am really excited to be working alongside the year 4 families this year! If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to make an appointment to see me or drop me an email at: year4@stcuthbertsk.org. I will be happy to help with anything you are unsure about and answer any questions you may have.

English

Our English work this term will focus on writing, linked to our class novel 'David Copperfield', which will include narrative and explanation writing. We will also be completing a range of reading activities in fiction and nonfiction 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 will be trying to focus on broadening and applying more adventurous 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 every **Tuesday**. Your child will bring a copy of these spellings home and they are available for them to practise on the Spelling Shed website, which they each have an individual login for.

Maths

The children will work on activities to develop their mathematical knowledge and understanding in the following key areas:



- Number and Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and division
- Problem-solving

Multiplication Tables Check

Times tables will be a large focus in Year 4 as, following previous trials, all children must undertake the statutory 'Multiplication Tables Check' later in the year. This is a short, online times tables test that determines whether pupils can recall their times tables up to and including 12 × 12 fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. There are lots of ways for children to practise and access online resources to aid their recall, including regularly using the Soundcheck and Studio features on our 'Times Tables Rockstar' app at home. If you have any issues accessing this, please come and see me. Please support your child to revise and improve on this as part of the homework policy.

Science

This term we will be studying the topic of 'States of Matter'. Where possible, this will be linked to wider subject areas.



Religious Education



The whole school is following the new 'The Way' curriculum. The topics for this term are:

- Creation and Covenant
- Prophecy and Promise
- Galilee to Jerusalem

Further information about children wishing to make their First Holy Communion and their Sacrament of Reconciliation will follow.

Geography

The topic for Year 4 this term is 'Rivers and Mountains'. The topic will add and reinforce geographical skills needed for future studies. We will be focusing on our locality as well as investigating further afield.

Music

Year 4 will have music lessons each week and will look at music and how it is composed! The children will be learning to play a range of tunes, compose music and read music across the year.

Languages

Year 4 are taking part in an exciting unit of work- our languages this half term is French! Madame Dryden will be teaching weekly sessions.

Physical Education

PE will be on a **Wednesday** this term. Please ensure that children arrive in a **complete kit including a pair of trainers** with each item clearly labelled with their name. Their kit should be **plain (unbranded**) jogging bottoms or shorts and a plain white t-shirt. They can be purchased at any supermarket outlet. No jewellery should be worn. If earrings need to stay in, families must provide their child with Elastoplasts to cover them.

In the future, some children in Year 4 will have the opportunity to achieve their 25m swimming badge. On the morning of their lesson your child will need to bring in either a bathing costume (no bikini wear) or short swimming shorts (length should be no lower than their thigh) and a towel. Swimming hats are provided by the swimming pool unless you bring in your own and you may also bring your own swimming goggles.

Homework

The school is continuing the current homework policy and asks families to focus on spellings, times tables and reading each week, rather than formalised written homework. The classroom will be available at break times for children who have been unable to complete their homework or who may need additional support with particular aspects of this.

- Spellings will be set and tested in line with the units from our 'Spelling Shed' scheme – **Tuesday**
- Times tables will be tested each **Tuesday** and an assignment set to be completed weekly on TTRS
- Reading books – the children have been asked to read their reading books and return them every **Tuesday**. The children are encouraged to record and write comments about what they have read. Please listen to your child read and also complete the comment book weekly. This does not always need to be your child's reading book – personal books can be included too.
- Reading Eggspress children will continue to use Reading Eggspress in Year 4. Children have an individual login in their reading record for this and be set an assignment to complete each week.

Packed Lunches – To promote a healthy lifestyle and maintain the school's Healthy Schools Accreditation, we would love to see children's packed lunches being as healthy as they can be! We would ask that fizzy

drinks, energy drinks, sweets, chocolate (including chocolate biscuits), crisps and cakes are excluded from lunch boxes where possible. We would also like to remind parents that due to allergies, nut products are not allowed to be brought into school. We have put loads of ideas on the school website about ideas for a healthy packed lunch if anyone is stuck for any inspiration!

School Uniform - Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform as detailed on our school website. 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.

After School Club – We are really lucky to be able to offer children an 'After School Club' please contact the office for further information.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Miss Hunter, Mrs Olsen and Mrs Ruddick.
Year 4 staff