



2 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year of 2021 – 2022.

I hope this letter finds you and your families and friends all safe and well and I hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday.

As you are all well aware, COVID-19 restrictions have been substantially eased since the end of the summer term but there is still operational guidance and control measures for schools to follow to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to help keep the school community and our families as safe as possible. The four controls in place to support schools are as follows:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

St Cuthbert's will of course be implementing all of these controls and we have updated our whole school risk assessment to reflect these changes. All protocols and procedures are aligned to the ['Guidance for full opening: schools'](#). As always, we will continue to work closely with the local authority and with Public Health England to ensure that we are doing the very best for our whole school community.

Please note, 'bubbles' and the wearing of face masks is no longer required in schools but we will be keeping our bubbles in place and giving all staff the option of wearing a face mask if they choose to do so until at least October half term. **We will keep all of our COVID-19 measures under constant review.**

As shared in our July 2021 Newsletter, we are relaxing most of our rules around start and finish times and access to the yards for parents/carers at the end of the school day to enable us to return to our full school day timetable but, as an extra precaution and in light of the recent and predicted further rise in cases once schools reopen for the Autumn Term, we will still be restricting parent/carer access into the school building until at least October half term to see how everything settles down. The most important thing for us all is that we work together in partnership and do everything we can to ensure our school has a limited number of COVID-19 cases and that our school remains fully open. I know our families will continue to work with us with this common goal in mind.

**The following points from 1 – 9 are a polite reminder of what was shared re: school organisation in the July Newsletter:**

1. No more indoor shoes (sandshoes/plimsolls) needed, just black school shoes/plain black trainers for everyday use.
2. PE Kits to be worn on PE days in school – you will be notified of these days early in September. Full school uniform to be worn on all other days.
3. Water bottles brought in from home every day with fresh water in.
4. Encourage both Y5 and Y6 to walk home if they live within walking distance and parents/carers are happy for them to do so.



5. Ask parents/carers to continue to park away from the school gates, particularly on Stapeley View, where the children can then walk up the path where a member of staff is always on duty.
6. The dropping off of children in the morning using the one-way system in the Reception garden and Key Stage 1 yard.
7. Parents/carers of KS2 parents dropping children off at the gate on Stapeley View in the morning.
8. Both main entrance gates will open at 8.45am for a 9am prompt start and then 2.50pm ready for children to finish promptly at 3pm for collection.
9. Older siblings will no longer be collected from the younger sibling classrooms. Parents/carers can cross the yards to collect children from the different class exits.

**PLEASE MAINTAIN SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS PROMPTLY AT DROP OFF AND COLLECTION TIMES. THANK YOU.**

These changes have been welcomed by most of the children, staff and families. All other school routines will be in place as normal from September.

**The school term for the children begins on Tuesday 7 September 2021.**

If you have any questions regarding any of the school organisation or routines, could you please contact your child's new teacher for September using the email addresses below or ring the school office on: 0191 2861029. The earliest response to any emails will be Monday 6 September.

[NursStcuthbertsk@outlook.com](mailto:NursStcuthbertsk@outlook.com) Miss Graham  
[RecStcuthbertsk@outlook.com](mailto:RecStcuthbertsk@outlook.com) Mrs Marley  
[Y1Stcuthbertsk@outlook.com](mailto:Y1Stcuthbertsk@outlook.com) Mrs Houghton  
[Y2Stcuthbertsk@outlook.com](mailto:Y2Stcuthbertsk@outlook.com) Mrs Clarke  
[Y3Stcuthbertsk@outlook.com](mailto:Y3Stcuthbertsk@outlook.com) Mr Bright  
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We have had a lot of building work and renovations completed over the summer term including the installation of new toilets for the KS1 children. Further work will be completed during the Autumn term including the resurfacing of the back yard off Stapely View and new windows to replace any of the old originals. We are really grateful to the diocese for providing the much needed funds to complete all of this work and to help improve the school environment even futher.

We are all praying that this new academic year goes ahead uninterrupted and that gradually we will be able to reinstate all of our school community events which we will do as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.

We are very much looking forward to the new school year and are ready to embrace any challenges which come our way. Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support throughout this incredibly difficult time, it really is very much appreciated by each and everyone of us.

Best wishes,

Mrs Bullerwell and the Staff of St Cuthbert's