



# St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter #stcuthbertsns


Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 [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 We have a very strong and supportive school community and we saw this once again last week as so many of St. Cuthbert's family and wider community came together to mark Remembrance Day at North Shields Cenopath at the start of the week and then supported Children In Need so brilliantly at the end of the week. We have lots happening at school during the rest of this term and we would love you to join us as much as you can as we begin Advent and the season of waiting for the birth of Jesus.



Congratulations to Year 5 who have won our Attendance of the Week Stars

trophy a perfect score of 100%- the second week in a row they have taken the trophy with a brilliant score. We audit attendance every half term and will send a second letter to all families if your child's attendance is below 90%- a level which is classified as a persistent absence. 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. There is information about the impact of attendance and punctuality on your child's education available on our school website, you can find it on the [Attendance and Term Dates](#) page.

Class	%
Reception	94.1
Year 1	91.0
Year 2 	85.5
Year 3	95.2
Year 4	94.7
Year 5	100
Year 6	97.0
Whole school	93.9

Thank you to everyone who supported Children In Need with us at school yesterday. It was fantastic to see so many wonderful homemade, upcycled T-shirts, shirts and other clothes throughout the day and St. Cuthbert's was full of bright colours and the children had great fun as always. We had a whole school scavenger hunt on the playground which Year 6 set up and led and our wonderful kitchen team baked lovely Pudsy bear biscuits for everyone. Thank you for your generous donations, we raised £195.00 for Children In Need.







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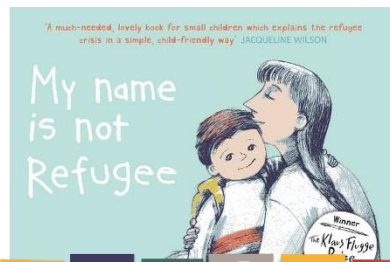
#stcuthbertsns



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Our Compassion Matters sessions focus on what a refugee is and the events worldwide that can create situations where children and families need to leave their homes in search of refuge. Our children know that conflict, poverty and extreme weather events can all create situations where people have to leave their homes quickly in search of safety and sanctuary. The children were able to link what is happening in the world at the moment, including the aftermath of the floods in Spain, to the UNICEF Rights of The Child and our school mission. St. Cuthbert's school community is vibrant and diverse and is recognised as such across the North East of England. The way our community welcomes and supports all children and families is very special and we celebrate all cultures all the time at school. St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School has been in existence in North Shields since the 1850s and was originally opened to provide an education to the children in North Shields and immigrants and refugees who were moving to North Shields in search of sanctuary due to war, famine and poverty. The original mission of our school is the same as our current mission- to care for each other, to be kind and compassionate people who are part of a strong community open to everyone. St. Cuthbert's is a place where we all know that people need people.



Thank you everyone for supporting your children and our staff with the reading activities that have been sent home and posted online this year. All the reading games and activities help raise the profile of reading for everyone and they also help grow a love of reading in our children.

Next week we will be marking friendship week and celebrating everything our children and staff do at our big celebration assembly on Friday.



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We send out all our letters and forms to families through ParentMail and last week a number of forms were sent out that we need you to complete and return as soon as possible please. The data form with your contact details, medical information and any other information we need is very important. You can change any of the information on it at any time, including details of named contacts, who can drop children off and pick them up from school and medical information. We use Twitter to share what is happening at school, our account is locked so you need to request access to follow us. If you want to follow our Twitter account our name is stcuthbertsns, if you don't get permission to follow let us know and we'll get you on. We use Tapestry to share more detailed information about what your child is doing at school. Tapestry is fantastic at keeping you up to date with everything and we love it when you press the 'like' button on Tapestry and Twitter- it shows us that you are getting to see what is happening and it also shows everyone at school that you appreciate what they are doing. If you have any trouble accessing any of these apps please let us know, they are important and great ways to keep up to date with everything going on at our very exciting and busy 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](#).



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 waiting around unnecessarily and helps us ensure all our children are where they are supposed to be. If the person





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Thank you to everyone who has made sure your child has a normal-sized bottle for their water, it does make managing space in our classrooms much more straightforward. Can we also ask that you make sure your child only brings what they need for each day to school and that they use a book bag for their books. We are starting to see a lot of large school bags coming to school and we don't have space for them. We have a small amount of space around school and big bags and coats are making it increasingly difficult for other children to hang up their coats and to keep corridors tidy and safe.

All our clubs are free of charge and our staff give up their own time to make sure your children can have a great time taking part in activities they love. All clubs after school begin at 3.30pm finish at 4.30pm and children must be collected from the school car park at 4.30pm. **Please do not park in the school car park after school. When you are collecting children at 4.30pm you can park outside school, parking restrictions are not in place at this time.** Clubs this half term are:

Day & Time	Club	Class	Staff
Tuesday lunchtimes	Rockstar Maths	Year 4	Mrs Massie
Tuesday 8.10am	Mini Mini Vinnies	Rec, Y1 & Y2	Mrs Cottiss & Mrs Stephens
Tuesday 8.10am	Cycling Club	Years 4 & 5	Miss Fielding, Miss Southgate, Mr Capper
Tuesday 3.30pm	Family Club (children must have an adult at the club)	Nursery & Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and siblings	St. Cuthbert's staff
Tuesday 3.30pm	Comic Creator	Years 3,4,5 and 6	Ms Shepherd
Wednesday lunchtime	Music- Winter Sing prep	Years 3,4.5 &6	Mrs Brown
Wednesday 3.30pm	Chatterbooks	Years 2 & 3	Mrs McArdle
Wednesday 3.30pm	Games Club	Year 1	Mrs Cottiss & Mr Dillon
Wednesday 3.30pm	Lego Club	Years 2 and 3	Mrs Moody
Thursday 3.30pm	Mini Vinnies	Years 3,4,5 & 6	Mrs Cottiss, Mrs Stephens, Miss Fielding
Thursday 3.30pm	Football Club	Year 3,4,5 & 6	Miss Collings, Mr Capper, Mr Smart, Mr Dillon
Friday 3.30pm	Campfire Club	Year 4 & siblings	Mrs Cottiss & Mr Dillon



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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 we sent everyone with children at St. Cuthbert's 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.



Every week we publish a poster with information and advice on keeping children safe online. The posters we use come from the National Online Safety organisation and we use their resources at school when teaching our E-Safety lessons for all children. These lessons follow similar themes as the posters we share with you and the lessons at school are all taught at a level appropriate to the children. Our children know how to stay safe both online and offline and they know we have systems such as Smoothwall at school which help keep everyone safe.

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](mailto:wendy.mcconnell@citizensuk.org)



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

We are asking all families to make sure you pre-order your children's lunches as this is the only way to ensure they get what they want each lunchtime. All children who have a school lunch must pre-order- this includes children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 who are all entitled to free school meals through the Infant Free School meals scheme.

Thank you once again to everyone who has signed up for your Appetite account and to everyone who is using it to pre-order children's school lunches. It is very, very important that you get your account set up as it allows you to see the menu for the coming weeks, including all the dietary and nutritional information you might want to see. No child will ever be left hungry and the staff in our kitchen know all our children well. If you have any



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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.*

Can we please remind families that for all classes from reception through to year 6 the school day has a 'soft start' meaning that the school gates and doors will open at 8.40 am and children should go straight to their class when they come on to the playground from 8.40 am. The doors and gates then close at 8.55 am when all children should be in their class- anyone who arrives at school after 8.55 am should come to school through the main office. **Children cannot wait alone on the playground or at school gates before 8.40 am as all staff are supervising gates, doors, corridors and classrooms with teachers beginning their teaching at 8.40 am.** Can we also remind everyone that no adults should be in the school building in the morning or at the end of the school day. If you need to speak to a class teacher you can contact them through Tapestry, phone the school office to make an appointment or pass on a message or catch them at the end of the school day once all children have been passed over to their families. Our school day ends at 3.25 pm for all children. Can we also please remind families that dogs, no matter how small, are not permitted through the school gates or on the school playground. We have over 500 people on the playground at the start and end of each day and we all greatly appreciate your help and support in keeping our school as safe as possible and our school days running smoothly for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who is using Easyfundraising.

There are no catches to using the site, you don't need to share bank or payment details, just sign up and choose to support St. Cuthbert's. all you then need to do is search for your chosen store or seller on the easyfundraising site and do your online shopping as normal.

If you are booking a holiday, buying any insurance, changing internet suppliers, mobile phone providers, etc. online, and doing so through the site they make quite big donations to school! It's really easy to get set up and running, all you need to do is:







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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](mailto:keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk) email, and school phone to keep in touch with school staff. Lines of communication must be kept as open and honest as possible between school and home as we work hard to keep our open-door policy and approach going by making so many ways to keep in touch available. **As highlighted in the past we don't use Facebook or WhatsApp or any other social media apart from Twitter (which we don't use to answer questions)**, and we won't be setting up accounts on either medium. If you have any questions, or concerns, or need to chat with a member of staff at school please make sure you use one of three methods we have put in place:

- Message a member of staff on Tapestry with messages regarding work, arrangements for the school day for your child, etc. All staff have access to Tapestry.
- Email [keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk](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>

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



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





At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

### 1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING

Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are Bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signaling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

### 2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE

Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

### 3 TRY A CARGO BIKE

Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

### 4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE

It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

### 5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR

Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly. If you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

### 6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

### 7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS

For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

### 8 AVOID PARKED CARS

When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

### 9 START A 'BIKE BUS'

Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?

### 10 HAVE FUN!

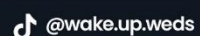
Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

## Meet Our Expert

Sophia Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/teaching-cycle-safety>



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## **PE and Roundhouse Timetables 2024/2025**

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day. All classes from Year 1- Year 6 will take part in cricket sessions every Wednesday this half term, this is in addition to their PE lessons and outdoor learning sessions. Year 3 begin four weeks of swimming sessions, every morning, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

PE	
Day	Class
Monday	Year 5
Tuesday	Reception Class
Wednesday	KS1 & KS2 Cricket
Thursday	Year 6. Year 2, Year 3
Friday	Year 1 and 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 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.

Roundhouse/ Outdoor Learning Dates	
Nursery	(Friday)
Reception	(Friday)
Year 1	(Tuesdays)
Year 2	(Tuesdays)
Year 3	(Wednesdays)
Year 4	(Wednesdays)
Year 5	(Mondays)
Year 6	(Mondays)





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Date	Time	Event	Location
26/11/2024	Evening	North Tyneside Music Hub Big Sing	Whitley Bay Playhouse
29/11/2024	2.30pm	Advent Service	School hall
4/12/2024	2.30pm	Advent Service	School hall
5/12/2024	9.10am	Nursery and Reception Class Nativity	School hall
5/12/2024	2.00pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	School hall
6/12/2024	9.10am	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	School hall
6/12/2024	2.00pm	Nursery and Reception Class Nursery	School hall
7/12/2024	3.00pm	Children singing at North Shields Victorian Market	Northumberland Square
10/12/2024	Afternoon	Year 1 and year 2 Christmas Party	School hall
11/12/2024	Afternoon	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party	School hall
12/12/2024	All day	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner	School hall
12/12/2024	Afternoon	Year 5 and year 6 Christmas party	School hall
13/12/2024	Morning	Nursery and Reception Class Christmas party	School hall
13/12/2024	2.30pm	Advent service	School hall
16/12/2024	Afternoon	Whole School Panto	Saville Exchange
20/12/2024	2.30pm	Advent Service	School
TBC		Open event for prospective new Nursery and Reception Class families	School
TBC		Key Stage 2 Christmas Service	
TBC		Whole school Christmas Mass	St. Cuthbert's Church