



# St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 [www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk/](http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk/)



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

Thank you everyone for another fantastic week at St. Cuthbert's. It was another week with before and after school clubs packed out and it has been brilliant to see so many of our new families and children take part in these. Children in Need was very well supported again and we are getting ready to welcome you all into school during Advent.



Year 5 have won the attendance star trophy this week with a score of 98.9%, we're still waiting for that 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	86.6
Year 1	97.3
Year 2	94.5
Year 3	94
Year 4	92.4
Year 5 🌟	98.9
Year 6	97.9
Whole school	94.3

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for an online appointment to speak to class teachers next week. If you haven't already signed up for you you can do so until tomorrow morning, places have been booked quickly and most classes only have a few places left.

We have begun the process of recruiting apprentices to work with us at St. Cuthbert's for the next 18 months. We strongly believe that part of our mission as a school is to support the community we belong to and this includes giving people support and opportunities when we can. We have successfully employed apprentices in the past and we're delighted to be doing so again. Our posts are for teaching assistants and an admin assistant to work in our office. If you are interested in the posts available, or know anyone who is interested, please get in touch with us at school. Details about the admin assistant post will be published soon and you can find more information and application instructions for the teaching assistant posts at <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000210781>

We are delighted with the fantastic progress our children are making in reading and writing across school since September. Our youngest children are doing brilliantly with our new phonics programme and lots of families are telling us how much their children are loving it. It is always fantastic to see video clips of children working at home and seeing our youngest children reading and writing at home is brilliant and all our school staff are very proud of the children and families-children learn, achieve, enjoy and succeed when home and school work closely together. Throughout school the quality of writing is once again rising very quickly as children write about real-life experiences, and when discussing real-life events. We love sharing our children's work on Tapestry and Twitter and we love it when you share what they are doing on Tapestry.





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At St. Cuthbert's compassion is at the heart of what we do, what our children learn and how we treat each other. Jesus asks us to be compassionate people, to treat each other with compassion. Compassion is a quality which we definitely can learn and it is a quality we must always work at. The work our children do with Mrs Cottiss and our staff in Compassion Matters sessions provides children, staff and families with a big focus each week and term. A shared focus helps our community grow together and the work our children do helps them mature as young people and gives them the skills to think critically about the big questions they have. Our children ask us about what is happening in the world and it is often their questions and suggestions that decide what our whole school does through compassion matters. It is St. Cuthbert's children and families who inspire a lot of what we do at school. The uniform swap rails came from families and only works because of families and staff working together. It was our families who inspired our May Procession and St. Cuthbert's families who helped us get cycling at St. Cuthbert's up and running by gathering in large numbers to cycle to Newcastle and back on family bike rides. St. Cuthbert's community is a very strong one and it is so strong because we all want the children who come through our school to be good people who know they can make a positive difference to our community locally, nationally and globally. Our children, staff and families have done this regularly and will always do so, with compassion at the centre of what we do.



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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



# Y COMPASSION MATTERS





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](mailto:keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email) or speaking to Mr Dillon or Mrs Cottiss who you can find on the school playground at the start of each day or by phoning the school office.

Can we 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.

We are delighted to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to school next week on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and will run up until Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

- Mornings: 8:15 - 8:30
- Afternoons: 3:30 - 3:45

When the Scholastic Book Fair arrives the children will be able to browse lots of books, from award-winners and new releases to beloved favourites and bestsellers, all at competitive prizes. And even better, for every book bought you will be helping the school to earn free books for our school.



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If you have any concerns about your child's, or another child's safety, including their online safety, or questions about behaviour we always ask that you speak to us at school. It is important that we are part of discussions that may be happening around children's behaviour and welfare. We record incidents and concerns electronically on our CPOMS system and we work very closely with Clennell Education Solutions to make sure all our staff are up to date 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 afternoons from St Hilda's Church in the Marden. For more information see their





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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.

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

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



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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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

#### INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

#### REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

#### UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

#### A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

#### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

#### CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

#### SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

#### CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

### 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

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All our children were very active once again at St. Cuthbert's last week and they are brilliant at connecting their learning across the curriculum. Our children can explain how being active helps them physically and mentally and they can talk about where they feel they are on Maslow's pyramid. They are fantastic at talking about their feelings and how they stay safe and they are brilliant at encouraging each other, at building resilience by not giving up and tackling all the challenges we give them. Thank you for supporting us by letting your children take part in all the activities we have on offer at St. Cuthbert's.



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](mailto: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



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- 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](mailto: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 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	28/11/2023, 12/12/2023
Reception	28/11/2023, 12/12/2023
Year 1	01/12/2023, 15/12/2023
Year 2	01/12/2023, 15/12/2023
Year 3	29/11/2023, 13/12/2023
Year 4	29/11/2023, 13/12/2023
Year 5	27/11/2023, 11/12/2023
Year 6	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.



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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
20/11/2023	After school	Parents' evening	Online.
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