



# St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 [www.northyntesidecatholic.org.uk/](http://www.northyntesidecatholic.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 once again for ensuring St. Cuthbert's children had everything they needed for a very busy week last week and for supporting everything we do at school by joining us when you can. Next week is equally busy and you can see more information about our panto visit, whole school Mass, Key Stage 2 led whole school Christingle Service and final Advent Service of the season. Thank you for respecting our 'no presents policy', working with us on creating a community where equity leads to equality is very important and gives our children another powerful example of a community where Jesus is at the centre of who we are, what we do and where compassion matters most.



Congratulations to Year 5 and Year 6 who share Attendance of the Week Stars trophy with a score of 95% each. 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	86.7
Year 1	82.8
Year 2	90.3
Year 3	94.1
Year 4	89.7
Year 5	95.0
Year 6	95.0
Whole school	90.4

Thank you to Ange, Norma and Sue for doing such an amazing job preparing, cooking and serving up another wonderful and delicious Christmas dinner for everyone at St. Cuthbert's last Thursday. The hall was beautifully decorated and all the special treats made the meal even more special. We have a fantastic staff team at St. Cuthbert's who work hard, with creativity and a dedication to give our children the best experiences we can give them and this is exactly what Ange, Norma and Sue do.



Congratulations to Mrs Brown and her family as they welcome baby Violet into the world! Mrs Brown gave birth to baby Violet early last week and both Mrs Brown and Violet are doing very well.

Thank you to everyone who made the Year 1 and Year 5 trip to Fenwick's Window in Newcastle so special for all the children last week. Children, families and staff all working together to give all the children lovely experiences is another one of the things that makes St. Cuthbert's such a strong and special community.





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It was Christmas party and Christmas dinner time at St. Cuthbert's last week and everyone had a fantastic time! All the hard work that goes into organising parties and special dinners, all the creativity, all the care and attention to make sure every child has what they need and all the attention to detail around how everything looks, sounds and feels show how much St. Cuthbert's staff care about the children in our school and celebrating our community. The adults who work at St. Cuthbert's demonstrate compassion and care in the way they talk to each other and our children and in the way they treat each other and our children. The adults at St. Cuthbert's model how we want our children to treat each other and they do this brilliantly. We see the examples of behaviours towards each other being repeated by the children of St. Cuthbert's. We see the positive behaviours and attitudes to learning, challenge, support and resilience modelled by our staff and in turn, we see these qualities demonstrated by our children. Lots of people from different schools visit us at St Cuthbert's every half term and they all remark upon the way our children speak confidently, treat each other so well, how they know lots of other children across the school and all the adults in school and how proud they are of their whole school. We know that we can learn and teach compassion and we know that we can model and learn behaviours and attitudes. When we make the model of what we do positively and show compassion, care and understanding for everyone and we do this whilst treating everyone in an equitable way, we get the community we work and strive for, one where we all know that people need people.



**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**

**Children in Crossfire**  
**COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL AWARD**  
**GOLD AWARD**

We nurture compassionate global citizens



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We have another very busy week next week and we would love you to join us for as much as you possibly can. Our whole school are going to The Saville Exchange for a Christmas Panto treat on Monday afternoon. We will be leaving school at 12.30 pm and will be back for home time. We would love our Nursery children to join us, Nursery families can bring children to meet us at The Saville Exchange at 12.50 pm and collect them again at 2.45 pm when the Panto is over. We have our whole school Christmas Mass with Fr. Chris and the Parish at 9.30 am on Wednesday morning, if you would like to walk to church with us we will be leaving school at 9.15 am. On Wednesday afternoon Key Stage 2 will be leading our whole school Christingle Service. Our service will begin at 1.30 pm in Northumberland Square in North Shields and we will walk as a whole school to St. Cuthbert's Church as a powerful reminder of the journey Mary and Joseph took before the birth of Jesus and to begin the second part of our service at 2 pm. The second part of our service is planned to finish by 3 pm and we will make our way back to school for children to be collected at the end of the school day. We would love as many people as possible to join us for this very special event which is made even more special for our children and staff and the whole community by families and friends joining us. Following Year 5 and Year 1's visit to Fenwick's Window last week, more classes will be making the trip to Newcastle next week and we would love it if you joined them if you can. On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December year 3 and year 4 will be leaving school at 9.15 am, taking the Metro to town, visiting the window and returning to school by Metro by lunchtime. On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December it will be Nursery, Reception Class, Year 2 and Year 6 making the same trip with the same arrangements and they will be back in time for Nursery children to be collected as usual at 11.30 am.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
16/12/2024	Afternoon	Whole School Panto	Saville Exchange
17/12/2024	Morning	Year 3 & 4 trip to Fenwick's Window	Newcastle
17/12/2024	1.30pm	Open event for prospective new Nursery and Reception Class families	School
18/12/2024	Key Stage 2 Christmas Service 1.30pm Northumberland Square 2pm St. Cuthbert's Church		
18/12/2024	9.30am	Whole school Christmas Mass	St. Cuthbert's Church
19/12/2024	Morning	Nursery, Reception, Y2 & Y6 trip to Fenwick's Window	Newcastle
20/12/2024	2.30pm	Advent Service	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



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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 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.

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 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



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Friday 3.30pm	Campfire Club	Year 4 & siblings	Mrs Cottiss & Mr Dillon
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If you have any concerns about your child's, or another child's safety, including their online safety, or questions about behaviour we always ask that you speak to us at school. It is important that we are part of discussions that may be happening around children's behaviour and welfare. We record incidents and concerns electronically on our CPOMS system and we work very closely with Clennell Education



Solutions to make sure all our staff are up to date with the best safeguarding training available and to provide leading professional advice when requested. This means that we have a broad picture of anything that is happening at school and, with your help, we can make sure any concerns are addressed quickly and do not escalate or lead to children or families falling out. If you have a concern that you feel needs attention immediately, and it is outside of normal school hours, you can contact the North Tyneside Safeguarding Team's Front Door service on 0345 2000 109 during office hours or 0330 333 7475 during the evening or at weekends. We work in partnership with the team and they will inform us at school of any referrals made to them during weekends, evenings, and holidays when school is closed. You can also find out more information about safeguarding in North Tyneside on their [website](#) and our [school website](#).

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





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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 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



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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](mailto:keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrprimary.co.uk) email, and school phone to keep in touch with school staff. Lines of communication must be kept as open and honest as possible between school and home as we work hard to keep our open-door policy and 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](mailto: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



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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 also have online safety lessons with all children and these range in topic from what to do if a child feels unsafe, how to create the best usernames and passwords and how to judge if the information you are reading or watching is genuine and accurate. We also hold online safety sessions for families each year to help you keep your children safe online at home. If you have any questions about safeguarding at St. Cuthbert's please get in touch by emailing [keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email](mailto:keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email) or speaking to Mr Dillon or Mrs Cottiss who you can find on the school playground at the start of each day or by phoning the school office.

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 SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>



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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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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
17/12/2024	1.30pm	Open event for prospective new Nursery and Reception Class families	School
18/12/2024	9.30am	Whole school Christmas Mass	St. Cuthbert's Church
18/12/2024	1.30pm	Northumberland Square	
	2pm	St. Cuthbert's Church	
		Key Stage 2 Christmas Service	
20/12/2024	2.30pm	Advent Service	School