



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

Once again, our community came together last week to work in partnership to give our children the best, all-round education we can give them. As a school family, when we celebrate Mass together with the parish we are showing our children they belong to a community, when you join us for our Remembrance liturgy and walk to the cenotaph we are working together and giving our children another example of community in action.



Year 3 have won the attendance star trophy this week with a near-perfect score of 99.3%, so close to the 100%! 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 | 94.1 |
| Year 1 | 90.0 |
| Year 2 | 97.9 |
| Year 3 🧡🧡🧡 | 99.3 |
| Year 4 | 97.2 |
| Year 5 | 96.8 |
| Year 6 | 98.2 |
| Whole school | 96.2 |

Thank you everyone for joining us and the parishioners for our whole school Mass with Fr. Chris last Wednesday. We have a very strong and established community at St. Cuthbert's and many of the parishioners who we regularly join at Mass are past pupils of St. Cuthbert's and many have family who attended St. Cuthbert's. It is always very special to worship together with them, and to catch up with a chat as well! As we approach the Advent season we will invite all our families, and the people of our parish, to join us for our very special Advent services each Friday afternoon in the school hall. Our community is a strong one and it is at its best when we are all united, together.

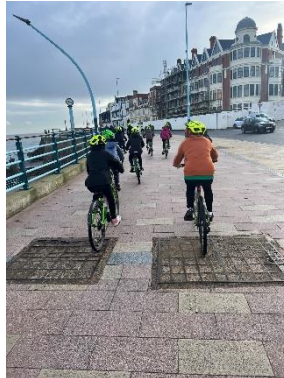
Thank you also to everyone who joined us for our Remembrance Liturgy on Friday morning and for being with us as we paid our respects at 11am at Hawkey's Lane Cenotaph. Thank you to our children for leading the liturgy so well and for being a fantastic example to our younger children.





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

There was a lot of sporting action last week at St. Cuthbert's with our fantastic year 4 children taking part in the North Tyneside Hockey Festival at The Parks, our school football team playing three fixtures in the North Shields Littlejohn League and year 5 and 6 getting out and about on the Frog bikes. These activities are in addition to the clubs before and after school and all the PE lessons that take place every week throughout school. Thank you to all the staff and families for supporting our children in all the events we enter and for helping get children to and from events when called upon- without your help it would be difficult to take part in as much as we do.



Everyone at school has been delighted with the fantastic, top-quality homework that children have been bringing into school since the start of the new school year. Our project homeworks are very open-ended and they give children and families the opportunity to be as creative as you can be. We love sharing what children are doing on Twitter and our homework is a great way to get children talking about what they are learning about and doing at school. Keep them coming and we'll keep Tweeting them!



Can we please remind all families that adults should not come in to school in the morning or after school when dropping children to school. When you drop your child at school please do not go any further than the entrance doorway, all our children are very good at hanging up their coats and bags and we work hard to encourage their independence with this. If you do need to speak to a member of school staff Mrs Cottiss, Miss Fielding, Mr Capper and I are at the school gates every morning and after school. You can also contact us and any other member of school staff by getting in touch with the school office on 0191 961 9876. If you feel you need to bring your child into school please arrange a time so that we can talk about this and make arrangements for them to be brought into school through the main office entrance.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 12th November 2023 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. 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. 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.

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





St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 12th November 2023 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 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](#).

Can we also remind all families that you must let us know who is collecting a child after school if you, the person who would normally do the collection, isn't. If you need to change arrangements at the last minute please phone the school office and let us know, this helps avoid asking the person who has come to collect the child waiting around unnecessarily and helps us make sure all our children are where they are supposed to be. If the person collecting your child is someone we don't know or haven't met often we may ask you for a word or phrase that they can repeat to us, therefore confirming who they are.

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

Tyne & Wear
citizens

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.



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

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthberts



Sunday 12th November 2023 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

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/>

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.

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



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 12th November 2023 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

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



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 12th November 2023 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

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 | 14/11/2023, 28/11/2023, 12/12/2023 |
| Reception | 14/11/2023, 28/11/2023, 12/12/2023 |
| Year 1 | 17/11/2023, 01/12/2023, 15/12/2023 |
| Year 2 | 17/11/2023, 01/12/2023, 15/12/2023 |
| Year 3 | 15/11/2023, 29/11/2023, 13/12/2023 |
| Year 4 | 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.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 12th November 2023 www.northyntsidecatholic.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

Below are the dates, times and some details of events which will be taking place through the rest of this school term. As always, we will contact everyone as soon as possible if anything changes around these dates and times and we will send out any more information if and when needed. There may be other events and activities taking place between now and the end of this term and information on these will be sent out to you through ParentMail as usual and added to each weekly newsletter. Further details for nativities will be sent out via ParentMail.

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 20/11/2023 | After school | Parents' evening | Online. Booking details will be sent this week. |
| 22-27/11/2023 | Before and after school | Book fair | School hall |
| 1/12/2023 | 2.30pm | Advent Service | School hall |
| 5/12/2023 | 9.30am | Nursery and Reception Class Nativity | School hall |
| 5/12/2023 | 2.30pm | Year 1 and 2 Nativity | School hall |
| 6/12/2023 | 9.30am | Year 1 and 2 Nativity | School hall |
| 6/12/2023 | 2.30pm | Nursery and Reception Class Nursery | School hall |
| 7/12/2023 | All day | Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch | School |
| 8/12/2023 | 2.230pm | Advent Service | School hall |
| 9/12/2023 | 12 noon | Singing at North Shields Victorian Market | Northumberland Square |
| 12/12/2023 | 2.30pm | Open event for prospective new Nursery and Reception Class families | School |
| 15/12/2023 | 2.30pm | Advent Service | School |
| 21/12/2023 | 6pm | Key Stage 2 Carol Service | St. Cuthbert's Church |