



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 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. Welcome back after our autumn half-term break. As always, we have lots happening this half term as we approach Advent and the Christmas season. We have added as many dates and details as we can to the list at the end of this newsletter, and we will keep everyone up to date with any changes or additions to the list. Thank you for a fantastic first half-term, and we are all looking forward to more brilliant things happening this half-term.



Year 5 are our attendance star trophy winners with a score of 97.9%. Can we remind all families that we ask you to contact us at school when your child is absent from school for any reason at all. Information about the impact of attendance and punctuality on your child's education is available on our school website. You can find it on the [Attendance and Term Dates](#) page. If your child is feeling unwell and you are unsure about them being in school, the NHS have a page of guidance on the subject, which you can find by clicking on this link: [NHS Is My Child Too Ill For School?](#)



Class	%
Reception	93.5
Year 1	96.0
Year 2	94.7
Year 3	94.6
Year 4	96.3
Year 5 🏆	97.9
Year 6	94.0
Whole school	95.2

Thank everyone for joining us for our Harvest Festival before the half-term break. We have had an incredible amount of donations, which we will be giving to Nite Bite. Our children will also spend time with the team at Nite Bite to sort and store the donations and to find out more about what they do. The amount of donations made, at a time when everyone is feeling the pressure of rising costs of everything, once again shows how strong our community is. Thank you.



We will be marking Remembrance Day this Tuesday 11th November as a whole school and would like to invite all St. Cuthbert's families to join us. We will begin with a whole school Remembrance Assembly in the school hall before leaving together and walking to North Shields Cenotaph on Hawkey's Lane to pay our respects with a minute of silence at 11am.

Thursday 13th November is World Kindness Day and it falls in a very busy week when we will be celebrating friendships, remembrance and Children In Need (Friday 14th November). Children can come to school wearing odd socks on Thursday to mark the day and we will be celebrating and sharing acts of kindness and compassion throughout the week at St. Cuthbert's. On Friday, children can support Children In Need by coming to school wearing something bright and/ or spotty. Please do not buy anything especially for the day, every year lots of children decorate an old T-shirt or shirt by drawing or painting spots on it- do not go to any extra cost. We will have donation buckets on the school gates at the start and end of each day, and we welcome any donations you make.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 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. At St. Cuthbert's, we talk a lot about equality, equity and justice. We talk to our children about how being equal will mean that different people get what they need at different times. This will often mean that someone gets something that other people don't and our children know that this is done to make us all more equal. They also know that we remove barriers to equality, which is why we don't charge for clubs, why we have our uniform exchange rails in the hall and why we make sure all our children have access to what they need every day at school at no cost to families. We teach much of this through Compassion Matters, and our children have been learning about Martin Luther King and his campaigns for equity and equality, which are still very relevant in our world today. As we approach the Advent season, we are often more aware of inequality around us and we are all also more aware of the financial and time pressures on families. This is why we have developed the policies we have at St. Cuthbert's around days like Children In Need when we ask you to make whatever donation you feel is right rather than asking each child to bring money to school. St. Cuthbert's is the school and community where everyone works together, supports each other and where we know that treating each other and ourselves with care, kindness, and compassion is the right thing to do, and we do this together as we all know that people do need people.

Look with kindness and you will always find wonder

Equality



The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.



COMPASSION MATTERS



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 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 for supporting us in using book bags and not large backpacks at school and for making sure children have sensibly sized water bottles. We are delighted that our classes are almost all full but this does reduce the space we have in shared areas. We do not have lots of space, and therefore, we are asking that children just bring a book bag to school each day. If they have a packed lunch then a small lunch bag is good as well. We do not have space for backpacks and other large bags that many children bring to school.



Lots of our children have them and they have very little in them but they take up a lot of space and end up lying on floors in corridors. They actually take up so much space that we have identified them as a fire hazard, as they are blocking corridors because they can't hang on pegs. Can we also ask that children have standard-sized water bottles? We have very limited sink space, and 30 bottles take up quite a lot of space. If children bring large bottles, they are stopping other children from being able to keep their bottles at the sink. I know these things might seem trivial on their own, but multiply each thing by 30 and you can see the problem. I hope that everyone can help with this request, we don't want to get to the situation where we have to ask people to take bags and bottles home. You don't need to buy branded book bags; any green book bag will be great. Book bags are brilliant because they help keep the books clean, dry and less likely to get torn or curled or damaged to the point where we have to ask for a replacement book.

Our SEMH team continue to meet and work with Connect North Tyneside.

The Connect team have begun work with our Year 5 and 6 children which will go on for six weeks. Our SEMH team is made up of Ms Shepherd as SENDco, Mr Capper who has a wealth of experience leading support and inclusion at a large local high school, Mrs Cottiss, and Mr Dillon, who are Senior Mental



Health Leads and Mrs Lavery, who is our new Family Support Worker. Our team have made connections with North Tyneside Connect Team and has begun working with a number of children and families already with more families coming forward for advice and support. In addition to the team and the partnerships created all families with children at St. Cuthbert's have been sent signup details for the [Wellbeing Hub](#), an online resource with lots of information, help and advice for families which you can access any time you need to. Families can face challenges at different times and The [Wellbeing Hub](#) is an online resource which could possibly be of help. Mrs Lavery works with us every Thursday and you can contact her by email at any time, her address is kiera.lavery@stcuthberts.email Can we 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 to wait 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.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 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

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](#).

Clennell
Education Solutions



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 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.



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 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

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/>



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 has been using Tapestry, keepingintouch@stcuthberts.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:

- Email keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email 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 or to let us your child will be picked up early for an appointment. 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-upon time to chat with someone. Use the school phone number to advise us of absence from school, and for questions



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 www.northyntsidecatholic.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 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.

We work continuously with all staff and children to keep children and everyone at St. Cuthbert's safe at all times. Our current Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and further information is on our school website, <https://www.stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk/safeguarding> and they outline 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 ask that all items of children's uniform have their name written clearly on the label please. We had an incredible amount of uniform and other items of clothing left behind at school before the summer, and that was after weeks of having the uniforms out on the playground for everyone to check at the end of each day. We don't want to get to the situation where we have so much again.

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



Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801. Our weekly E-Safety information posters now come with a link to the National Online Safety website and further resources, including podcasts and more explanations about the app or service highlighted each week. You can access the resources by clicking here [Wake Up Wednesday](#).

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 GUIDING YOUNG VOICES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bullying impacts the lives of many young people. In the UK, one in five pupils aged 10 to 15 report being bullied. The effects can be long lasting, affecting mental health, school attendance and self-esteem, and can impact long-term development into adult life. Adults play a key role in building young people's confidence to speak out, support one another, and stand up to unkind behaviour. This guide offers ways to help youngsters make a positive difference.

1 CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

Help young people value diversity by showing that what makes us different is also what makes us strong. Encourage them to learn about different cultures, identities, and abilities through books, films, and conversations. By appreciating uniqueness in themselves and others, children can grow into open-minded individuals who build inclusive and welcoming environments.

2 MODEL RESPECT

Children watch and learn from how adults behave. Use respectful language, show patience in disagreements, and treat others with fairness – especially in front of children. By modelling inclusive behaviour and challenging unkindness, adults set a lasting example that respect should be part of every interaction, whether online, at school, or at home. Be the change you want to make.

3 SPOT THE SIGNS

Adults and young people should learn how to recognise signs that someone may be experiencing bullying. This might include withdrawal from friends, hobbies or interests, changes in mood, reluctance to go to school, or unusual injuries. Helping young people recognise these clues ensures that support can be offered sooner and problems do not go unnoticed.

4 VALIDATE FEELINGS

When a child shares something that worries them, it's important to listen carefully and validate how they feel. Respond with empathy – not judgement – and let them know it's okay to feel upset or confused. Offering reassurance and understanding helps young people feel safe about opening up, and builds the trust needed to talk again in future.

5 TEACH ALLYSHIP

Show children how to stand up for others in safe, respectful ways. Allyship might look like sitting next to someone who's been excluded, reporting hurtful behaviour, or speaking up when they witness bullying. By practising these responses together, you're helping children develop the courage to be kind and to take action when it really counts.

6 PROMOTE REPORTING

Ensure young people know how to report bullying and feel confident that they'll be taken seriously. Talk to them about who they can speak to and what to expect when they do, such as reporting school incidents to teachers, and out-of-school bullying to parents or teachers. Reassure them that reporting is a brave and helpful choice – not tattling – and that it plays a vital role in keeping everyone safe.

7 ENCOURAGE KINDNESS

Everyday acts of kindness can make a big difference in creating safer, happier spaces. Encourage children to look out for one another by being helpful, saying kind words, or including someone who feels left out. These small actions set a strong example that kindness matters, and that it can be a powerful response to bullying.

8 USE YOUR VOICE

Encourage young people to speak up for themselves and others. Whether through storytelling, school campaigns, or peer-led projects, children can learn that their voice has power. Support them to express themselves confidently and safely, helping them understand that sharing experiences can challenge injustice and inspire real change in their communities.

9 BUILD COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

Children thrive when they feel supported. Help them build strong friendships, join clubs or teams, and connect with trusted adults who care. These networks offer comfort, encouragement, and protection – particularly during challenging times. Remind children that they don't have to face difficulties alone and that support is always within reach.

10 SUSTAIN THE CONVERSATION

Bullying awareness shouldn't be limited to one week each year. Create regular opportunities to talk about kindness, respect, and inclusion. Use books, news stories, and personal experiences as conversation starters. Embed anti-bullying initiatives into the school, and make tackling bullying a shared, ongoing commitment.

Meet Our Expert

Robert Allsop is an experienced pastoral and safeguarding practitioner, specialising in tutorials, behaviour interventions, and attendance management. A recipient of the Diana Award for Anti-Bullying, he has helped raise standards and improve Ofsted outcomes in some of the country's most challenging schools and colleges.



See full reference list on our website.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 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

PE and Outdoor Learning Timetables 2025/2026

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day.

PE	
Day	Class
Monday	
Tuesday	Year 3
Wednesday	Year 1, Year 6
Thursday	Reception Class, Year 2, Year 5
Friday	Year 4

We have a timetable for outdoor learning but classes will take learning outdoors as often as they can throughout the week. **Children should wear old clothes (which are appropriate for climbing, getting mucky and possibly smelling of smoke), on their outdoor learning day.** PE kit on PE day and school uniform on all other days. If an outdoor learning day is the same as a PE then children should wear PE kit that is suitable for outdoors and whatever weather we are forecast to have.

Outdoor Learning Dates

Nursery	(Friday)
Reception	(Friday)
Year 1	(Tuesday)
Year 2	(Tuesday)
Year 3	(Wednesday)
Year 4	(Wednesday)
Year 5	(Monday)
Year 6	(Monday)



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9th November 2025 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. Below are the dates, times and some details of events which will be taking place this school term. 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 Arbor as usual and added to each weekly newsletter. Further details about the Christmas Mass will be sent out via Arbor once we have confirmed them.

Date	Time	Event	Location
10-14/10/2025	All week	Friendship Week	School
11.11.2025	10.15am	Remembrance Assembly in school Walk together to North Shields Cenotaph for 11am	
13/11/2025	All day	Kindness Day- wear odd socks to school	School
14/11/2025	All day	Children In Need	School
28/11/2025	2.30pm	1 st Advent Service	School hall
03/12/2025	9am	EYFS Nativity	School hall
03/12/2025	2pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	School hall
04/12/2025	9am	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	School hall
04/12/2025	3.00pm	EYFS Nativity	School hall
05/12/2025	2.30pm	2 nd Advent Service	School hall
08/12/2025	Morning	EYFS trip to Fenwick's window	
09/12/2025	Afternoon	Year 1 and year 2 Christmas Party	School hall
10/12/2025	Afternoon	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party	School hall
11/12/2025	All day	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner	School hall
11/12/2025	Morning	EYFS Christmas Party	School hall
11/12/2025	Afternoon	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas party	School hall
12/12/2025	2.30pm	3 rd Advent service	School hall
15/12/2025	Afternoon	Whole school panto	Saville Exchange
17/12/2025	Evening	Key Stage 2 Carol Service	TBC
19/12/2025	2.30pm	4 th Advent service	School hall
TBC		Whole school Christmas Mass	St. Cuthbert's Church