



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 20th March 2022 www.northyntesidecatholic.org.uk/

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

Happy St. Cuthbert's Day to all our families and friends in our local community and across the world. St. Cuthbert had a deep love of nature and the world which God has given us. When we care for our common home and each other we are living examples of St. Cuthbert's mission and when you see the work our children, staff and community do you can see very clearly that have indeed been well named. We have all enjoyed a very busy, exciting, and successful week with many highlights for everyone. As we continue our journey returning to normality two years after the first national lockdown it is even more special to see how amazing the children and staff of St. Cuthbert's are when they are working with other schools. They represent St. Cuthbert's community brilliantly and receive compliments from everyone they work with.



Year 4 are our attendance stars this week with 97.5% and our whole school attendance is up slightly to 92.9%. We continued to have children off school last week with Chicken Pox and would like to thank all families for keeping us informed of any absences and for letting us know how children are doing.



Class	%
Reception	95.2
Year 1	90
Year 2	86.7
Year 3	93.9
Year 4 🏆	97.5
Year 5	94.2
Year 6	93.6
Whole school	92.9

We had cyclists from years 5 and 6 out and about last week and they were joined by a group of year 3 children who went on their first bike ride with our cycling coaches. Each group who went cycling were brilliant and enjoyed and thrived on the muddy cycle paths- there were quite a few very muddy children and staff on the morning bike ride! 🤔





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

Year 5 made the trip to Whitley Bay Playhouse to take part in the first primary school's dance festival since we went into lockdown two years ago this weekend. The children joined our friends from St. Columba's and St. Joseph's and children and staff from all schools cheered each other on as all the children performed their well-rehearsed dances. Thank you to everyone for allowing the children the opportunity to take part and for our school staff and North Tyneside PE staff for giving the children the opportunity to perform.



Hot on the heels of our year 5 dancers were our singers from years 3, 4, 5, and 6 as they made their way to Whitley Bay Playhouse on Thursday to perform with four other primary schools. We are all delighted that our choir is back performing again and the 50 children from our school who took part were a credit to St. Cuthbert's, our wider community, and themselves. The staff from North Tyneside Music Hub were very impressed by our children's beautiful singing and everyone at the Playhouse was silent and joined in with the liturgical prayer movements when the children sang the Irish Blessing. Thank you once again to all our families for supporting us and allowing your children to be part of the event and thank you to all the school staff and North Tyneside Music Hub staff for making it such a special event.



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.



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

Our children continued to talk about peace with Mrs. Cottiss in Compassion Matters sessions last week. They explored what peace means to them and other people, how it feels, sounds and looks like, and how we can all pray, and work, for peace across the world. As the war in Ukraine continues so do the questions from our children- they will be asking you the same things at home. We have more and more families at St. Cuthbert's with a close connection to what is happening, families who are supporting refugees in Poland, Germany, and other countries neighbouring Ukraine. We have also spoken to families who are registering to offer support to refugees who come to our local area and families who are getting involved in fundraising and sending messages of support to the people of Ukraine. If your children are asking about what is happening in Ukraine the following BBC links are a good place to start for ideas on what to tell them about war, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60557186>



COMPASSION MATTERS



We will send information out to everyone next week with details of what we are doing at St. Cuthbert's to support the people of Ukraine. There are a lot of fundraising activities going on in the local area with lots of charities and groups of people helping out. Fr. Chris has asked that if you are registering to offer accommodation to families fleeing Ukraine can you please let him know if you would like any support from the parish. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is also planning their response as they work with CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) and are looking for appropriate accommodation to offer families. You can read more about the plans from Hexham and Newcastle on the [Diocesan website](#) and more from Fr. Chris in the [parish newsletter](#).



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns 



Sunday 20th March 2022 www.northyntesidecatholic.org.uk/

Mass times online on Facebook at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801. Last week classes across school opened up our new potting shed, got the gardening tools out, prepared the raised beds and borders around school and got planting. Spring has most definitely sprung around St. Cuthbert's and the children have been planting the widest range of vegetables and flowers we've ever had at school. From garlic to potatoes, tulips to hedges, they're planting the lot. It has also been fantastic to see classes work together once more as they share areas around school to use and look after. Laudato Si, Caring For Our Common Home, runs through everything we do at St. Cuthbert's and our children are looking after each other by working together and taking time to read together in the sunshine- we are all caring for our Fratelli Tutti. If you have any gardening tools which you don't need anymore, and they are in working order, we'd love to have them for the children at school- they will be very much appreciated and very well used!





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

Our year 6 children planned and organised our whole school assembly with Geoff, the sustainable transport officer from North Tyneside Council and class sessions with Cynthia from Living Streets on Friday. Both Geoff and Cynthia talked to the children about the benefits of travelling to school on foot, by bike or scooter, and how to make small changes to make big differences to our health and environment. Our children and families are fantastic at leaving the car at home and coming to school by walking, cycling or scootering and we will be carrying out surveys in school to see how well we are doing. A few children asked the same excellent question- What do you do if your family needs to come to school by car because of how far away you live or other circumstances? It was actually other children who answered the question by talking about park and striding to school. We're all looking forward to doing even more work with Geoff and Cynthia during the rest of the year.



Preparations for our move from North Tyneside Catering Services to Hutchison's Catering continue and last week all families at St. Cuthbert's were sent the menu for the three weeks beginning on Monday 4th April- we will also be sending out information on how to sign up for the Appetite ordering and payment system which we will be using. North Tyneside Catering Services have been in touch with everyone about the move and sent everyone a letter before sharing it with us at school. There are over twenty primary schools in North Tyneside making the same move on the same day and North Tyneside Catering Services are running down food stock until 31st March so our menu might change slightly during the next 11 days. Mrs. Brown and our kitchen staff will continue to do a brilliant job of making lovely meals with the food we have in stock and as you will have seen from the menu going forward, fresh and healthy food is central to what we will be serving the children. North Tyneside Catering Services are also collecting their catering equipment from our kitchen on Thursday 31st March which means Hutchisons will have their first access to school on Friday 1st April. On Friday 1st April we will have an Easter Picnic menu and will send out ordering details next week, the menu is in place for one day only to allow our new catering partners the opportunity to get up and running. There are over 50 primary and first schools in North Tyneside and over 20 will be making the same move as us on the same day and we are looking forward to the changes.

It is Mothering Sunday next Sunday 27th March and our Reception Class children will be leading a very special assembly for their families. They will hold their assembly on Monday 28th March and more details about it will be sent out through ParentMail next week.



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

Our mission throughout Lent is to pray for peace across the world, especially for the people of Ukraine. Our children know what compassion is, we pray the leaders who can make a change know also & act compassionately. We care for our common home, which is our whole world, every day at school and this means that we also care for each other, our Fratelli Tutti, and we do so by treating each other with kindness, compassion, care, and love.

We will be making changes to school meals at school from Friday 1st April 2022. We will be ending our contract with North Tyneside Catering Servies and working with Hutchisons Catering who specialise in primary school meals. We have been involved in a very detailed tendering process and had meetings with seven different organisations, including North Tyneside Catering Services, who want to work with us at St. Cuthbert's. More than 20 schools in North Tyneside are going through the same process at the minute and will be making similar changes on 1st April. Important points, for now, are that:

- Our kitchen staff will still be with us and they have known about all the changes as we worked through the process and are looking forward to working with our new catering partner.
- Our menus will improve and the company we'll be working with will plan the menu with us- they have a big emphasis on using local produce and as much fresh food as possible.
- **You will no longer be using the North Tyneside Catering Services ParentPay payment system. If your child is year 3, 4, 5, or 6 and you pay for school meals please keep an eye on how much is in your account and don't pay for any meals beyond 31st March. If you have credit in your account that goes past this date please contact Catering**



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

Services about a refund- you can find more information on the council website, <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/237/pay-school-meals>

- If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they are entitled to infant free school meals, and this will continue. If your child is in years 3,4,5 or 6 and receives free school meals this will also continue.
- **We will send everyone at school more information, including about the online payment system next week,** and will keep everyone fully informed of when it will be available, how to use it and what to do if you have any questions. We are going through the legal steps of changing school meals provider at the moment and once all the paperwork is complete we'll give you all information you'll need.

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](#).



On our return to school this half term we were asked by Public Health England to share information on managing COVID at schools with families. Whilst almost all restrictions have been lifted nationally we still have a duty to do what we can at school to protect children, families, and staff as much as possible and to manage COVID as best we can. As always, if you have any questions at all get in touch with us at school and we will do what we can to help.

Following the recent government announcement to remove the remaining legal restrictions for COVID-19 as we learn to live with the virus, please find some further information about what these changes mean for your child in school. Please be assured that school continues to implement good infection, prevention, and control measures to protect against infection and associated education disruption.



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

Twice weekly testing: Due to a greater understanding of the virus the public health advice is that children in most education and childcare settings are no longer required to undertake twice-weekly LFD asymptomatic testing. Regular testing is still advised for specialist special educational needs and disability (SEND) settings, alternative provision, and SEND units in mainstream schools or the equivalent in colleges

Symptomatic children: While the legal requirement to self-isolate has been removed if your child has any of the main COVID symptoms or a positive test result they should not attend school. The public health advice remains unchanged which is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should order a PCR test and is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result. Children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

Close contacts: Contacts of positive COVID-19 cases are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests and contact tracing has ended. If your child is a close contact of a confirmed COVID case, they should attend school as usual.

More detailed information is also available in the updated government guidance [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools, and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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-primaryschool/supporter>

Thank you to everyone who has been using Tapestry, our keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrcprimary.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, concerns, or need to chat to 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@stcuthbertsrcprimary.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.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 20th March 2022 www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk/

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

- 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, 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 lots yourself.

Thank you to everyone who is using Easyfundraising.

We now have 88 supporters and are well past the £1000 mark, raising a fantastic £1193.79 so far! 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 do 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/stcuthbertsrcprimary/> 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.

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