

Friday 11th September 2026

St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School
Gumbleberry's Close
Stechford
Birmingham
B8 2PS



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www.stcutbertsrc.org



Mr Scanlon's Message

It has been a wonderful start to the new school. The children have settled straight back in, looking so smart and grown up. Their behaviour has been exemplary and it has been a pleasure to pop into every classroom this week to see happy teachers and fully engaged pupils.

Year	Star of the Week
N	Hasnain
R	Khadija
I	Khadija
2	Rameen
3	James
4	Tanzil
5	Shay
6	Daniel

Class	Attendance
N	99.2% WONDERFUL!
R	93.2%
I	88.5%
2	97.2%
3	98.3% WONDERFUL!
4	95.7%
5	96.5%
6	91.2%

Mobile Phones and Photography During School Events

We ask that from this year, that mobile phones should not be used within the school building at any time.

This includes taking photographs or videos during school events, performances, assemblies, celebrations, or other activities, even when photographing your own child. While we understand that parents are proud of their children's achievements, this measure helps us safeguard the privacy and safety of all pupils, many of whom may be captured in the background of images.

We kindly ask all visitors to respect this expectation and refrain from using mobile phones whilst on school premises. Where appropriate, school staff will take photographs and share these through our usual communication channels.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all children.

This half term our Virtues and Values are Compassionate and Loving

ATTENDANCE

I am delighted to say that the attendance has improved for the start of the year, especially Year 3!

My biggest concern from my one term at St Cuthbert's is attendance. Compared to other schools in Birmingham and nationally, we are well behind. Last year our whole school attendance was 93.6% compared to the national rate of 94.9%.

I want to be clear that good attendance is essential for your child's learning and wellbeing. Children who attend regularly make the best progress, settle well and access the full curriculum. It was a pleasure to hand out awards for 100% attendance at the end of last year, and without exception, each pupil who had achieved it were model pupils. However, we know children get sick and some absence is unavoidable, so many of our rewards for attendance this year will be a lot more flexible and short term so that all child have a chance to impress and improve.

The Government's national attendance framework allows local authorities to issue penalty notices for unauthorised absences. Where a child has 10 unauthorised sessions (5 school days) within a 10-week period, a penalty notice may be issued. **The first fine is £80 if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. A second fine within three years is £160, and further unauthorised absence may lead to legal action through the courts.**

Last year we issued a number of penalty notices where families chose to take extended term-time leave. We do not take that step lightly. "Exceptional" circumstances are just that: truly exceptional and supported by evidence. Routine holidays and avoidable absences are not considered exceptional.

If your child's attendance falls below 90%, they are missing over 19 school days across the year, the equivalent of 4 full weeks, or 100 lessons. This puts them at a huge disadvantage compared to their peers. If your child's attendance was below 90% last year you will be receiving a letter next week and we will be closely monitoring their attendance weekly.

This year, if your child's attendance slips we will contact you quickly. Mrs Sullivan (Deputy Head) will be the point of contact for families where attendance is a concern. She will ring, and where needed arrange a meeting to offer support and agree a plan to help your child attend more regularly. Our approach is family-first: we will always try to remove barriers and work with you, but we must also be clear that the law expects children to attend school.

How you can help

Please bring your child to school every day on time unless they are genuinely unwell.

Book medical appointments, where possible, outside school hours.

Let the school know early on the first day of any absence and the reason.

If you are worried about attendance for any reason—transport, health, family matters, or difficulties at school—please contact Mrs Sullivan or Mr Samuels as soon as possible. We want to work with you to find solutions and to make sure every child can benefit from learning time.

Thank you again for your support and for being part of the St Cuthbert's community. I am looking forward to a successful year together.

If you are planning an absence, even if it is unlikely that school will authorise it, please complete an absence form so that we know where your child is and so that we don't have safeguarding concerns. Thank you for those parents who have been to see me since we have come back and been very open with their plans.

NON UNIFORM DAY



Since arriving at St Cuthbert's, one thing that has stood out to me time and time again is the incredible generosity and kindness shown by our children and families. Whenever there is an opportunity to help others, our school community always responds with compassion and enthusiasm. To celebrate this spirit of giving, we will be holding a non-uniform day on Thursday 17th September. We would like to invite families to make a voluntary donation of £1 to a charity that is very close to my heart.

As a parent, I would like to share my gratitude for the incredible support our family has received from Sense. My daughter, Aine, has complex needs, including significant visual difficulties, and Sense has been there for us from a very early stage. They have helped us understand her condition, shown us how to communicate fully with her, and offered so much warmth, guidance and joy along the way. We genuinely feel that they care for our daughter as much as we do.

Sense has already visited our school and will be working with and supporting some of our children and families later this term. Their expertise and compassion have played a huge part in helping our daughter flourish, and I would love the opportunity to give something back to an organisation that has given so much to our family. If you are able to support their work in any way, it would be greatly appreciated and would help them continue making a difference to children and families like ours.

Aine is currently fronting Sense's Summer which you can see here:

<https://www.sense.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/sense-summer-appeal-2026/>



Will you unlock the world for a deafblind child like Aine?

Every day another child like Aine misses out on connecting with the world around them. For many families with a disabled child, the services that they need aren't there.

With your support we can reach more children who need us.



Each year, St Cuthbert's celebrate Harvest Festival. We welcome donations of tinned and dried goods that will be donated to Stechford foodbank.

We thank you, as always, for your generosity and continued support.



Food items needed most

- Squash/Cordial
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Vegetables
- Pulses
- Meat Soup
- Tinned Fish
- Coffee
- Tinned Tomatoes/Pasta Sauce
- Sponge Puddings
- Instant Mash
- Toiletries (Soap
- Toilet Roll
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo

International Afternoon



On Monday 21st September, we would like to celebrate our rich and diverse community through an International afternoon from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. (hall set up from 2pm). This event, is a chance for our families to come together and enjoy a culinary extravaganza, with foods from all around the world. Families are asked to bring a dish of food from their home culture and will receive in return a ticket to the international buffet! Alternatively, join

in the festivities with a small donation towards school fund through the school office.

If families would like to run any stalls or take part in helping organise this event, please see Mrs Sullivan.

Nursery Places

We still have some places in our nursery for mornings or whole days. If you know someone with a child who has turned three before 1st September 2026 who may be looking for a place, please ask them to ring the office or fill in the form from this





John Henry Newman Catholic College 2026 Open Evening

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

4pm to 7pm

Talks from Principal Mrs. Kate Clarke will take place at
4.15pm, 5pm and 6pm

generaloffice@jhncc.org | 0121 770 5331

Heart Speaks to Heart

This half term our Virtues and Values are Compassionate and Loving



Follow our Instagram!

SEND Enquires



SEND@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

To help us respond in the best way:

- Any questions **about your child** should be shared **first with your child's class teacher**.

- We will always aim to respond **as soon as possible**.

Please also keep an eye on this email, as **information about workshops, events, and external training or support** will be sent from this address.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Need help with completing forms? Do you need things translating?

From next week, Mrs Badshah will be available on Friday afternoons to help parents who require support to complete any forms, particularly if translation is needed. If you would like some time with her, please speak to her at the office and she will give you a time slot.

Remember, Mr Samuels is in school on Wednesdays and Thursdays and is always willing to support families.

CITY KITCHEN YOUR MENU Week FOUR				
Spring and Summer 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BUBBLE FISH CHEESE LATTICE SLICE	LAMB/QUORN BOLOGNAISE	ROAST CHICKEN/QUORN WITH YORKSHIRE PUDDING BATTERED FISH	SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN/QUORN DIPPERS	MARGARITA PIZZA FISH CAKE
SERVED WITH DUCHESS POTATOES, GREEN BEANS AND CARROTS	SERVED WITH GARLIC BREAD AND COLESLAW OR MIXED VEGETABLES	SERVED WITH ROAST OR CREAMED POTATOES CAULIFLOWER, CARROT ROUNDELS	SERVED WITH EGG FRIED RICE AND STIRFRY	SERVED WITH CHUNKY CHIPS, PASTA SHAPES, BAKED BEANS OR SWEETCORN
Assorted filled sandwich or roll, Seasonal salad bar, Bread basket available daily A selection of fresh fruit & yoghurts as alternative to pudding				
GINGER COOKIE	JELLY	FRESH FRUIT PLATTER	JAM SPONGE AND CUSTARD	ICE CREAM TUB
ADDITIONAL MENU OPTIONS AVAILABLE DAILY For any allergen or special dietary requirements please speak to a member of the catering team				
MADE FRESH				

Autumn 1 Masses

Friday 4 th September	Staff Mass – welcome back
Friday 11 th September	Year 5 Mass – Season of Creation
Friday 18 th September	Mini Vinnie Mass
Friday 25 th September	Year 6 Mass – International Week
Friday 2 nd October	Stewards of the Earth Mass – Feast of St Francis of Assisi
Friday 9 th October	KS1 Mass - Harvest Festival
Friday 16 th October	Year 4 Mass – Month of the Rosary

Diary Dates – Please check weekly as new dates will be added. We intend to give as much notice as possible in the coming year but please be understanding if things need to change,

Autumn Term 2026		
Thursday 3 rd September	Whole School	All children return to School
Thursday 3 rd September	Nursery	Nursey Open Days
Friday 4 th September		
Thursday 3 rd September	Reception	Group A (15 children) in
Friday 4 th September	Reception	Group B (15 children) in
Monday 7 th September	EYFS	All children in Nursery and Reception in
Tuesday 8 th September	Year 6	Parent meeting – key information from the class teacher 9.00-9.45am
Wednesday 9 th September	Year 5	Parent meeting – key information from the class teacher 9.00-9.45am
Thursday 10 th September	Year 4	Parent meeting – key information from the class teacher 9.00-9.45am
Monday 14 th September	Reception	Parent meeting – key information from the class teacher 9.00-9.45am
Tuesday 15 th September	Year 3	Parent meeting – key information from the class teacher 9.00-9.45am
Wednesday 16 th September	Year 2	Parent meeting – key information from the class teacher 9.00-9.45am
Thursday 17 th September	Year 1	Parent meeting – key information from the class teacher 9.00-9.45am
Monday 21 st September	Whole School	International Day of Peace 2.00pm – 4.00pm Parents international celebrations
Tuesday 29 th September	Parents	MacMillan Coffee Morning 9.00 – 10.30am
	Mini Vinnies	Tea and cake for parents while raising money for Macmillan and share ideas for parental engagement at St Cuthbert's.
Monday 5 th October	Year 1, 2 & 3	Phonics Workshops 2.30pm – 3.15pm
Monday 12 th October	Year 4, 5 & 6	Maths Workshops 2.30pm – 3.15pm
Monday 19 th October	EYFS	Parent Stay and Play 9.00 – 9.45am
Thursday 23 rd October	Whole School	Break up for Autumn Half Term
Friday 18 th December	Whole School	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 5 th January	Whole School	Start of Spring Term