



Friday 10th July 2026



Dear parents,

I can't believe we are almost at the end of another year! We have had a fantastic year and I am so proud of the achievements of all the children. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support this year. Your support is greatly appreciated and we couldn't provide our children with the wonderful opportunities without it. I would also like to thank our Governors who volunteer their time to support the leadership of our school. Our children receive a high-quality education and a wide range of experiences and opportunities that just wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of all the staff here at Cleves. I want to thank all of the team for their commitment to the school and the support they have given me over this year - thank you and we'll do it all again next year!

Finally, I would like to thank all of our children here at Cleves Cross for their hard work, resilience and positive attitude to learning.

For those of you returning to us in September, children return to school on Wednesday 2nd September.

Right of the Fortnight

Our final right of the year is: **Article 31** – children have the right to rest and play.

Pupil Annual Reports

On Monday your child will be bringing home their annual report. Please read it carefully, share it with your child and if you would like to speak to your child's teacher or myself or you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to get in touch through the class or school email.

Nursery Graduation and Stay and

Play – Thursday 16th July

Nursery are looking forward to inviting grown-ups into school on **Thursday 16th July at 9:30** for a graduation ceremony followed by a stay and play session. Children usually attending Nursery in the afternoon are asked to attend the morning session 8.30 to 11.30 instead. We hope you can make it.



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Final Day Celebrations – Friday 17th July

On the final day of term, we will be having a celebration assembly in the morning to celebrate the successes of this term. Children are expected to wear school uniform and can bring clothes to change into or they can go home and get changed.

We will then have a toy day which the children always enjoy. Children can bring toys and games in from home - please avoid electronics and games with small parts.

At the end of the day, we will have our Leavers Disco in the school hall. This will be straight after school (3:30-5:00pm). As always, Y6 parents are very welcome into the hall for the final goodbye at 4.50pm...bring your own tissues!

Goodbye and good luck to our fantastic Y6 pupils!

It is so sad that we have to say goodbye to our Year 6 class. They had a disrupted KS1 experience but I am so pleased that they have been able to enjoy school life throughout KS2 and take full advantage of all the opportunities they have been offered. We are expecting to receive the KS2 SATs results next week, we look forward to sharing them with you once we have them. I am sure they will have fond memories of their time here and that they continue their education journey with the same positive attitudes and determination to achieve their very best that they have shown during their time at Cleves Cross. We wish them all the very best as they move on to their new adventures and know that there will still be many fantastic experiences ahead of them.



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School Meal Prices – Year 3 and above

Durham Local Authority increased their school meal prices to £3.08 in April and we have managed to keep the cost at £2.80 for the rest of this academic year. From September 2026 the price of a school meal will increase to £2.95 per pupil per day. This is still below the local authority price. This charge applies to all pupils in Year 3 and above who are not in receipt of free school meals. If your circumstances change and you think could be entitled to free school meals, then please contact the school office to collect a form.

Dates to remember so far...



July

Tuesday 14th - Nursery Beach Trip
Wednesday 15th - KS1 Beach Trip
Thursday 16th - KS2 Beach Trip
Thursday 16th - Nursery Graduation & Stay
and Play 9:30am
Friday 17th July - Toy Day
Friday 17th - Celebration Assembly
Friday 17th - Leavers Disco 3:30pm-5pm
Friday 17th July - Last day of term

September

Tuesday 1st - PD Day
Wednesday 2nd - Children return to school
Friday 18th - 20th - Y5/Y6 Winmarleigh trip

Annual Beach Trips

The children are really looking forward to our annual beach trip to South Shields. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 head off on Wednesday 15th July and Key Stage 2 (Y3-Y6) head off on Thursday 16th July. Children should be coming home with a list of items they will require for the beach. Nursery children are visiting Roker Beach on Tuesday 14th July. Payments for all trips should be made on Compass - thank you for your support with this.

Warmer Weather

The weather forecast remains warm for the rest of the term. Please send your child to school with sun cream applied and a bottle of sun cream in their bag so it can be reapplied during the day. Please also ensure they have their water bottle with them that can be refilled when needed and a hat to protect the at break time.



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

MANAGING DIGITAL BOUNDARIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

Screens are part of everyday life, but they should not take over early childhood routines. For under-fives, healthy digital habits are built through simple, steady boundaries that protect sleep, play, connection, and development. Current UK guidance advises avoiding screen time for children under two – except for shared activities such as video calls – while children aged two to five should ideally have no more than one hour a day.

1 ASK A GROWN-UP FIRST

For under-fives, autonomy is important, but not when it comes to choosing digital content. Establish an 'ask a grown-up first' rule early, whether at home or in an early years setting. Adults should choose the video, app, or game, therefore helping children avoid unsuitable content and understand that devices are tools to be guided, not toys to control.

2 PROTECT SLEEP BUFFERS

Screens can make it harder for young children to wind down, especially when content is bright, noisy, or fast paced. Aim for a screen-free hour before sleep or start with 30 minutes if that feels more realistic. Use this time for calming routines such as stories, bath time, quiet play, or cuddles, helping children recognise that bedtime is approaching.

3 CO-VIEW AND CHAT

Screen time is safer and more meaningful when adults are involved. Sit with children, even briefly, and talk about what they're watching. Ask simple questions like, "What can you see?" or "How does that character feel?" This turns passive viewing into shared interaction, supports language development, and helps adults spot adverts, unsuitable content, or confusing messages.

4 KEEP DEVICES HIDDEN

Young children are more likely to ask for screens when they can see or reach them. Keep devices out of sight when they're not being used, and consider casting content to a shared screen instead of handing over a phone or tablet to a child. This reduces private scrolling, supports shared viewing, and helps adults stay in control of what appears next.

5 PLAN THE TRANSITION

The hardest part of screen time is often stopping. Before the screen goes off, tell the child what's coming next and offer two acceptable choices, such as blocks or drawing. This gives them a sense of agency without removing the boundary. A planned next activity prevents a sudden gap, which can quickly become frustration or distress.

6 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children notice adult habits long before they understand adult explanations. If they're expected to put their screens away, they need to see adults doing the same thing during meals, play, and conversations. Create a shared 'phone home', such as a basket or shelf, to show that technology has a place in daily life but does not need constant attention.

7 MAKE SCREENS PREDICTABLE

Young children do not always understand minutes, but they quickly learn patterns. When screen time happens at a regular point in the day, it becomes a routine rather than a negotiation. Use the same start and finish signals each time, such as a timer, goodbye wave, or tidy-away moment, so children know what to expect next.

8 CREATE SCREEN ZONES

Physical boundaries help children understand digital boundaries. Keep screens out of bedrooms to protect their sleep and away from tables to preserve mealtime connections. Choose one agreed 'yes space', such as a shared living room area or supervised classroom corner. This makes limits feel less personal and more like a clear family or setting routine.

9 USE SIMPLE SCRIPTS

Transitions are easier when children hear the same calm language each time. Use short, repeatable phrases such as, "First tidy, then tablet," or "When the timer beeps, we stop." Avoid long explanations during emotional moments. Simple scripts reduce negotiation, help adults stay consistent, and give children clear expectations they can gradually understand and follow.

10 PRIORITISE SLOW CONTENT

Not all screen time feels the same to a young child's brain. Fast-paced clips, loud sounds, and rapid scene changes can make it harder for some children to settle down afterwards. Choose slower content with simple stories, gentle voices, and natural pauses. Think of digital content like food, with more calm, nourishing choices than fast-paced, digital 'sugar rushes'.

Meet Our Expert

Neha Agarwal is the founder of Cyber Ved Kids, an innovative educational initiative that transforms complex cybersecurity concepts into engaging, age-appropriate adventures for children aged 3-10. With her unique background leading cybersecurity services for corporates and serving as an expert panel advisor on Internet Matters, Neha brings corporate-grade cybersecurity expertise to the early years world.



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