



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (NC)
Gumbleberrys Close, Off Cotterills Lane,
Stechford, Birmingham B8 2PS

NEWSLETTER

January 2021

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School Prayer

This is our school;

Let peace live here;

Let the rooms be full of
happiness;

Let love live here.

Love of God,

Love of one another

And love of life itself.

Let us remember

That as many hands
build a house,

So many hearts make a
School.



Amen.

1 Good afternoon to you all, whether you are reading this on the website or have the letter in your hand, I hope that you have survived the week in one piece. There is no doubt that it is a challenging time and certainly, personally, I am finding this 3rd lockdown much harder than the first. I suspect it being January, grey, rainy and cold doesn't help!

2 However I am incredibly proud of how the St Cuthbert's community have responded to the current situation. The staff have been incredible—all staff are in school both working with the children who are attending and delivering live lessons and setting on line work. It has been a huge challenge but I feel that we are providing for all our children, both at home and in school. I cannot thank the staff enough for all they have done.

3 We are monitoring all children who are having to work remotely; we had 26 laptops/notebooks delivered to school on Wednesday and we have contacted families who need devices to allow their children to work remotely. These devices are only on loan and will be returned to school when we re-open.

4 If you haven't received a device and feel that your children are struggling to access remote learning—whether that is because they are having to use a phone or are having to share a device with siblings then please do contact the school and we will see what we can do. We will even consider loaning out our own school devices.

5 Staff are recording daily registers of those who are joining lessons and working remotely and senior teachers or the office staff will contact parents whose children are not accessing work to see what the barriers are and if we can support you or your children in any way.

Staff are happy to talk you through technical difficulties and we are also looking at delivering some training for parents to support them using our learning platform BGFL.

If you need further information about our remote learning please access the school website.

All children have an email and all class teachers have a class email which you can use to contact your child's teachers.

yearrec@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

year1@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

year2@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

year3@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

year4@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

year5@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

year6@stcuthbt.bham.sch.uk

I know it can be just as challenging for you as parents to get used to the technology we are now using to teach your children but we are here to talk you through it and, just ask the teachers, the more you use it, the better you get at being interactive!



Free School Meals

This is probably the most frustrating area of organisation that I have to deal with at present. So a few points to make clear—that the media don't!

> If your child is eligible for FSM—it means that they are eligible for a lunch at school 5 days a week. (1 meal a day)

The government guidance states that schools can:

> **Supply their own food parcels for 5 lunch meals a week.**

> **Arrange for daily lunches to be picked up from school for your child—including hot meals if the school has a kitchen.**

> **Use local providers to supply food parcels for 5 lunches a week per child.**

> **Can use the National Voucher Scheme.**

To be clear—we don't have to provide vouchers if we chose another option. These last two weeks the National Voucher Scheme hasn't been in place and we have offered all our families who are eligible for FSM a food parcel.

No child at St Cuthbert's will ever go hungry—if food is needed we will provide it.

Consider the National Voucher Scheme—the school has to upload, organise and ensure vouchers are received. The office and senior staff spend lots of time then sorting out issues with the vouchers—time that needs to be spent teaching, monitoring, dealing with daily school issues, home visits, phone calls and administration. Now you may feel that at present sorting out vouchers is part of our job—but I would say providing meals for children who are eligible for FSM is part of my job.

You can see how frustrated I am with the situation—the National Voucher Scheme is open from Monday, I am meeting with the senior team to discuss what we will do for our children on FSM this afternoon. **If** we decide to issue vouchers this will be done over the course of next week—**not Monday**. If you need to you can phone on Monday for a food parcel and we will provide it for you.

The government are also not going to back date vouchers as school have offered food to all families who are eligible for the last two weeks.

If we do adopt the voucher scheme, unlike previous times, we won't have the time to sort out all technical issues—therefore we will look at different ways you can either contact us (i.e. email) and the actual voucher provider.

Sorry about the above but I hope that you can understand that vouchers aren't the only thing going on in school at the moment! Over the course of the weekend I will be putting together a number of contacts, websites etc that parents can access to support them at this time.

The city council are giving out information regularly and I hope to put it on the website for you to look at. If you do need ANY help then please do contact us, we are here to help and if we can't we may be able to access help for you.

Have a good weekend.

Take Care, Mrs Hobbs

Please keep in your prayers and thought

Nuala in Year 5 who is very poorly in hospital. We know that away from Covid that people are ill and Nuala needs lots of medical support at the moment. We send her and her parents our warmest wishes and love.

Mrs Christine Ireland—Governor and Parishioner who is also in hospital at the moment. She is such a massive support to St Cuthbert's and we keep her and her family in our prayers. It is also her birthday today!

We remember any in our community who are facing their own personal losses.

Anam's family whose grandfather died recently and any who are in hospital.

We also keep in our prayers all the members of our community who are working in hospitals at the present time.

May God bless them all and keep them in his

