



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 joining us once again last week for everything that is happening at school as we prepare for Christmas throughout the Advent season. It is always wonderful to see so many families come to school to support everything our children and staff are doing and to show how strong and united our community is. We still have lots happening and will be sending you details of our Key Stage 2 Service early next week.



Congratulations to Year 3 who have won our Attendance of the Week Stars trophy again last week a score of 98.6%- the second week in a row they have taken the trophy with a great 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	91.8
Year 1	89.7
Year 2	93.7
Year 3 🏆	98.6
Year 4	96.7
Year 5	96.7
Year 6	97.5
Whole school	94.9

Thank you to the very kind people at [Elliott's Garden and Animal Supplies](#) in Backworth and [Garden World](#) at Royal Quays for their very generous donations of Christmas trees for us at St. Cuthbert's. Thank you to Mrs Cottiss for organising the trees, Mr Capper for collecting them and Mr Smart for setting them up and sorting out our festive lights. The decorations and lights in the hall change throughout Advent and it is always magical watching the changes happen and seeing so many staff and children work together to make our hall look spectacular and feel very special.



I am sure you will join everyone at school in sending our best wishes to Mrs Brown and her family as they wait for the arrival of their new baby any day soon!

We have a very busy final two weeks of the term coming up and dates and information are throughout this newsletter. Ange, Norma and Sue are hard at work in the kitchen getting ready for their annual spectacular- St. Cuthbert's Christmas Dinner which we'll all enjoy next Thursday 12th December!



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 8th December 2024 www.northyntsidecatholic.org.uk/

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The curriculum we have created at St. Cuthbert's has been designed to meet the needs of our children and families and to make the most of the skills, talents and interests of our staff and the wider community, This means that our curriculum will always be an evolving one to meet the changes in our community and to address issues and events as they happen. Compassion Matters is a magnificent way to do all of this and, it gives our whole school and wider community shared themes, questions and opportunities to learn as well as understand, challenge and support each other. Last week it was brilliant to welcome once again so many families and friends to St. Cuthbert's for our Advent Service and Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativities. Our Advent Services change each year and they are perfect examples of how collective worship has evolved at St. Cuthbert's. Our Nativity plays are different every year also because the children are and it is our duty to allow them to shine and understand the story they are telling in a way that helps their learning. We teach our children about equity, how each person will need different things at different times in order to help us all be equal. Our children understand this and they are brilliant at helping and supporting each other and celebrating each other's achievements. Key Stage 2 did this brilliantly when cheering on the two nativity plays last week and all our children do it every playtime and in lessons which are shared between classes. We have had a policy of not giving presents at school for many years now and we ask that all families respect and follow this policy. We ask that children don't give gifts to other children or to staff and that families don't give gifts to staff either. The reason for this policy is very simple and came from children at St. Cuthbert's who noticed that some children were given gifts by other children whilst others were left out. They also noticed that some families and children gave gifts to staff at school and others didn't and they thought this was unfair to the children who couldn't afford to buy gifts. Working with our children we introduced the no presents policy so that everyone is treated with equity, in a way that supports them and it makes everyone equal. We have a very special community at St. Cuthbert's and it is remarked upon very regularly by visitors, friends and people we meet and work with throughout the year. What people always compliment our school on is the friendly welcome from everyone and how brilliant St. Cuthbert's children are in how they treat each other, and other people and how compassion shines throughout our school.



COMPASSION MATTERS





St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter #stcuthbertsns

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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 We have another busy week ahead with Christmas parties, Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day! For each party we ask that children bring a plate of their own party food which is wrapped and clearly labelled with their name on it. Children cannot have anything that contains nuts and we ask all families to carefully check to make sure there are nuts in lunches and party plates. Your help with this is greatly appreciated. On Christmas Jumper Day children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumper, t-shirt or whatever they like to feel dressed up for their Christmas dinner. It is one of the biggest days in the year for our kitchen staff and they'll be hard at work with the rest of our staff to make sure our whole school Christmas dinner is very special. You can find the key dates for everything happening next week below, our Advent Service returns to its normal Friday at 2.30pm slot next week.

Date	Time	Event	Location
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

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.

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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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

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





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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 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](#).

All families have been 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

Tyne & Wear
citizens

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.



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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 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 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

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



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Thank you to everyone who is using Easyfundraising.

There are no catches to using the site, you don't need to share bank or payment details, just sign up and choose to support St. Cuthbert's. all you then need to do is search for your chosen store or seller on the easyfundraising site and do your online shopping as normal. If you are booking a holiday, buying any insurance, changing internet suppliers, mobile phone providers, etc. online, and doing so through the site they make quite big donations to school! It's really easy to get set up and running, all you need to do is:



1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcuthbertsrprimary/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will donate to St. Cuthbert's at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and we would be grateful for your support and donations which will go towards all our children.

Thank you to everyone who has been using Tapestry, our keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrprimary.co.uk email, and school phone to keep in touch with school staff. Lines of communication must be kept as open and honest as possible between school and home as we work hard to keep our open-door policy and approach going by making so many ways to keep in touch available. **As highlighted in the past we don't 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@stcuthbertsrprimary.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.



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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 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.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying something along the lines of "Your child is good to go. Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't want it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required. Is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP – or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.

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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps>



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PE and Roundhouse Timetables 2024/2025

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

PE	
Day	Class
Monday	Year 5
Tuesday	Reception Class
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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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 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 our Key Stage 2 Christmas Service and our whole school Christmas Mass will be sent out via ParentMail.

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	
18/12/2024	9.30am	Whole school Christmas Mass	St. Cuthbert's Church