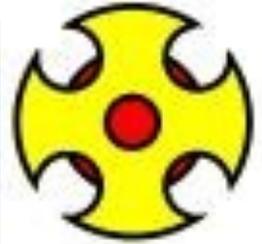


St Cuthbert's CE Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2025



## Believe Achieve Inspire

### Christmas Edition

## Message from the Headteacher

As we approach the final few days before Christmas, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything our school community has achieved this half term. With just **6 days to go until Christmas**, the excitement around school is tangible, and the festive spirit is in full swing!

This half term has been a busy and memorable one, filled with experiences that truly reflect our school vision: **Believe, Achieve, Inspire**. We gathered together for our **Remembrance Service**, showing respect and reflection for those who have served. Our KS2 pupils welcomed a **Muslim visitor**, enriching their understanding of World Views and Religions. Year 3/4 embraced teamwork and adventure on their **Nell Bank Residential**, while KS1 and Early Years delighted us all with their heart warming **Nativity performance!** Festivities are planned with cheerful **Christmas parties**, and of course, the term wouldn't be complete without a very special visit from **Santa**, spreading joy and smiles across the school.

This half term, our CHAMPS value has been **HOPE**. Pupils have been thinking about what can be achieved when everyone contributes, whether through **Harvest, Remembrance**, or simply by showing kindness to others every day. Looking ahead to the new year, we will focus on **Aspiration**, encouraging all our pupils to dream big, set goals, and strive to be and achieve the very best they can.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish our pupils, families, and wider community a peaceful, joyful, and very **Merry Christmas**. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term of learning and growth.

**With best wishes, Miss Nicola Thornber**

Please see overleaf for information regarding staffing

### Dates for your diary

Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 January 2026—staff training days—no children

Wednesday 7 January 2026—children return to school

Friday 13 February 2026—break for half term

I am writing to let you know that Mrs Sheldon has decided to leave her role at St Cuthbert's School to spend more time with her young family. Mrs Sheldon has been with the Federation for four years and recently returned to us following the birth of her second child, but, after careful thought, has now chosen to focus on balancing family and home life at this stage.

We would like to thank Mrs Sheldon for her dedication and the positive contribution she has made to the children and the school during her time with us, and we wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

To ensure continuity and stability for the children, we have reviewed and adjusted the class timetable. These changes have been carefully planned so that the familiar staff from the Federation continue to work with the children and learning routines remain consistent. The arrangements are in place and teaching will continue without disruption.

We understand the importance of consistency and want to reassure you that your child's education and wellbeing remain our highest priority. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and trust in our work.



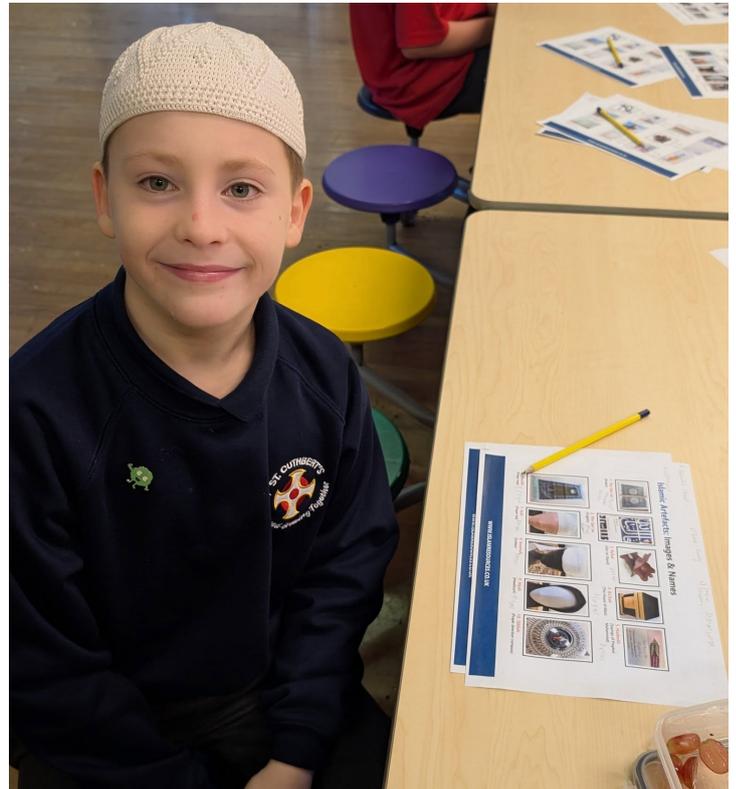
### **Nell Bank**

what a fantastic time our Year 3 and Year 4 had at their residential visit this year!



*A lovely message was received from a parent thanking our wonderful staff Mrs Fearnley, Miss Normington and Miss Turner who did a fantastic job earlier this week giving our Year 3 and Year 4 across the federation a wonderful time! .*

Year 5 and 6 really enjoyed our Islam workshop this half term. They were very respectful when handling artefacts and learning about what it is like to be a British Muslim. This reinforced our British Values work on Tolerance and Mutual Respect.



# Christmas Events

**Nativity**—On Wednesday our Early Years and Key Stage one children performed 'The Twinkly Nativity for their parents and grandparents. I am sure that you will agree they were fabulous! We are so proud of them they let 'Their light **Shine!**' - more photos overleaf.....

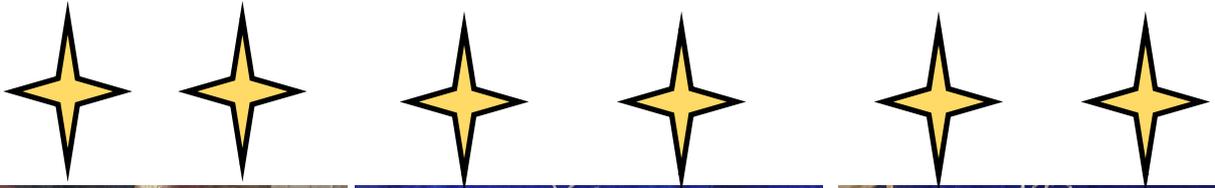


**Christmas Jumper Day**  
our children looked fabulous in their Christmas Jumpers—school was very colourful!





*The Twinkly Nativity*





We had a fabulous time listening to the **Music Service Musicians** last Thursday. Your child should have come home with a letter explaining about the visit and what the music service can offer.

### Visit from Father Christmas!

On Thursday morning, we were delighted to welcome a very special visitor to school! Father Christmas delivered gifts to each class, and the children made sure he knew exactly where they all lived. Afterward, he told us he had to head off to check on the elves as they prepare for next week. Many thanks to Gwen at Moorview Rescue for helping with this!



What a busy and magical final few weeks we have had in school. The children in Emerald class have all worked hard and I am really proud of all the achievements that they have made this term. In Maths we have been learning all about multiplication and division and using our skills to solve problems. Please remember to access Times Table Rockstars as it is a fabulous tool to use to learn those very important multiplication facts.

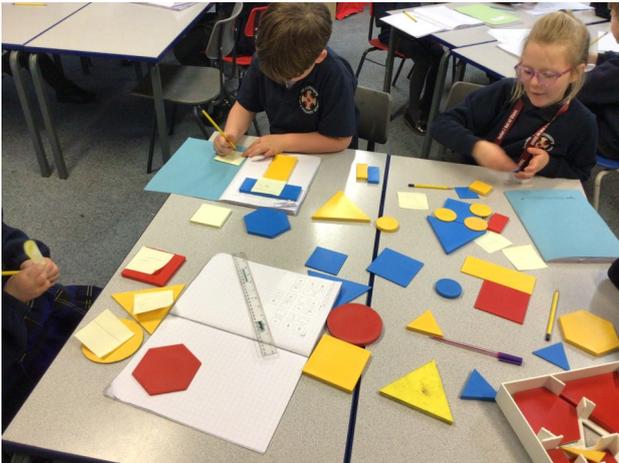
In English we completed our set of instructions to make a stone age tool inspired by our visit to Stump Cross Caverns and some homework one of our pupils brought in. We are currently writing to inform and finding out about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. They have found and shared some very interesting facts.

The children in Year 3 and 4 had a wonderful residential and it is lovely to hear them talking about it and the memories that they made.

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed their Islam workshop to enhance their learning about what it is like to be a British Muslim. In science we enjoyed our experiment all about fermentation to investigate what nutrition the yeast needs to work. Ask your child about what happened.

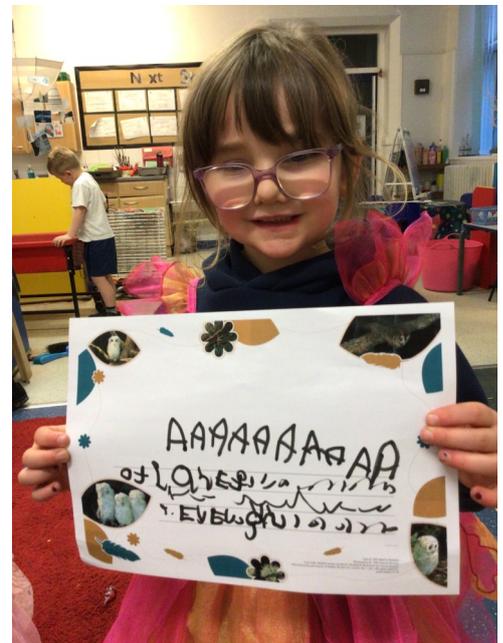
In festive news we are so proud of Beck who won the Christmas card competition ran by our local MP, Sir Julian Smith. How wonderful that our Federation will feature in so many homes and offices across the country this Christmas.

Thank you for all your support this term and Emerald class would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2026.



In spellings Ruby class have been looking at contractions where we have been combining two words to make a singular shorter word. The children enjoyed finding the pair to their word.

In English we are working towards our final piece of writing instructions and what specific techniques you need when writing instructions. Hopefully all children will come home for Christmas with a set of baking



This half term in Diamond Class we have been so busy! We observed Remembrance Day with some poppy painting in our outdoor area. We read stories about Remembrance and learned how people around the world observe this special day.

Our youngest children are still loving discovering that they can express themselves through writing. They are experimenting with sounds and letters and learning the correct formation for the letters. This exploration stage is crucial to their later writing success, and we love to see them play with language! Our Year 1 children are learning some complex concepts in maths this half term. We are exploring different strategies for adding and subtracting numbers up to 20, and developing a deep understanding of those numbers in the process. We are learning to explain our mathematical thinking using the vocabulary we have learnt. In order to support this work, we have a tub of problem-solving activities in our classroom, and the children are enjoying having a go with them.

## Attendance Policy

**please see the school website for the full version of the policy**

Improving attendance is everyone's business. This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's statutory guidance [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781212/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk).pdf) through our whole school ethos that values good attendance, including;

Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils.

Promoting good attendance and the benefits of good attendance.

Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence

Ensuring that every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled.

Acting early to address patterns of absence.

Building strong relationships with families to make sure that pupils have the support in place to attend school.

We understand that barriers to attendance are complex, and that some pupils find it harder than others to attend school; therefore, we will continue to prioritise cultivating a safe and supportive environment at school, as well as strong and trusting relationships with pupils and parents.

We take a whole-school approach to securing good attendance, and recognise the impact that our efforts in other areas – such as the curriculum, behaviour standards, bullying, SEND support, pastoral support, and the effective use of resources such as pupil premium – can have on improving pupil attendance.

The Federation's attendance officer is Mrs Nicola Wilkinson, and she can be contacted at each school via the following email address:

[absence@uppernidderdalefed.school](mailto:absence@uppernidderdalefed.school)

Staff, parents and pupils will be expected to contact the attendance officer for queries or concerns about attendance.

As a federation, we refer to the DfE document. "Working Together to Improve School Attendance." August 2024.

### **Parents are responsible for:**

- Making sure their child attends every day and on time
- Calling the school to report their child's absence before 8:55 am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advising when they are expected to return
- Providing the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child.
- Ensuring that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- Keeping to any attendance contracts that they make with the school and/or local authority
- Seeking support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting Mrs. Wilkinson or Mrs. Fearnley.