



Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801

Our whole school and community enjoyed a great end to the first half term of the school year as many, many families and friends joined us for our activity morning and our Harvest Festival. All your very generous donations will be passed on to Peter and the team at Nite Bite tomorrow. We are all looking forward to another exciting half-term with everyone working together once again to provide our children with the best experiences we can and to make a positive difference to the world around us.

Year 5 have won the attendance star trophy this week with a near-perfect score of 97.5%, just beating year 2. We work hard with families and partner agencies to make sure every child achieves the best attendance they can. Can we remind all families that we ask you to contact school when your child is absent from school for any reason at all.



Class	%
Reception	96.6
Year 1	94
Year 2	97.2
Year 3	96
Year 4	94.1
Year 5 🏆	97.5
Year 6	93.6
Whole school	95.5

Year 6 will be taking part in the fantastic Monozukuri project with Nissan at their car plant in Sunderland tomorrow. This is a brilliant opportunity for the children to enjoy finding out all about car design and production and to see car-building factory robotics in action!



The First Holy Communion Programme for St. Cuthbert and St. Joseph's parish will begin with an introductory session for families who wish their children to make their First Holy Communion on Thursday 2nd November at St. Cuthbert's Church. The meeting will outline how the course runs through the year, the commitment expected from families and children and information about all the key dates and times. It is also your chance to speak to Fr. Chris and the catechists about the programme- children from years 4, 5 and 6 can make their First Communion.



Thank you to everyone for booking before and after school clubs before we broke up for half term. Our staff give their time to plan, prepare for and run the clubs and we do everything we can to make sure as many children as possible can attend clubs. With some clubs, we need to restrict numbers due to the number of staff running the club. Before every club we take a register which is based on the children booked on for that club. If your child won't be staying for the club at any time can you please make sure you contact us at the school office on 0191 691 9876 to let us know.



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Children across school continued to work with Mrs Cottiss in Compassion Matters lessons exploring The Artist and using the book as inspiration for their own work. Our school prayer is our school mission and it asks us all to keep Jesus at the centre of what we say and do at St. Cuthbert's. Jesus' teachings through the Gospels are at the heart of this mission and prayer and the message in the Gospels is very simple- be good people who treat each other with care, kindness, dignity and compassion. Last week we once again witnessed compassion in action throughout school and we are delighted and privileged to welcome so many families and friends into school for our activity morning and Harvest Festival. Your support at our reading meetings, activity mornings and Harvest Festival in the past few weeks once more show how strong the partnership between St. Cuthbert's families and school is. People will always need people.



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.

COMPASSION MATTERS

Children in Crossfire COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL AWARD GOLD AWARD

We nurture compassionate global citizens

Well done to our year 4 rugby players who took part in the rugby competition with our friends in our family of North Tyneside Catholic Schools at St. Thomas More before half term. Mr Burnett and the team of pupils at St. Thomas More are brilliant at planning and hosting so many sporting opportunities for children across school and we are always delighted to be part of the events.





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Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801. All our current year 6 families have been sent information about the admissions process for children moving to high school in September 2024. You can read more about admission and the process on our school website where you can also find links to further information at North Tyneside Council and St. Thomas More RC Academy. If you have any questions at all about admissions please get in touch by emailing or phoning the school office.

We work continuously with all staff and children to keep children and everyone at St. Cuthbert's safe at all times. Our new Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2023/24 is on our school website, <https://www.stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk/safeguarding> and it outlines our approaches and policies to safeguarding throughout school. We have attached our *Safeguarding Handbook For Families*, the information in this handbook is expanded upon a lot in our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy. You will also find a copy of our safeguarding policy that we share with the children. It has been written to be accessible to the children and goes alongside all the work we do with them throughout the year. We teach safeguarding and staying safe through many different subjects and you will see the weekly online safety posters we add to every newsletter that we send out. Throughout the year we also have online safety lessons with all children and these range in topic from what to do if a child feels unsafe, how to create the best usernames and passwords and how to judge if the information you are reading or watching is genuine and accurate. We also hold online safety sessions for families each year to help you keep your children safe online at home. If you have any questions about safeguarding at St. Cuthbert's please get in touch by emailing keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email or speaking to Mr Dillon or Mrs Cottiss who you can find on the school playground at the start of each day or by phoning the school office.

Can we please remind families that for all classes from reception through to year 6 the school day has a 'soft start' meaning that the school gates and doors will open at 8.40 am and children should go straight to their class when they come on to the playground from 8.40 am. The doors and gates then close at 8.55 am when all children should be in their class- anyone who arrives at school after 8.55 am should come to school through the main office. ***Children cannot wait alone on the playground or at school gates before 8.40 am as all staff are supervising gates, doors, corridors and classrooms with teachers beginning their teaching at 8.40 am.*** Can we also remind everyone that no adults should be in the school building in the morning or at the end of the school day. If you need to speak to a class teacher you can contact them through Tapestry, phone the school office to make an appointment or pass on a message or catch them at the end of the school day once all children have been passed over to their families. Our school day ends at 3.25 pm for all children. Can we also please remind families that dogs, no matter how small, are not permitted through the school gates or on the school playground. We have over 500 people on the playground at the start and end of each day and we all greatly appreciate your help and support in keeping our school as safe as possible and our school days running smoothly for everyone.



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.



ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites: it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Uzay Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site iGEMoon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: <https://www.windowcentral.com/youngsters-spend-over-8000-fta-tbox-highlighting-predatory-game-design-02> <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item-detail/active-behaviours-gaming-disorder> <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-council-calls-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>



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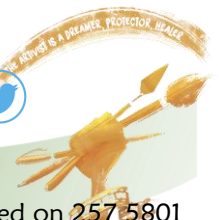
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We are asking all families to make sure you pre-order your children's lunches as this is the only way to ensure they get what they want each lunchtime. All children who have a school lunch must pre-order- this includes children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 who are all entitled to free school meals through the Infant Free School meals scheme.

Thank you once again to everyone who has signed up for your Appetite account and to everyone who is using it to pre-order children's school lunches. It is very, very important that you get your account set up as it allows you to see the menu for the coming weeks, including all the dietary and nutritional information you might want to see. No child will ever be left hungry and the staff in our kitchen know all our children well. If you have any questions about the new school meals system or menu, or need help with the app or using the Appetite service online, please get in touch with us at school.

If you have any concerns about your child's, or another child's safety, including their online safety, or questions about behaviour we always ask that you speak to us at school. It is important that we are part of discussions that may be happening around children's behaviour and welfare. We record incidents and concerns electronically on our CPOMS system and we work very closely with Clennell Education Solutions to make sure all our staff are up to date with the best safeguarding training available and to provide leading professional advice when requested. This means that we have a broad picture of anything that is happening at school and, with your help, we can make sure any concerns are addressed quickly and do not escalate or lead to children or families falling out. If you have a concern that you feel needs attention immediately, and it is outside of normal school hours, you can contact the North Tyneside Safeguarding Team's Front Door service on 0345 2000 109 during office hours or 0330 333 7475 during the evening or at weekends. We work in partnership with the team and they will inform us at school of any referrals made to them during weekends, evenings, and holidays when school is closed. You can also find out more information about safeguarding in North Tyneside on their [website](#) and our [school website](#).



We get lots of questions at school about keeping children safe online when they are away from school. We have begun information posters from National Online Safety and these will be helpful as they provide up-to-date advice on how to manage different services and apps for children at home. The Think You Know website is also very useful for advice and information and you can find it by clicking the link below. The site is aimed at adults and the subjects are about keeping children safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Welcome to CEOP Education

Education from the National Crime Agency

The National Crime Agency's CEOP Education team aim to help protect children and young people from online child sexual abuse.

We do this through our education programme, providing training, resources and information to professionals working with children, young people and their families.

I am:

A professional working with children and young people	A parent or carer
4-7 years old	8-10 years old
	11-18 years old



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We would like to remind families that we have a no-jewellery policy for children at St. Cuthbert's, the only exceptions to this are that children can wear a watch and if they have their ears pierced they can wear a small stud-not hoops. Can you please make sure your child doesn't

wear any jewellery to school, especially on their outdoor learning day when a few have started to wear chains, necklaces, or bracelets. Outdoor learning day clothes should be old clothes, suitable for the weather, that will get dirty and, most likely smell of smoke by the end of the day.



Thank you to everyone who is using Easyfundraising.

There are no catches to using the site, you don't need to share bank or payment details, just sign up and choose to support St. Cuthbert's. all you then need to do is search for your chosen store or seller on the easyfundraising site and do your online shopping as normal. If you are booking a holiday, buying any insurance, changing internet suppliers, mobile phone providers, etc. online, and doing so through the site they make quite big donations to school! It's really easy to get set up and running, all you need to do is:

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcuthbertsrprimary/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will donate to St. Cuthbert's at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and we would be grateful for your support and donations which will go towards all our children.

As a school St. Cuthbert's were involved in being part of the management committee that set up the PACT MumSpace group that runs in North Shields. MumSpace is a warm, welcoming, friendly group, for mothers run by mothers. MumSpace is a charity run so free to join. Within the group, mums have half an hour of "their time" whilst the amazing volunteers look after the children. This space and time can be used to have a hot cup of coffee and a chat, talk to other mums alike, or invite outside organisations in to give advice, it's the mothers' space it's up to them to decide what to do with it. The group is for pregnant mums or mums with children up to the age of 4. MumSpace is run on a Thursday morning from St Cuthbert's Church from 9.30-11am or Tuesday afternoons from St Hilda's Church in the Marden. For more information see their Facebook page = MumSpace North Tyneside or contact Wendy McConnell at 07950426786 or wendy.mcconnell@citizensuk.org

Thank you to everyone who has been using Tapestry, our keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrprimary.co.uk email, and school phone to keep in touch with school staff. Lines of communication must be kept as open and honest as possible between school and home as we work hard to keep our open-door policy and approach going by making so many ways to keep in touch available. **As highlighted in the past we don't use Facebook or WhatsApp or any other social media apart from Twitter (which we don't use to answer questions)**, and we won't be setting up accounts on either medium. If you have any questions, or concerns, or need to chat with a member of staff at school please make sure you use one of three methods we have put in place:

- Message a member of staff on Tapestry with messages regarding work, arrangements for the school day for your child, etc. All staff have access to Tapestry.
- Email keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrprimary.co.uk. You should email this address if you want to discuss or inform of us anything that is more confidential. Emails to this address are only read by Mrs. Cottiss and Mr. Dillon. Please do not use this email for day-to-day things like questions about



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what is happening at school. We cannot guarantee that your question will be answered on time this will only happen by contacting the school office.

- Phone 0191 691 9876 and arrange an agreed time to chat with someone. Use the school phone number to advise us of absence from school, and for questions about day-to-day things. **Phoning school during the school day remains the best way to get in touch.**

If you have not yet activated your Tapestry account or if you are having trouble accessing it please let us know as soon as possible. Tapestry is one of the main ways we keep in touch with families and it is important that you can receive messages and posts from it even if you don't use it a lot yourself.

If you haven't joined our school lottery yet it is really easy and gives you a chance of winning our school jackpot each week and gives you an entry to a much bigger weekly jackpot. All profits from the lottery go towards helping us make sure our children continue to have the fantastic opportunities they get every week at St. Cuthbert's. Our weekly prize currently stands at £19.80, you will also be entered into a national school lottery for a £25,000 draw each week. You can sign up at

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-cuthberts-rc-primary>

Thank you for your amazing continued support, stay safe and God bless,
Shaun Dillon



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PE and Roundhouse Timetables 2023/2024

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day.

PE	
Day	Class
Monday	Reception
Tuesday	Year 2
Wednesday	Year 1
Thursday	Year 5, Year 3 and Year 6
Friday	Year 4

Outdoor learning takes place continuously at St. Cuthbert's and includes a Roundhouse session once every two weeks. **Children should come to school wearing old clothes that will get dirty on their Roundhouse day only**, the dates for this half term for each class are below.

Roundhouse Dates	
Nursery	31/10/2023, 14/11/2023, 28/11/2023, 12/12/2023
Reception	31/10/2023, 14/11/2023, 28/11/2023, 12/12/2023
Year 1	03/11/2023, 17/11/2023, 01/12/2023, 15/12/2023
Year 2	03/11/2023, 17/11/2023, 01/12/2023, 15/12/2023
Year 3	01/11/2023, 15/11/2023, 29/11/2023, 13/12/2023
Year 4	01/11/2023, 15/11/2023, 29/11/2023, 13/12/2023
Year 5	13/11/2023, 27/11/2023, 11/12/2023
Year 6	13/11/2023, 27/11/2023, 11/12/2023

Children will also have cycling sessions on the playground throughout the week. Key Stage 2 children will have cycling sessions using the school Frog bikes, school staff will let you know when classes are doing their sessions.