



St Cuthbert's

NEWSLETTER

December 2024



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carer and Friends,

As we approach the festive season—only **10 days** until Christmas! (as I am writing) —the school has been buzzing with activity! (as always). We've had a fantastic few weeks filled with some key meaningful events that reflect our commitment to raising awareness and living out our CHAMPS values.

Anti-Bullying Week and **Unicef RRSA Day** were highlights, offering important opportunities for children to learn more about choices, honesty, respect, kindness, and their rights and responsibilities. These events not only enrich our curriculum but also reinforce the positive culture we strive to foster every day both in and out of school.

As we head toward the Christmas break, we're mindful that this time of year brings excitement but can also feel overwhelming for some children and adults. As always, we aim to keep our activities manageable and balanced, ensuring everyone enjoys the season while maintaining well-being. We do not try to compete with West End productions...however, our children help create better memories for us!

We have already held our fabulous Nativity and Carols & Mince pies – thank you for your support.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the **First Federation Friday of the term**—it was a great success! Take a look at some of the Facebook photos we have been enjoying a variety of different experiences.

Finally, please keep an eye out for any updates or date changes as we finalise and add to our festive plans.

Warm wishes,

Miss Thornber and Team

CHAMPS Values and Ethos

This Half Term our CHAMPS Value is

CHOICES

Our Vision

At Upper Nidderdale Primary Federation, we will all approach everything we do in the **CHAMPS** way, helping every child flourish into a caring, confident and resilient young person who has a love of learning and:

- Chooses the right way and takes responsibility for their own actions
- Is **Honest** in everything they do and shows compassion for others
- **Achieves** the best they can with the talents they have and develops their wisdom
- Shows good **Manners** to everyone and treats everyone with respect
- **Perseveres** when situations are difficult and shows courage when they are challenged
- Knows how to keep **Safe** on and offline, ensuring that everyone is kept physically and emotionally safe.

This shows the special relationship we have with each other, where as a community, we look after each other, keeping each other safe – **Koinonia**.

Monthly Attendance Summary for November 2024

Diamond 1: 92.12%

Ruby 2: 89.59%

Emerald 3: 91.96%

Whole school: 91.3%

Christian Values

This half term our Christian Value is **COMPASSION**. We have talked about how we can all care for each other. We talked a lot about treating others how we would like to be treated. Can you think of a time when you have helped others?

Articles of the Month

**Article 42 Knowledge of Our Rights
Linked to World Children's Day (November 20th)**

Diamond Class

Don't forget to like our Facebook pages so you can see lots of the wonderful learning your children are taking part in each day

We have been busy this term continuing our Little Wandle phonics – learning new sounds in EYFS and different ways of spelling in Year 1. We have had lots of fun predicting our new text of *Iris and Isaac*, talking about Arctic animals, polar regions and the Northern Lights.

In Geography, we have been locating continents, oceans and locating the equator. We have learned the difference between climate and weather and talking about the continents closest to the equator and comparing them from those far away.

In Maths we have been learning names of 2D and 3D shapes, identifying and classifying them into groups. We have then moved onto whole numbers and part numbers and talking about addition, solving problems practically.

As we move closer in to December we are beginning to sing our new Nativity songs, learn about the meaning of Christmas and why Christians celebrate Christmas. We look forward to showing you our final performance of the Nativity at the end of the term.



Ruby Class

Don't forget to like our Facebook pages so you can see lots of the wonderful learning your children are taking part in each day



As the weather turns colder and the festive season draws near, the children have been busier than ever, working hard in their lessons and taking part in exciting activities. The shorter days and chilly mornings haven't slowed them down; their enthusiasm and energy have shone brightly throughout this term!

In Maths, we've been focusing on the building blocks of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The children have shown great progress in developing their skills and applying them to solve tricky problems. In English, they've been learning how to write reports, focusing on schools in the past. They've used subheadings to organise their ideas and crafted thoughtful paragraphs. It's been lovely to see how this work has tied in with their History lessons, where they've explored how school life has changed over time.

Outdoor education has been another highlight of the term. The children especially enjoyed creating mud figures of wild animals: hedgehogs, foxes, and other creatures. Although things got a little messy, the results were fantastic, and the children loved showing off their creations!

This term has been a wonderful mix of hard work and fun. I am so proud of everything the children have achieved. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Emerald Class

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We have been very busy in Emerald Class. In English we have been writing instructions to show how to make a memory box. They have produced some wonderful pieces of work and they are showcased in the hall on our writing wall.

In Maths we have completed our unit about multiplication and division. We have played lots of games to help us remember our times tables and we can see the progress that the children are making.

The children have loved our Science lessons and finding out about how to look after your teeth. Ask them what happened to the eggs after we put them in a selection of different liquids. The children in Year 5 and 6 have been learning about the heart and how important it is and how to look after it.

I was so proud of our eldest children when they represented our federation at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. They have really enjoyed learning about WW2 and you could see how reflective our children are as they paid their respects.

It was wonderful to take the children in Year 5 and 6 swimming the other week and to see the progress they have made in their lessons. I have heard some wonderful stories about the children in Year 3 and 4 on their residential. We are so proud of everything that they achieved.



Attendance News

Term time holiday absences

The cost of a holiday and tickets has increased significantly over recent years. Whilst we appreciate that this is one of the main reasons parents take their children out of school for term time holidays, there are some things we would like you to consider:

Impact on performance and mental health:

Absences from school cause gaps in children's knowledge and understanding. As children progress through school they build on their existing knowledge, however children who have gaps struggle to grasp next steps. As well as the negative impact this has on progress, this can also cause children to lack confidence and suffer from low self-esteem, stress and anxiety.

Penalty Notice

One week of term time holiday amounts to ten unauthorised sessions. This means that school would have to notify the local authority for them to issue a penalty notice or fine.

School Attendance this year

School attendance is tracked by the government and this is compared to our school attendance.

Currently St. Cuthbert's attendance is well below the expected standard.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Next term we are running a Music Band Club on a Tuesday after school for KS2, Chess Club on a Wednesday morning before school for KS2, and Kanga Sports Club on a Friday morning for both KS1 & KS2.

After Christmas Mr Wilkinson will be starting a Ukulele Club – see separate letters sent home.



Community Give Back

A massive shout out to the Nidderdale National Landscape Waller's association for making repairs to our school field! This was helped by Andrew Weatherhead who also kindly donated stone from his side of the wall to help fill the gaps. The ground has been too wet for them to complete the work doing but they have promised to return in the spring.

At half-term we were able to provide all our families who are entitled to free school meals with a voucher of food again. This is thanks to a donation from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. We hope that none of our families have to go hungry, but there is support available if needed. Please message Mrs Fearnley, in confidence, on familysupportworker@uppernidderdalfed.school if you need any help.

We know that Christmas is a time for giving but we are also aware that this time of year can be financially stressful. As per our policy, we ask that you don't buy teacher gifts so that no one feels that they have to put themselves under pressure to keep up with others. For those that like to give, a lovely written note means so much to us.

Pupil Leadership News



Online Team

The Online Leaders have been promoting online safety to everyone and letting people know what to do if they see something online that upsets them. We have been busy keeping making sure the laptops and equipment are looked after.



Rights Respecting Team

We have been doing a lot of work throughout school about knowing the difference between wants and needs. We also promoted the Rights of the Child on November 20th - International Children's Day -the Rights of the Child were 35 years old.



Sports Leaders

The sport leaders have been incredibly busy this term, developing Game of the Week. Every playtime, the children have taught and led a different game or sport. This term, the sports leaders have taught sports such as hockey and basketball; and taught games such as infinity tig and treasure. The purpose behind this was to get as many children playing together from all different age groups. The children have fed back indicating playtimes feel safer and more inclusive.



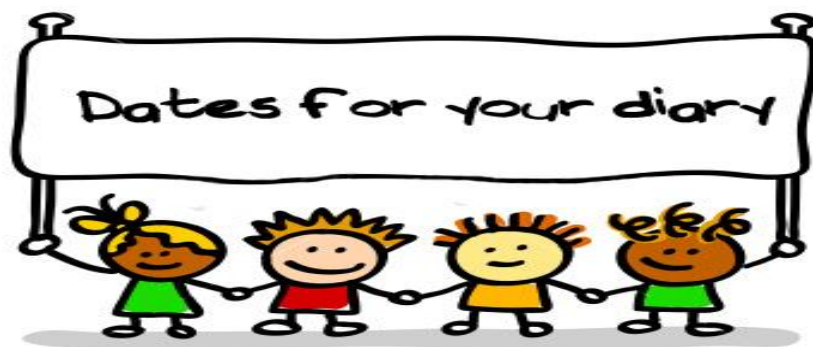
Wellbeing & Happiness Team

The Wellbeing and Happiness Team met to make their plan for the year. This year they would like to have a happiness bench where children can go when they are sad. The Team will then be available to help cheer them up or get them some help from an adult.



Collective Worship Team

The Collective Worship Team met to make their plan for this half term. They would like to lead some Collective Worships to the other children so we will support them to do this.



Dates
for
your
diary

Date	December
10/12/2024	STC – Carols and Mince Pies (all parents)
11/12/2024	Christmas Dinner Day
11/12/2024	St Cuthbert's Nativity (Early Years and KS1)
12/12/2024	Christmas Jumper Day
19/12/2024	STC Winter Walk
20/12/2024	Break for Christmas Holiday

SPRING TERM (6 January – 4 April 2025)	
1ST HALF TERM – 6 weeks (6 Jan – 14 Feb)	SWIMMERS: Years 5 & 6
6 January	Staff Training Day – School closed to children
7 January	School starts – all children
14 January	8:15-8:45am Parent Breakfast with the children
27 January	Young Voices Concert – Sheffield Arena (KS2 children)
3-7 February	Children's Mental Health Week
4-7 February	Book Fair
11 February	Safer Internet Day
14 February	School closes for half-term (normal time)
2nd HALF TERM – 6 weeks (24 Feb – 4 Apr)	SWIMMERS: Years 3 & 4
24 February	School starts – all children
6 March	World Book Day
7-16 March	British Science Week
13 March	1-6pm Parent Information Sessions
14 March	Federation Friday
29 March (Saturday)	10am-4pm Working Bee – all volunteers welcome!
2 April	Reception Parents – Learning Journey Updates 10-minute appointments available each day: 8:15/8:25/8:35am or 3:45/3:55/4:05pm
3 April	1:45-2:45pm Federation Easter Service at St Cuthbert's Church
4 April	pm Easter Bunny Trail (weather permitting)
4 April	3:30pm School Closes for Easter

NOTICEBOARD



Baby/Toddler Groups

Glasshouses

Every Friday 9:30 – 11:00 am

St Cuthbert's

Every Thursday 1:15 – 2.45 pm – Starting date tbc

All groups run during term-time only

No charge, but donations towards refreshments appreciated



**Upper Nidderdale Primary
Federation Nursery**



**Based at St Cuthbert's Primary,
Pateley Bridge**

We welcome children from the age of three and we are an Early Entitlement registered setting (15-30 hours funding depending on your circumstances). For more information, ring the office at St Cuthbert's on 01423 711407.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast and Afterschool club, Monday – Thursday, Friday breakfast club ONLY.

7.45am – 8.45am and 3.30pm-5.30pm

Email

parentinfo@uppernidderdalefed.school

Please can we kindly ask that you consider local residents when you are parking your cars to pick up your children.

Please do not park on yellow lines or across drive ways

Thank you

PATELEY BRIDGE FOOD BANK

If you are struggling financially then we can provide you with the essentials to tide you over.



Open Monday to Thursday 10am – 3pm.
Due to current restrictions, please telephone first on 07792419982.
Email – horlix@aol.com.

*We are here for everyone, singles or families, if you're in receipt of benefits or not.
Don't struggle alone – we're here to help.
Confidentiality assured.*

Service provided and managed by The Church in the Dale.