



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

It was wonderful to see so many families join us at school this week for our McMillan Coffee Morning, the partnerships between families, our community and school are a real strength of St. Cuthbert's and something we cherish greatly. It is also something that we are always working at and we are inviting families to school for two more events before half term, the reading meetings tomorrow and a whole school activity morning on Wednesday 18th October- we are at our strongest when we are all working together to give our children the best experiences, learning and opportunities we can.



Year 1 have won the attendance star trophy this week with a score of 99.3% in a very close race for the top prize amongst our youngest classes. 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	98.3
Year 1 🍌	99.3
Year 2	98.3
Year 3	93.7
Year 4	95.5
Year 5	94
Year 6	90.7
Whole school	95.8

Thank you, everyone, for supporting our McMillan Coffee Morning on Friday by coming along for tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and a chat. Everyone was delighted to be entertained by each class who came and sang for our guests and our Mini Vinnies and Year 6 did a magnificent job of setting up the school hall and keeping the cakes and biscuits flowing. The tidy-up job at the end of the event was as impressive as the setting up the evening before as year 6 had the hall ready for PE and lunch in no time. We would like to give a very special thanks to Cooper and Tessa's family for donating the delicious freshly ground and brewed coffee for the morning, everyone commented on how beautiful it was, you can find out more about their beautiful coffee at

<https://baristocracycoffee.com>



We have had a few questions about our October 2023 half-term dates and future term dates. Our next half term, this October 2023, our half term break is the week beginning Monday 23rd October until Friday 27th October. This means children will be in school until the end of the day on Friday 20th October and will return on Monday 30th October. This is one week earlier than local non-Catholic schools, all our future half-term dates will be in line with North Tyneside schools. If you have any questions about the dates please get in touch by emailing, phoning or chatting on the school playground in the morning.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 8th October 2023 www.northyntesidecatholic.org.uk/

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Teaching and learning about compassion and looking for examples of compassion in action all the time helps us continue to develop and grow and community where the Gospel teaching of Jesus are at the centre of everything we do. The relationships between our children, our children and staff and, children, staff and families, are what makes our school community so strong. Compassion is at the centre of these relationships and treating each other with compassion means listening, supporting and accepting that sometimes the outcome of conversations can, and should be compromise. Our children are fantastic at this and they talk about how they help each other, particularly how they help each other learn and play. Our children work brilliantly with other children in their class and all other classes across school. We are privileged to see compassion in action in school all the time and we are privileged that our children celebrate compassion in action all the time with the RAKtivist certificates they give each other at our celebration assembly. We will be showing our support for the fantastic [Young Minds](#) charity this Tuesday 10th October and we're asking children to come to school wearing something yellow, if you don't have anything yellow don't worry, you can wear anything bright to show your support as well.



YOUNG MINDS



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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



YOUNG MINDS COMPASSION MATTERS

Children in Crossfire
COMPASSIONATE
SCHOOL AWARD

GOLD AWARD

We nurture
compassionate
global citizens





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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.



We will be holding reading meetings at school tomorrow, Monday 9th October from 3.45pm, for all classes. The meetings will be 15 minutes long and repeated three times so that you can get to more than one meeting if you have more than one child at school. The meetings will explain how we teach reading at St. Cuthbert's, explain the importance of reading away from school and give some advice on how to support children's reading. It will also include information about how we teach phonics and you will be able to see the resources your children are using in school with our staff every day. Opportunities to come into school and see what the staff and children do are very important and another example of the fantastic working relationship between home and school.



All our current year 6 families have been sent information about the admissions process for children moving to high school in September 2024. We have attached the letter and prospectus from St. Thomas More along with this newsletter for anyone who missed them. The window is also open for our nursery families and any families with children to apply for a place in our Reception Class in September 2024. Information about the admission process for reception Class 2024 is attached along with this newsletter for everyone. You can also 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



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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 on our school website, <https://www.stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk/safeguarding> and it outlines our approaches and policies to safeguarding throughout school. 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.

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

Nite Bite, the Churches Together group Nite Bite are looking for more volunteers to help run their fantastic service for people in need of support. Help could be washing dishes, sorting goods into cupboards or front-of-house welcome through the week. If you are interested please call to their premises at the Baptist Church on 37- 39 Howard Street in North Shields and talk to them any Tuesday between 2-4pm.



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 www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 80 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local lobby' – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.





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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/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 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, 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@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. Please do not use this email for day-to-day things like questions about 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



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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 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	10/10/2023, 31/10/2023
Reception	10/10/2023, 31/10/2023
Year 1	13/10/2023, 03/11/2023
Year 2	10/10/2023, 03/11/2023
Year 3	11/10/2023, 01/11/2023
Year 4	11/10/2023, 01/11/2023
Year 5	09/10/2023, 30/09/2023
Year 6	09/10/2023, 30/09/2023

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.