

Wednesday 26th November 2025

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



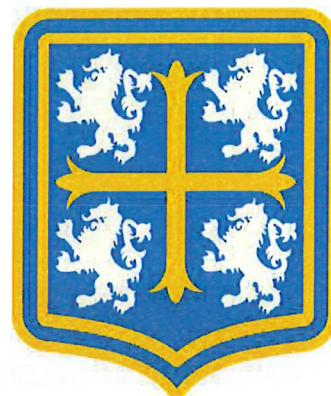
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Headteacher's Message

Good afternoon all, I hope you are enjoying the winter sunshine (better than the rain I have to say) and that you are coping with the fact that it is almost December and another year has flown past.

We have a busy few weeks coming up, as we tinsel and sparkle coming our way through December and I am very much looking forward to my last few weeks with you, Let us Ho! Ho! Ho together as we head towards the end of term.

God Bless! S.M.H.B.

Attendance: Our School Attendance is 94.6%

The national target for attendance is 95%.



Many congratulations to Year 5 who have won the attendance stars for the last two weeks! It is looking like it is going to be a good competition this year – particularly between Year 2, 3 and 5! It is the time of year that attendance falls but please do your best to try to keep your attendance as high as possible.

Parents Evening – Wednesday 3rd December

On your school app – **My Child at School** – you can book your child's appointment for Parent's Evening. It is really important that you have an opportunity to hear about your child/children's progress and see their books and work.

If you struggle using the app please come into the office and we will help you make an appointment. Don't leave it – ask for help!

I think we have had a couple of technical issues but we are sorting it!

Corpus Christi Church – Children's Nativity

Mrs Ireland (school governor) prepares a special Children's Nativity at Corpus Christi Church that is 'performed' on Christmas Eve – 24th December 2025. She needs children who would like to take part to read or act, anyone is welcome. Rehearsals are on Saturday, at the church from 12:00. Please just turn up (with your child) if you want to take part.

School Spaces

I am pleased to say that we have had new children starting school since we have let you know that we have a few school places.

We now have just 2 places in Year 2, with 1 space in Reception.

Please let friends and family know and get the word out on the street!



Advent begins this Sunday. A season of waiting and preparing. "Awake, awake for the Lord is coming."

This half term our Virtues and Values are Learned and Wise



Follow our Instagram!

Rising 3's in Nursery

In the last year or so we have started to take children into the Nursery the term after they turn

3. At present we have made this available to just families within the school because there are a limited number of spaces. There are children on the list to start Nursery as a rising 3 in January. At present there are two long term absences in school (staff members) and this has impacted on the numbers that are allowed to be in the Nursery setting. I am getting advice on the legality of it and we will continue to keep the parents involved up to date with our situation.

I am sorry that this has happened and I am working on it and will be in contact.

St. Cuthbert's Weekly News Updates

As you know one of my roles, alongside a number of other staff and governors, including Mr Whitmore, is to ensure that health and safety of all pupils and staff in school.

We conducted a safeguarding review, in relation to pick up and drop off times.

Issues that have been identified

- Crowding around the area of the Reception, Year 5, Year 6 and Year 4 exit.
- Mr Whitmore and Senior staff being on duty on the main gate but no adult being on the Year 1 gate
- The double gates opening straight onto the road – whereas the Year 1 gate has the barriers directly outside.

After discussions with the senior team and class teachers we have made some changes – as you will have seen.

We are trialling barriers around the Reception and Year 6 door in particularly, to keep parents back a little so staff can clearly see who has left the Reception classroom and Year 6 door.

We are using the Year 1 gate for morning and afternoon pick ups – this is a narrower entrance, however, it seems to be working and it means that Mr Whitmore can stand outside the gate by the barriers and senior staff can be inside.

I hope you can appreciate that we only make these decisions with the safety of you and your children at the heart and thank you for being so understanding about the changes.

Communication and Autism Workshop

Parents of children who are on the Communication and Autism register at school have been sent (via emails) an invitation to a coffee morning which will discuss understanding autism.

Tuesday 16th December 9:00 am – 10:00 am.

If you haven't received an invitation and feel you should have then please contact the school office or speak to Mrs Flaherty.

Christmas Boxes

Mrs McKenna wants to express our thanks to all the families who sent in items for the Christmas Shoe Box appeal. We collected 27 shoe boxes worth of presents that are being sent to a variety of countries where children would not have gifts to open if it weren't for the school box appeal. Thank you for your generous support and thank you to Mrs McKenna for organising it all.

Catholic Life Mini-Vinnie's

The Mini-Vinnie's are back on the charity fundraising train.

We raise money for Mary's Meals which is a charity that provides a daily meal in school for children in schools across the world to support them getting into school.

They will be selling raffle tickets for a Christmas Chocolate Raffle – 20p a ticket.

The raffle will be drawn in the final week of school and they will start selling tickets on Monday 1st December.

We hope to invite Angela from Mary's Meals to help draw the raffle as she has just completed a 600 mile walking pilgrimage on the **Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage trail; raising money for Mary's meals.**

mary's
meals
20 YEARS OF
FEEDING
CHILDREN

Dates for next half term

PE days for classes

Reception- Tuesdays
and Thursdays
Year 1- Tuesday
Year 2- Monday
Year 3- Tuesday
Year 4- Friday
Year 5- Swimming on
a Tuesday
Year 6 -

Mass

Friday 21st November Year 4
Friday 28th November Year 6
Friday 5th December Year 5
Friday 12th December Mini-
Vinnie's
Friday 19th December: Final
Mass of Term

Parents Evening
Wednesday 3rd
December
2025

Christmas Dates
Wednesday 10th
December – Year 4, 5
and 6 Brass
Performance
Thursday 11th
December – Christmas
Dinner Day
Thursday 18th
December – Christmas
Jumper Day

Friday 19th
December 2025 –
Break up for
Christmas 2:00pm

Thursday 11th
December – children
can wear their party
clothes for our
Christmas Dinner
day! Let's sparkle

Christmas Performances

Thursday 4th December – Year 3
Advent Prayer Service
Wednesday 10th December –
Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play
Monday 15th December –
Reception Inspire
Wednesday 17th December –
Year 4/5/6 Carol Service

Teacher Training Day
Monday 5th January
2026

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