



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 24^h March 2024 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

STEM Week 2024 was a fantastic success with children, staff, families and friends all involved in celebrating all the science, technology, engineering and maths work at St. Cuthbert's whilst being inspired to find out even more. We have another busy week ahead as we prepare for Easter with our Easter Play, whole school collective worship and Easter Passion. Details about everything happening next week are at the end of this newsletter.



Congratulations to our whole school for achieving a fantastic attendance of 96.9% for the week and a very special congratulations to Year 5 who have won the star trophy again this week again with 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	96.0
Year 1	93.4
Year 2 🍌	97.1
Year 3	96.7
Year 4	97.0
Year 5	100
Year 6	99.2
Whole school	96.9

Thank you for your fantastic continued support and donations of tins and packets of food which we will pass on for the Easter holidays. The last day for donations is next Wednesday 27th March- this is to give us time to get everything ready to send out.

Last week we all enjoyed a fantastic STEM Week 2024 at St. Cuthbert's and we had so much organised that there will be some more events for the children next week also. Thank you once again to everyone and especially to the families and friends who came into school to talk to the children about their jobs, how they have come to work in the industries they do and how our children can do this as well. One of the key messages all week was that many of the jobs that our children will be doing may not even exist yet, that being creative, having skills and interests in as many areas of our curriculum and life as possible, and having a growth mindset are very important.





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Compassion runs through everything we do at St. Cuthbert's and last week our children, staff and guests explored the compassion in the many things that people do with science, technology, engineering and maths. Children in all our classes found out how Marie Curie used her gifts and talents to pioneer new ways to treat cancer and how the legacy of her work impacts on us today. They found out why a daffodil is used to represent the Marie Curie Centre charity and about the work that happens at the Marie Curie Centre. Year 5 visited the Nissan factory in Sunderland and took part in the Monozukuri Caravan project and how technology is being used to help our environment by producing more efficient cars from more sustainable materials. Children learned about developments in the design and building of wind turbines and how new turbines will produce even more energy for even more homes with every turn of their blades. We also found out about managing flooding and how our management of our environment can make flooding more or less likely. Thank you to St. Cuthbert's families for your fantastic support and for coming into school to share what you do and to inspire our children. When children see and hear people they know talking about their careers and how they do their jobs it makes learning even more real for them. Thank you also to everyone for contributing to our whole school community's question; *Will science solve the world's problems?* We will post the results from and your comments and you will see very common themes coming through, we will also share the results with the children and talk about their responses to the same question.



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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



COMPASSION MATTERS





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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. Information was sent to schools in North Tyneside last week about a WhatsApp group in our region that exists amongst some Year 6 children called, 'Everyone You Know x'. It has been reported that there are up to 500 Year 6 children in the group and the content of the group is being investigated by Northumbria Police. We are not aware of any children from St. Cuthbert's being part of it but we are asking families to check their children's phones to see if they are. If they are can you please remove them from it and let us know at school, I would encourage all families with children who have phones or access to WhatsApp to do this regardless of what class they are in. Children may have been added to the group without their knowledge or consent, this is one of the many dangers of apps like WhatsApp which is legally regarded as a social media app rather than just a messaging app. **We teach online safety continuously at St. Cuthbert's and one of the biggest messages we give all families is that as adults, closely monitoring your child's online behaviour is incredibly important.** Primary school children are legally too young to have most of the social media apps that are used today, such as WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram, Telegram and TikTok. There are of course many more apps and games which many children have access to which are not age-appropriate or legal. Not only are the children not of legal age to use these apps they are also not mature enough to deal with them. Primary school children should never be in a position to manage and moderate groups or to decide who can say what, to whom and when. They should not have apps which open them up to being contacted by strangers or people who you and they don't know. Children and families at St. Cuthbert's get along very well and we have a very strong, honest and supportive community. On the very few occasions when there has been any fallout between children and/ or families, WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media apps have been involved. It is your choice what your children use, see and hear away from school but it does become a school issue, and potentially a safeguarding concern, when what is happening online comes into school- this is what is currently happening to the children in the 'Everyone You Know x' group. If we receive any further information about the group we will pass it on to you and I know we will continue to work together to keep **all children** at St. Cuthbert's safe on and offline.

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





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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 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 ensure 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 afternoon 12.30-2pm at St Luke's Church in Wallsend on Frank Street just off the Metro station. For more information see their Facebook page = MumSpace North Tyneside or contact Wendy McConnell at 07950426786 or wendy.mcconnell@citizensuk.org

Tyne & Wear
citizens

As part of our work with PACT we are inviting families with children between the ages of 2 and 4 to join us for our Book Sharing Course which we are hosting at school with Wendy. The sessions take place at school from 2.15pm- 3.15pm. We have run these sessions in the past and they have been very successful and a brilliant way to get ideas and support in helping develop children's love of stories, books and language. Further information about the programme is near the end of this newsletter.

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.



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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. 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.

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 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.



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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.

There has been a great deal of interest in our apprenticeships that have been advertised, you can find more information about the teaching assistant and admin assistant roles on our school [website](#).

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>

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



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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 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.

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

Shaun Dillon



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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that 44% of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

1 MINDFUL TECH USE

Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES

Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example – or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

3 HYDRATION HABITS

Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night: it's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE

Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, fostering an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES

Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.

7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP

Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE

Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, served in reasonable portion sizes: not only is this a lot healthier, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable in bed.

9 PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD

Look up 'the military sleep method': it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK: 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.





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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

There are no classes timetabled to use the Roundhouse next week and we are hoping to be carrying out some maintenance work over the next few weeks to have everything looking fantastic for the children returning to school after the Easter holidays.

We have a very busy Holy Week ahead of us with lots happening for all our children and families. Below are the dates and times of each thing that is happening:

- Tuesday 26th March, 9.00am in the school hall- Nursery, Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Easter Play- all families are welcome to join us.
- Wednesday 27th March and Thursday 28th March- we will have prayer stations in the school hall before school and we would love you to visit the hall to see them.
- Wednesday 27th March, 9.30am whole school Mass with Fr. Chris and the parish at St. Cuthbert's Church. If you would like to walk to Church with us we will be leaving school at 9.10am and you can wait for the children in the school hall after you have dropped them off at school.
- Thursday 28th March- 8.50am, The Last Supper whole school collective worship on the school playground, everyone is welcome to join us and it will last about 10 minutes.
- Thursday 28th March, 1.50pm, whole school Easter Passion led by Year 5. We will be leaving school at 1.50pm sharp and be ready to start at Northumberland Square at 2pm, walking back to school as a whole school community.



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FREE

Do you want to improve your child's health?

Our 10 week programme supports you and your family to make healthy lifestyle changes together.

Interactive sessions are delivered by an expert and friendly team and focus on nutrition and physical activity to give you and your family a real boost.

The team delivers family programmes for two different age groups:

Ages 4-7 years old
Ages 8-14 years old

Register:



Sessions take place once a week, after school

In 10 weeks we cover:

- Simple food swaps to reduce fat and sugar intake
- The right size portions for children and adults
- How to understand food labels and afford healthy options
- Opportunities to add run and play into your daily routine

Eligibility criteria applies, please ask for more details.

0191 643 7454
CHAT@northtyneside.gov.uk
www.activenorthtyneside.org.uk



No Limits

FREE
FOR KIDS AGED
8-13
YEARS

Monday at
The Lakeside Centre
4 - 5.30PM

Tuesday at
The Parks Sports Centre
4.30 - 6PM*

Wednesday at
Hadrian Leisure Centre
5.15 - 6.30PM

Activities include:

- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Dodgeball
- Plus football coaching with the Newcastle United Foundation

No Limits activities are available in term time only. A valid easecard is required. Children and young people must behave in accordance with our Customer Charter. *The soft play is available to use free of charge for siblings under 8 years old while this session takes place.



REGISTER HERE!

www.activenorthtyneside.org.uk | 0191 643 7171

 Active North Tyneside  @active_NT



No Limits

FREE
FOR KIDS
ALL AGES

POOL SESSIONS

Thursday at
Waves
6.20 - 7.20PM

Friday at
Tynemouth Pool
4 - 5PM

Saturday at
The Lakeside Centre
11AM - 12PM

Saturday at
Hadrian Leisure Centre
2.15 - 3.15PM

No Limits pool sessions are available in term time only. A valid easecard is required. Children and young people must behave in accordance with our Customer Charter. Pool admission policy applies.