



It has been fantastic to see so many families join us at St. Cuthbert's as we continue our preparations for Christmas through this Advent season. Our school hall was packed throughout the week for nativities and our Advent Service and it was brilliant to see so many children and families come together to sing at the Victorian Market yesterday morning. It's party week next week and we'd love to see you all once again next Friday afternoon for our next Advent Service at 2.30pm in the school hall.



Year 4 are our attendance stars this week with a score of 96.6%. 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	91.4
Year 1	92.7
Year 2	94.6
Year 3	89.3
Year 4 🏆	96.6
Year 5	92
Year 6	90
Whole school	92.4

Children from Nursery, Receptions Class, year 1 and year 2 welcomed families and friends to St. Cuthbert's last week to watch their fantastic nativity performances. The children told us all the story of the birth of Jesus at the very first Christmas. It is brilliant to see our youngest children work together to perform for everyone and this is the best way for them to learn, through play, performing, singing and dancing. Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will retell the story from a different angle at our Carol Service on Thursday 21st December at 6pm at St. Cuthbert's Church and we would love to see you all there also.



We have lots of Christmas parties next week and you can find dates at the end of this newsletter, they were emailed out last week also. All children can come to school dressed in non-uniform, full on Christmas if they want to! They should also bring a plate of party food, clearly labelled with their name, school will provide drinks for everyone. Can we ask that you make sure that there are no nuts on your child's plate and that they do not have anything containing nuts, so no Snickers, Nutella or Ferrero Rocher.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter #stcuthbertsns



Sunday 10th December 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

It has been another very busy week with lots happening for children and families across our whole school. We have had nativity performances, Christmas dinners, parties, children out at sporting events, our Advent Service, children singing at North Shields Victorian Market, and lots and lots of clubs both before and after school. All these things happen because of the dedication and commitment of our whole staff team, our children and St. Cuthbert's families. St. Cuthbert's is a very special school and community where compassion runs through everything that is planned for a reason, and that reason is always the drive to give our children the best opportunities and experiences possible. Children learn best from playing, retelling, singing and dancing, working together and from seeing the older children and adults around them show the best examples possible as well. Our children see a school staff who work hard together and who enjoy working with each other, the children at St. Cuthbert's and you. Our kitchen staff once again put on a fantastic Christmas dinner for everyone and decorated the hall so it was looking its best for everyone. Norma, Ang and Sue did such a good job one of our neighbouring schools has said they're upping their game next week! Our whole school is looking very festive and Mr Smart has been on hand to make sure everyone has their decorations, props for nativities and costumes, Miss Taylor has made sure everyone knows what is going on and orders are sorted on time. All our staff have worked to make sure everything that the children need is ready for them and to help them enjoy everything they are doing. Our staff give up their time to put on clubs for everyone at school and all of them are very popular. Our clubs are there to bring our community even closer together and this can be seen in perfect action each week at family club where new families get to know children and families who have been with us a while and they get to know our staff better as well. The best way for us to help the children of St. Cuthbert's learn is through brilliant experiences and teaching and being even better examples through our actions and how we treat each other. You see compassion in action in everything that happens every day at St. Cuthbert's, we are definitely a compassionate school and community that knows that people need people.



COMPASSION MATTERS





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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





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 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

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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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.

We are welcoming families with children who will be starting Reception Class or Nursery for a visit around St. Cuthbert's at 2.30pm on Tuesday 12th December. If your child will be joining our Nursery or Reception Class next September 2024, please get in touch with us at the school office if you would like to join the visit. If you know anyone with a child who could join us in September 2024, please ask them to get in touch with us at the school office and we'll have a chat with them about the visit.

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**



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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@stcuthbertsprimary.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 have a special treat lined up for the whole school on Wednesday 20th December as we make our way to the Saville Exchange to enjoy this year's panto, Aladdin! Our recent trips to the panto at the Saville Exchange have been very popular with all our children and we're sure this year's performance will be brilliant!



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



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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.



BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.



PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.



ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.



ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.



Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.



ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sulthairland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1f68cdd3dbefc4986013eac033901970 https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=f53ebaf1dbd441d03af1eb2ed39d1936 https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=952efc6b19ac50058ca0dc39e1917 <https://help.disneyplus.com/en-GB/article/disneyplus-en-us-scam-prevention#--text=Be%20wary%20of%20sites%20that%20ask%20for%20passwords%20or%20billing%20details>



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	12/12/2023
Reception	12/12/2023
Year 1	15/12/2023
Year 2	15/12/2023
Year 3	13/12/2023
Year 4	13/12/2023
Year 5	11/12/2023
Year 6	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.



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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
12/12/2023		Years 3 & 4 Christmas Party	School
12/12/2023	2.30pm	Open event for prospective new Nursery and Reception Class families	School
13/12/2023		Years 1 & 2 Christmas Party	School
14/12/2023		Years 5 & 6 Christmas Party	School
15/12/2023		Nursery & Reception Class Party	School
15/12/2023	2.30pm	Advent Service	School
21/12/2023	6pm	Key Stage 2 Carol Service	St. Cuthbert's Church
22/12/2023	9.30am	Whole school Mass	St. Cuthbert's Church

Can we remind all families that there are no more after school clubs this term, clubs will start again after the Christmas holidays.