



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 and I am impressed by the level of enthusiasm and interest that they are showing towards the challenges and experiences that this year will bring!

I am very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know you all during the course of the year. If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email me using year4@stcuthbertsk.org. I will be happy to help you with anything that you are unsure about and answer any questions you may have.

English

Our English work this term will focus on narrative and non-fiction information and will include work on explanation texts and Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. 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.

Oliver Twist

We have begun the autumn term with a whole school focus on the classic story of 'Oliver Twist' which the children are thoroughly enjoying. We have a performance of 'Oliver Twist' for the children in KS1 and KS2.

Spellings

We follow a spelling programme linked to the 'Spelling Shed'. Your child will be given new spellings to learn for a test each Tuesday. They 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

The children will work on activities to develop their mathematical knowledge and understanding in 5 key areas:



- ❖ Numbers and the Number System
- ❖ Calculations
- ❖ Solving Problems
- ❖ Geometry
- ❖ Statistics

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. Weekly tests will take place to monitor this.

Science



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

Religious Education

The whole school is following the 'Come and See' curriculum. The topics for this term are:

- ❖ People (Family)
- ❖ Building Bridges (Reconciliation, linked to sacramental preparation)
- ❖ Gifts (Advent and Christmas)



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.

'Cheff' Workshops

The children have an exciting opportunity to take part in weekly cookery workshops during the second half term. This is part of their Design Technology curriculum and helps children with basic cooking skills.

Music

Year 4 will soon start recorder lessons each week and will have a great time! The children will be working to play a range of tunes, compose music and read music across the year.

Physical Education

PE will be on a **Tuesday** 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. We would like to stress that these are really important skills and would ask parents to ensure that homework is still completed, as your child will be tested in these areas every week. 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 week (tests will cover all times tables up to 12 x 12 and the related division facts) - Tuesday.
- ❖ Reading books – the children have been asked to read their reading books and where possible return them after one week. The children are encouraged to record this in their reading record and write comments about what they have read. Please listen to your child read and also complete the comment book weekly. It is important to your child's learning that they are heard reading by an adult every day for a few minutes (sometimes bedtime is a good time to read, it relaxes the children, it's quiet and is a good way to bond with them). This does not always need to be your child's reading book – personal books can be included too.

Reading Eggspress

Children will begin a new programme with Reading Eggspress in Year 4. More information will follow in due course.

Reading is vitally important for all subject areas.

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. There has been an increase this 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.

After School Club – We are really lucky to be able to offer children an 'After School Club' every night until 6:00pm (5:00pm on Friday). This is being run by members of our school staff and utilises the excellent provision to give children stimulating activities in a familiar environment. For further details, please contact the school office.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Mr Dodds & Miss Hagan
Year 4