



**Newsletter 35**  
**9th June 2020**



Dear Parents,

The children in school have been a delight and all have behaved brilliantly with care and thought for others. They have also been busy in lessons, playing and being active. It was lovely to hear Fr Brian thank four of our Key Worker children – Enola, Ruby, Evelyn and Genevieve – for the beautiful doves they drew for Pentecost along with several other pupils who were mentioned for their artistic contributions sent from home for display around the altar at St Mark's on Sunday. We also heard the news that churches are re-

opening for private prayer from June 15<sup>th</sup>. Pictured are some of the art created last week in school.



**A lockdown winner**

Congratulations to Joseph McHugh who has put his time at home to very good use. Joseph took part in Luke Temple's writing competition and scooped the top prize, winning a visit by the author. Entrants were asked to write a lockdown diary entry. Luke Temple said: "There were hundreds of entries in my lockdown competition, including some great ones from St Cuthbert Mayne pupils. Joseph's piece was just brilliant." Well done Joseph. Please look out for Joseph's piece on the pupil blog. [www.communitycuthbert.edublogs.org](http://www.communitycuthbert.edublogs.org)

**Re-opening to other year groups**

We are awaiting further guidance on opening up to other year groups. Until the Government guidance changes, we do not have the option to open to Year 3 or any other group. We will act on any new guidance as quickly as possible – when it comes.

Every school has to organise re-opening as they deem appropriate for their setting. The physical layout of the building, staffing, safety precautions, home learning support and current prevalence of Covid-19 are all part of how each school can re-open.

At St Cuthbert Mayne we are currently providing:

- Year 6 children the opportunity to spend two days a week in their classroom with, where possible, their class teacher. Miss Reed has stood in for Mrs Knight who has been able to video conference the two Johnston bubbles.
- Maintain daily class blogs with teacher support in the day
- Two Key Worker bubbles – one predominantly Yr3 and Yr6; the other predominantly Yr4 and Yr5.

### **A note on Bubbles**

We have four bubbles currently operating in school. The pupils and staff in each bubble do not mix with other bubbles during any one day. We try to keep the bubbles consistent all of the time but cannot keep the same staff all week.

There are times when children do need to switch bubbles and I would like to give clarification on this. We deem it appropriate for children in key worker bubbles to attend their class group when it is open to them. Attending school is the first priority but we would not want to deny key workers childcare.

When this needs to happen, the switch is in blocks of three or two days ie a child could be in Key Worker care on Monday to Wednesday and then switch to class on Thursday and Friday; or be in class on Monday and Tuesday and switch to Key Worker care on Wednesday to Friday.

Our rationale for this is:

- School takes priority over Key Worker Care but we cannot deny care for our key workers
- In any one day, there is no contact between bubbles
- Strict hygiene rules and safety guidance is the same for all bubbles
- We believe that a child switching bubbles presents no greater risk than a child coming into a class who has not been in school
- To date, since lockdown the school has not been a source of spreading Covid-19
- It is important for pupils to have time with their class teacher and support staff.

Should there be a case of Covid-19 in school, we would inform all affected bubbles and follow the Public Health England advice and protocol.

### **A note to all parents**

Whilst we are making every effort to keep pupils and staff in school safe. We are reliant on you all to follow Government advice on the current lockdown. It would not be fair on pupils, their families and staff in school, if you sent your child into school if you were not following the current regulations and taking unnecessary risks at home.

Staff, in particular, are at greater risk if they contract Covid-19. We are only able to open and provide key worker care thanks to their willingness to work at this time. So please do not send your child to school if you have not adhered to the current lockdown or if they have any

symptoms. You should keep your child at home for two weeks following any breach. This is going to be increasingly important as we re-open to other year groups.

### **Year 6 transition**

Year 6s received their leavers' hoodies this week. If you have not received it yet, please contact the office and arrange for collection from the playground between 3.00 and 3.30 or via a classmate.

We are hoping to hold a Leavers Mass in some form and teachers will be thinking of ways the children can be prepared for this significant event to make the end of their time at St Cuthbert Mayne. We are also thinking about how we can hold a gathering – a social distancing picnic perhaps – but we will be guided by the Government regulations / instructions in the last week of term.

JFK have been in touch with the Year 6 teachers to discuss a virtual meet with the pupils going there in September. The children are also going to be asked to do a piece of work on three things JFK should know about them – their Year 6 teachers will give instructions on this in their class blogs. When we hear from other schools our children are going to, we will let you know their plans.

### **September staff changes**

We are busily preparing for September when we will be welcoming several new members of staff. We are delighted that Mrs Hobbs, who currently works one day a week in our SEND team, is joining us as a class teacher along with experienced teachers who are new to us – Miss Calloway and Miss Phillips. We also have several new teaching support staff both as class TAs and 1:1 support. Mrs Wheeler replaces Mrs Cassidy (who retired at Easter) while others (to be announced later) are all additional staff who we look forward to welcoming to our school community.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to two teachers who are going on to new opportunities elsewhere and both will be greatly missed. Our good wishes go to senior leadership team member Mrs Gallaher who has been with us for 11 years and has played a big part in so many children's lives and in our community. And we are sorry to lose Miss Wheeler who has contributed so much in Year 3 and to the school this year. The third post is to cover Mrs Knight for a year as cover for her maternity leave. Mrs Knight will also be supporting in upper Key Stage 2 before going on leave.

### **House Points**

There is a tremendous amount of home learning continuing and we have collated the latest totals for each House. Every house point makes a difference as is shown by the latest tally – just one point between first and second in the running total.

St Catherine 471, St Dominic 470, St Martin 452 and St Rose 400.

## **Remembrance Garden**

We are still open to ideas for our Remembrance Garden. Staff are starting to work on the area in the top playground. We would really like to source some large smooth stones (that we can then paint in school). Something in the region of a foot in diameter. If anyone knows where we could get these from, we would be very interested to hear from you. Any other ideas for the area (where the decking was in the upper playground) please do let us know.

## **Nature area**

We are also planning to develop and open up the nature area behind the staff car park. A new gate is planned to avoid children going through the car park. We are hoping to create a working party who could help set up and maintain this area. If this is something you would be like to be part of please could you let me know. One of our governors, Mr Wesley, is co-ordinating this plan along with our site manager Mr McKinnon.

We send our thoughts and prayers to all those members of our community who are suffering; have family members who are ill; and those who have suffered bereavement.

Best wishes

Fionnuala Smith  
Head Teacher