



# St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 [www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk/](http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk/)

Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801. Everyone at St. Cuthbert's continued working on our whole school focus on what belonging means, what it means and how it feels. Classes have begun producing artwork, poetry, music, dance and reflections which we want to share with all St. Cuthbert's families before the February half-term break. The theme is belonging and light, and we're calling it St. Cuthbert's GlowFest!

Year 6 won our attendance trophy for the third week in a row with a near great winning score of 98.3%. Can we remind all families that we ask you to contact us at school when your child is absent from school for any reason at all. Information about the impact of attendance and punctuality on your child's education is available on our school website. You can find it on the [Attendance and Term Dates](#) page. If your child is feeling unwell and you are unsure about them being in school, the NHS have a page of guidance on the subject, which you can find by clicking on this link: [NHS Is My Child Too Ill For School?](#)



Class	%
Reception	93.9
Year 1	98.2
Year 2	93.7
Year 3	95.4
Year 4	97.3
Year 5 🏆	95.2
Year 6	98.3
Whole school	96.0

Our clubs are an extremely big part of our children and staff growing the feeling of belonging, of being part of a community that learns, achieves and succeeds together. All our clubs are free of charge, and our staff give up their own time to make sure your children can have a great time taking part in activities they love. All clubs after school begin at 3.30pm finish at 4.30pm and children must be collected from the school car park at 4.30pm. Morning clubs begin at 8.10am and children come to school via the office entrance.

**Please do not park in the school car park after school. When you are collecting children at 4.30pm you can park outside school, parking restrictions are not in place at this time.** Clubs this half term

are:

Day & Time	Club	Class	Staff
Tuesday 3.30pm	Spring Sing Club	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Mrs McArdle and Mrs Brown
Wednesday 8.10am	Badminton	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Miss Collings and Mrs Massie
Thursday 8.10am	Cycling Club	Years 4, 5, and 6	Mr Capper
Thursday 8.10am	Mini Mini Vinnies	Reception, Years 1 & 2	Mrs Cottiss and Mrs Stephens
Thursday 3.30pm	Mini Vinnies	Years 3,4,5 & 6	Mrs Cottiss, Mrs Stephens
Thursday 3.30pm	Knitting Club	Years 5 & 6	Mrs Wheatley
Thursday 3.30pm	Football Club	Year 3,4,5 & 6	Miss Collings, Mr Capper, Mr Smart, Mr Dillon
Friday 3.30pm	Lego League Challenge	Year 6	Mrs Stephens
Friday 3.30pm	Campfire Club	Year 3 & siblings	Mrs Cottiss & Mr Dillon



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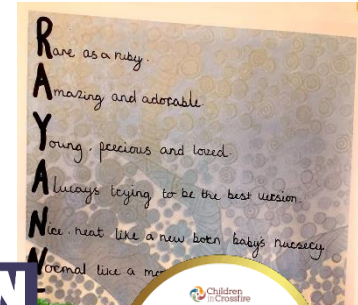
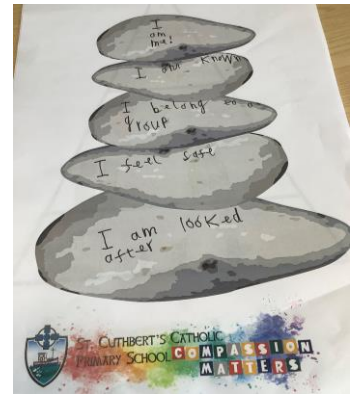


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This half term, all classes' Compassion Matters sessions are focusing on the topic of *Belonging* with Mrs Cottiss. This theme gives our children, staff and families the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful, rich, strong and diverse community we have at St Cuthbert's, while also thinking about how we can make it even stronger and build connections beyond our school. Our Nursery and Reception children particularly enjoy exploring the topic together through carousels of activities in the hall. Over the last two weeks, they explored how we grow and change from being a baby to the age they are now, developing a lovely understanding of how our basic needs must be met in order for us to grow and learn. They talked about what babies need to thrive, and they will be learning more about this next week through Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. The children were introduced to the topic through the beautiful book *I Am We – A Book of Community* by Susan Verde, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds. The story helped the children understand that when we take care of ourselves and feel good on the inside, we are better able to care for others. It celebrates kindness, compassion and working together, showing just how powerful a community can be when everyone feels they belong. Across the rest of the school, children have also continued exploring the theme of *Belonging*. A range of books and artwork is being used to spark thoughtful discussions and shared ideas among both children and staff. It is always a joy to see the strong sense of belonging our children show, which reflects the care and values nurtured at home. Working in partnership with families is something we truly value. It was also brilliant to see so many children bring in things that make them feel like they belong. There have been lots of baby photos and toys, medals, trophies, awards, uniforms and other things that show the wide range of ways our children all belong. Thank you for your continued support at home—we are seeing great progress in school, and it is a privilege to watch your children grow, learn and flourish. As always, thank you for your amazing support!

*Look with kindness and you will always find wonder*



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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



COMPASSION MATTERS

Children in Creative COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL AWARD GOLD AWARD

We nurture compassionate global citizens





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Everyone at St. Cuthbert's is delighted to send congratulations and best wishes to Miss Fellows and her family on the arrival of her wonderful new baby daughter, Bonny. Bonny was born on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January, and mum and Bonny are doing very well, as is Arthur, who is doing an amazing job as a big brother.

Thank you for supporting us in using book bags and not large backpacks at school and for making sure children have sensibly sized water bottles. We are delighted that our classes are almost all full but this does reduce the space we have in shared areas. We do not have lots of space, and therefore, we are asking that children just bring a book bag to school each day. If they have a packed lunch then a small lunch bag is good as well. We do not have space for backpacks and other large bags that many children bring to school.



Lots of our children have them and they have very little in them but they take up a lot of space and end up lying on floors in corridors. They actually take up so much space that we have identified them as a fire hazard, as they are blocking corridors because they can't hang on pegs. Can we also ask that children have standard-sized water bottles? We have very limited sink space, and 30 bottles take up quite a lot of space. If children bring large bottles, they are stopping other children from being able to keep their bottles at the sink. I know these things might seem trivial on their own, but multiply each thing by 30 and you can see the problem. I hope that everyone can help with this request, we don't want to get to the situation where we have to ask people to take bags and bottles home. You don't need to buy branded book bags; any green book bag will be great. Book bags are brilliant because they help keep the books clean, dry and less likely to get torn or curled or damaged to the point where we have to ask for a replacement book.

Our SEMH team continue to meet and work with Connect North Tyneside. The Connect team have begun work with our Year 5 and 6 children which will go on for six weeks. Our SEMH team is made up of Ms Shepherd as SENDco, Mr Capper who has a wealth of experience leading support and inclusion at a large local high school, Mrs Cottiss, and Mr Dillon, who are Senior Mental Health Leads and Mrs Lavery, who is our new Family Support Worker. Our team have made connections with North Tyneside Connect Team and has begun working with a number of children and families already with more families coming forward for advice and support. In addition to the team and the partnerships created all families with children at St. Cuthbert's have been sent signup details for the [Wellbeing Hub](#), an online resource with lots of information, help and advice for families which you can access any time you need to. Families can face challenges at different times and The [Wellbeing Hub](#) is an online resource which could possibly be of help. Mrs Lavery works with us every Thursday and you can contact her by email at any time, her address is [kiera.lavery@stcuthberts.email](mailto:kiera.lavery@stcuthberts.email)





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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

**Clennell**  
Education Solutions

**CPOMS**

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 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.

*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*



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*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.*

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/>



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.

Thank you to everyone who has been using Tapestry, [keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email](mailto:keepingintouch@stcuthberts.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:

- Email [keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email](mailto:keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email) 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 what is happening at school or to let us know your child





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will be picked up early for an appointment. 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-upon 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.**

We work continuously with all staff and children to keep children and everyone at St. Cuthbert's safe at all times. Our current Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and further information is on our school website, <https://www.stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk/safeguarding> and they outline our approaches and policies to safeguarding throughout school. 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](mailto: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 ask that all items of children's uniform have their name written clearly on the label please. We had an incredible amount of uniform and other items of clothing left behind at school before the summer, and that was after weeks of having the uniforms out on the playground for everyone to check at the end of each day. We don't want to get to the situation where we have so much again.

Thank you for your fantastic, continued support  
Shaun Dillon



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Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 [www.northyntesidecatholic.org.uk/](http://www.northyntesidecatholic.org.uk/)



Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801. Our weekly E-Safety information posters now come with a link to the National Online Safety website and further resources, including podcasts and more explanations about the app or service highlighted each week. You can access the resources by clicking here [Wake Up Wednesday](#).

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

### A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

### MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

### COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



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## PE and Outdoor Learning Timetables 2025/2026

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

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

We have a timetable for outdoor learning but classes will take learning outdoors as often as they can throughout the week. **Children should wear old clothes (which are appropriate for climbing, getting mucky and possibly smelling of smoke), on their outdoor learning day.** PE kit on PE day and school uniform on all other days. If an outdoor learning day is the same as a PE then children should wear PE kit that is suitable for outdoors and whatever weather we are forecast to have.

### Outdoor Learning Dates

Nursery	(Friday)
Reception	(Friday)
Year 1	(Tuesday)
Year 2	(Tuesday)
Year 3	(Wednesday)
Year 4	(Wednesday)
Year 5	(Monday)
Year 6	(Monday)