



# St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025 [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

It was great to welcome everyone back to St. Cuthbert's this week following the half-term break. We've enjoyed a brilliant week full of learning and fun and it was fantastic to see so many families join us for our breakfasts with a book throughout World Book Week 2025. We have posted a video of the highlights of the week on Tapestry. All our clubs will be running next week and we will be welcoming Fr. Chris and the parish to school for Mass on Wednesday morning. This newsletter provides more details about everything happening.



Our attendance of the week winners this week are Year 6 with a score of 98.5% 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	96.9
Year 1	95.2
Year 2	94.7
Year 3	95.5
Year 4	94.0
Year 5	93.3
Year 6 🧐	98.5
Whole school	95.5

This half term we welcome Mrs Kiera Lavery to our staff team at St. Cuthbert's. Mrs Lavery will be with us each Thursday as our Family Support Worker and she will be on the playground at the start and end of the day this Thursday to meet everyone and say hello. Mrs Lavery explains her role in her introduction to everyone:

*I'm Kiera Lavery, and I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new Family Support Worker at the school. I'll be working on Thursdays and am employed by Clennell Education Solutions. With 15 years of experience working with children and 3 years specifically with Clennell, I'm eager to join the St. Cuthbert's team and get to know both you and your children. My role is to assist families and be one of the points of the contact for any support or worries you or your child may have. As a family support worker, my goal is to partner with families and school staff to create a positive and supportive environment for all students. I'm here to offer a helping hand, whether it's connecting families with community resources, providing guidance, or simply lending a listening ear.*

We will be welcoming Fr. Chris and the parish for Mass with years 3, 4, 5 and 6 next Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am in the school hall. Our plan is to celebrate Mass regularly at school and, due to the size of our hall, we will invite different classes to join each time. Everyone is welcome to join us and there will be refreshments and time to catch up and have a chat after Mass.





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Next week is Empathy Week and we would love to invite you to join us for a whole school activity morning on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March. There will be lots of fun, empathy-themed activities taking part in each class and we would love everyone to get involved in a piece of whole school art. Compassion and empathy are two human qualities that we see around us a lot and they are two qualities that are interconnected in many ways. When we treat someone with compassion the first thing we do is try to understand how the other person is feeling and how they might feel after we say or do something for them. Like compassion, empathy is something we can learn and get better at. Our children learn about compassion and empathy and they explore real-life examples of people who have shown compassion and empathy in their lives. Last week in Compassion Matters sessions children explored their visible and hidden feelings and this kind of work helps us all understand our own emotions and needs and therefore other peoples' as well. Our recent Ofsted report highlighted the behaviour and attitudes of our children when it said, *Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They are kind to one another. Pupils display empathy for others that is exceptionally mature.* (Ofsted February 2025). We would love you to join us on Thursday morning to join in with the activities taking part in your child's class and in the school hall as we all celebrate compassion and empathy at St. Cuthbert's.

*Look with kindness and you will always find wonder*



**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**

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

**COMPASSION MATTERS**

**Children in Crossline COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL AWARD GOLD AWARD**

We nurture compassionate global citizens





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Thank you everyone for making our World Book Week so fantastic last week! We have a genuine love of reading, books, poetry, singing, dancing and storytelling at St. Cuthbert's and weeks like World Book Week are great opportunities to celebrate this. Thank you for joining us throughout the week for Breakfast With A Book and for making World Book Day so fantastic with all the amazing upcycled costumes. Thank you to our wonderful staff for making the school hall such a magical place for the breakfasts and for making mountains of toast through the week. It is amazing how many changes our school hall goes through every day! We have uploaded a video of the week to Tapestry, you can watch it by clicking on this link [St. Cuthbert's World Book Week 2025 Video](#).



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 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	Eco Club	Years 1 and 2	Miss Fielding & Miss Fellows
Wednesday lunchtimes	Rockstar Maths	Years 3 and 4	Mrs Massie
Wednesday 3.30pm	Drawing	Years 3 and 4	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 2 & 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. 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.



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.

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](#).

**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 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/>



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





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

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

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

Thank you to everyone who has been using Tapestry, our [keepingintouch@stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk](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



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<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.

We send out all our letters and forms to families through ParentMail and sometimes we send forms that we need you to complete and return as soon as possible please. 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.

Thank you for your amazing 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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

### 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

### 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

### 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

### 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

### 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

### 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

### 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

### 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

### 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

### 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.







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## PE and Outdoor Learning 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.

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)