



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter #stcuthbertsns

Sunday 24th September 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

Thank you everyone for another fantastic week at St. Cuthbert's. Our youngest children are already well settled and all our new children have made a fantastic start to their school life with us, it was brilliant to see all the Reception Class with their year 6 buddies this week and to see how many of them already know their way about school!



Year 4 have won the attendance star trophy again this week with a score of 97.4% 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	95.7
Year 1	95
Year 2	92
Year 3	96.2
Year 4 🍌	97.4
Year 5	92.8
Year 6	95.4
Whole school	95

Thank you everyone for returning your forms as requested last week. If you are unable to complete and submit forms through ParentMail please call in to the school office for a paper copy, if you need any advice or assistance at all please ask. If you are having trouble with your ParentMail account let us know and we will do what we can to get back up and running.



Years 1 and 4 went on a joint curriculum trip this week to Tynemouth. Our year 1 children are exploring trains as part of their writing module and year 4 were exploring the mouth of the River Tyne as part of their geography topic. All our staff make learning as real as possible for children and they organise lots of curriculum trips throughout the year, all linked to children's learning.



Families were sent a letter through ParentMail last week about reading at St. Cuthbert's. We will be sending you further information next week about reading meetings at school and we would highly recommend that you come along to the meeting if you can. We will also send you regular information throughout the year and our school staff are always there for you to answer any questions you have and to help you help your child. Each child develops their reading skills and love of reading at their own individual pace and we, as home and school, can work together to make sure they have every support and challenge to help them achieve their very best and have a lifelong love of reading.



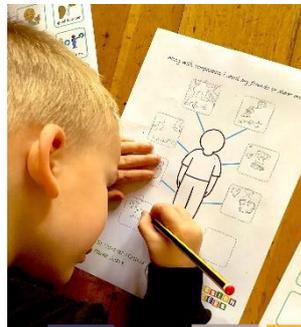


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Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801. Last week our children explored what the word compassion means and how we can recognise people being kind to us. Mrs Cottiss talked to our youngest children about their feelings when they see acts of kindness and unkindness and children used face cards to express their feelings in different scenarios. Our children regularly show an amazing understanding of how what they say and do can make someone else feel better or not better. You can see the massive positive impact of learning about compassion, kindness and caring throughout school as children work together to make a positive difference to the world around them by making sure our school is the most compassionate place it can be.



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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



Y C O M P A S S I O N M A T T E R S



Can we please remind all our families of the vital importance of keeping safe at the start and end of every day, particularly on the roads and crossings around school. One of the reasons for the way we start our school day is to allow families time to get to school safely and to reduce the need to rush. Our school building and grounds are well over 100 years old and we are located in a built-up, densely populated area that is very busy, especially in the mornings and at home time. We always ask everyone in our school community to respect our neighbours and we do have good relations with the residents around our school. We ask all families who drive to school to be very careful and mindful when parking cars by making sure you don't park in restricted areas, on the corners of roads or in a way that blocks other cars. We also ask that everyone stays as safe as possible, especially when crossing roads around school. There is a dedicated crossing on Coach Lane which is



Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801 supervised at the start and end of every day. It was families and children who campaigned long and hard to have the crossing put in place, it hasn't always been there. It was our families who also campaigned to make sure we have someone supervising the crossing at the start and end of each day. Without our families' determination and dedication to keeping all children at St. Cuthbert's safe, we wouldn't have the crossing. Please use it. We would much rather you were a minute or two late than hurt crossing the road at the wrong place. Year 3 will begin their pedestrian safety training soon, and we work with all children in all classes all year on staying safe when out and about, including how to be safe on the busy streets and roads around school.



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. 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.

Our Mini Vinnies have been working very hard to create an advertising campaign to tell you all you need to know about St. Cuthbert's MacMillan Coffee Morning 2023. Keep watching Twitter and around school for posters inviting you to join us for tea, coffee and juice with cakes and biscuits all to raise funds for a magnificent charity.





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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 apps 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 WHATSAPP

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

AGE RESTRICTION
16+
In UK and Europe; rest of the world 13+

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message, if your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

NEWS

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.



THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.



CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland 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.



...HEY OSCAR...



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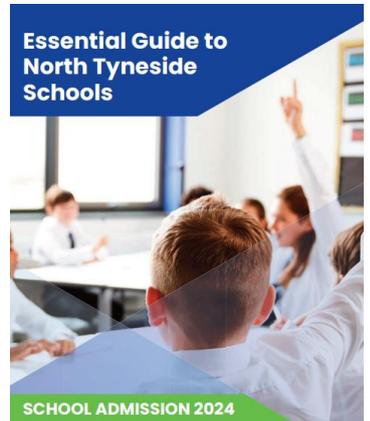
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Children and families from our Year 6 class are invited to an Admissions and Open Evening at St Thomas More on Tuesday, 26 September 2023 from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm. During the evening you will be able to tour the school and speak to staff and current students about life at St Thomas More. There will also be a very important talk (at 5.00 pm and repeated at 6.00 pm) which will give you some general information about the school and also to explain carefully the admission process. It is important that families attend one of these talks, so that you fully understand all issues surrounding admissions. You will already have been sent a copy of St. Thomas More prospectus and you can also visit their school website on www.stmacademy.org.uk where you will find a copy of our Curriculum Activities Report and School Prospectus. You will receive information from North Tyneside Local Authority very soon explaining how to apply for a place in a High School. All the information you need is available on the Local Authority website www.northtyneside.gov.uk. Also on their website will be a copy of the Essential Guide to North Tyneside Schools. If you do not have access to the internet you can complete a paper application available from our school office. The deadline for submission of your application is 31 October 2023.



**St Thomas More
Catholic High School**



North
Tyneside
Council

Apply online at
my.northtyneside.gov.uk

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,



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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 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

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](#).





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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/>

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.

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:



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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. 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, Year 3
Thursday	Year 5, 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	26/09/2023, 10/10/2023, 31/10/2023
Reception	26/09/2023, 10/10/2023, 31/10/2023
Year 1	29/09/2023, 13/10/2023, 03/11/2023
Year 2	29/09/2023, 13/10/2023, 03/11/2023
Year 3	27/09/2023, 11/10/2023, 01/11/2023
Year 4	27/09/2023, 11/10/2023, 01/11/2023
Year 5	25/09/2023, 09/10/2023, 30/09/2023
Year 6	25/09/2023, 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.