



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 10th March 2024 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 celebrated our love of reading across the whole school and community last week as children took part in World Book Day, library visits and a brilliant competition of The Masked Reader! Thank you to everyone for your fantastic support as always, especially with our reading breakfasts and walks to and from the library. Our Masked Readers were a massive hit- there was a lot of excitement in the school hall when we played the video clips you sent in and it was great watching the children's reactions when they realised who was reading the stories!



Year 2 are our attendance stars again this week with a score of 98.6% and they'll get an extra playtime next week as a special reward. Our whole school attendance for the week is 96%. We work hard with families and partner agencies to make sure every child achieves the best attendance they can. Can we remind all families that we ask you to contact school when your child is absent from school for any reason at all.



Class	%
Reception	92.0
Year 1	94.5
Year 2 🥳🏆	98.6
Year 3	96.3
Year 4	97.3
Year 5	96.3
Year 6	97.7
Whole school	96.0

Thank you for all your donations of tins of food last week, you can keep sending donations into school and we will be passing them on to Nite Bite and Cedarwood Trust as we continue our mission to support our local community.

Our dancers from years 4, 5 and 6 were fantastic at the North Tyneside Dance Festival last week as they entertained everyone in the venue with their dance to ELO's Rockin All Over The World. The dance was choreographed by Zosia, Ava and Manuela, three young ladies who have always loved dancing, and who danced on the same stage over the years with all their friends from St. Cuthbert's. They are all now in year 7 at St. Thomas More and we were delighted when they said they wanted to help with the dance. Ava, Manuela and Zosia are fantastic role models to the rest of the children at St. Cuthbert's and more examples that when our children move on from St. Cuthbert's they never leave us and remain part of our community.



Plans for our STEM Week are progressing well and we have lots lined up for all classes across school. The week begins on Monday 18th March and it will run over into the following week as we make sure we can give all the children in every class as many brilliant experiences as possible. Thank you to everyone who has come forward to offer your support, we would still love to hear from you if you can work with us at any time during the week beginning on Monday 18th March or on Monday 25th or Tuesday 26th March. Part of our focus is to give the children real-life



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Talking about compassion throughout our curriculum and in everything we do at St. Cuthbert's is a brilliant example of our curriculum in action. We are a school and community who are open to everyone, inclusive, understanding, strong and supportive. We all need to work at this as there are times when it is more difficult to stand up for what is right, to use our voices to say something when we know something isn't right. In Compassion Matters we use real-life examples of how people have either shown compassion to make the lives of other people better or we explore people who have been shown compassion and in turn had their lives get better. Compassion also means being able to say when we get something wrong and when we teach children, as families and a school community, we know that children will learn best from mistakes they have made when they accept they have done something wrong. At St. Cuthbert's we treat everyone in our community with compassion, dignity and respect and we know that treating other people with kindness makes them and us feel good.



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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



Y COMPASSION MATTERS

Children in Crossfire
COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL AWARD
GOLD AWARD

We nurture compassionate global citizens



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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](#).



Can we also 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.

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



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



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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 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/>

The poster is titled 'Welcome to CEOP Education'. It features the CEOP logo (Education from the National Crime Agency) and text stating: '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.' Below this, it says 'I am:' followed by six colored boxes representing different roles and age groups: 'A professional working with children and young people' (green), 'A parent or carer' (teal), '4-7 years old' (blue), '8-10 years old' (yellow), and '11-18 years old' (purple).

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



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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 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:



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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Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801. There has been a great deal of interest in our apprenticeships that have been advertised, you can find more information about the teaching assistant and admin assistant roles on our school [website](#).

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 new Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2023/24 is on our school website, <https://www.stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk/safeguarding> and it outlines 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING STORYTIME

Being read to regularly can help the under-fives in acquiring literacy; teaches them the value of books and stories; and sparks their imagination and curiosity. Reading to babies, meanwhile, provides the building blocks of language development and the beginnings of social and emotional skills. Here are our top tips for helping children discover the wonder of stories.

1 BE A READING ROLE MODEL

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of adults around them, so it's vital to model regular reading habits: if your child sees you reading, they're likely to copy you. Reading on a screen could be misinterpreted by a child as a different activity, so a printed book is preferable.

2 JOIN A LIBRARY

Local libraries are a cost-effective way of introducing your child to new books. Libraries often host free events to build engagement with reading. Librarians can recommend books based on age, interests, genre or author. Having their own library card and choosing their next read can be exciting for little ones.

3 TAKE IT IN TURNS

Taking turns to read and turn the pages can build your child's confidence and lets you model what's expected. For younger ones, reading doesn't have to mean the exact words on the page – they might prefer their own version! Reading to different audiences is useful: teddies are excellent listeners!

4 CATER TO THEIR INTERESTS

Like adults, children tend to favour books with themes they're interested in. If they're less keen to move away from their preferred subject matter, you could vary the type of book they read by swapping between fiction and non-fiction. There'll be plenty of scope to diversify as they grow up.

5 BUILD READING INTO YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Building reading into your daily routine will have a positive impact. Just before bedtime is ideal for many families, helping settle the child to sleep. The adult usually reads the story, but children enjoy more interactivity as they get older. It can be handy to have books with you when out and about.

6 USE PICTURES AND PROPS

Most children's books contain beautiful illustrations which enrich the text. Spend time discussing these with your child and pointing things out. As well as doing voices for different characters and making any relevant noises, you could also enhance story time with props such as toys or puppets.

7 RELISH THE LANGUAGE

The language in children's books is varied and rich; sometimes they might include words children are less familiar with, so you can take the opportunity to explain what they mean. With younger children, you could try paraphrasing certain sentences afterwards to help with understanding.

8 A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, read to your child in an environment that's free from distractions. This helps children to get fully immersed in the experience, supporting their concentration and engagement. Doing this often can help to build up the child's ability to focus for greater lengths of time.

9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Although reading can be hugely enjoyable, children can sometimes struggle to sit for long periods or to engage with texts fully. Have regular breaks: reading a few pages is better than none. You could also have some movement breaks – there's no particular 'right' or 'wrong' way to enjoy a story.

10 RE-READ FAVOURITES

Most children have certain stories that they love hearing again and again. This repetition lets them become familiar with language patterns and more engaged by feeling able to join in. Choosing other books by your child's preferred author can help them to discover new favourites.

Meet Our Expert

Kara Kieran has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYF5 practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.



Source: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-its-powerful-but-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/> | <https://cdn.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/benefits-of-reading---booktrust-2023.pdf> | <https://www.all4kids.org/news/blog/the-importance-of-reading-to-your-children/>



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PE and Roundhouse Timetables 2023/2024

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

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

Outdoor learning takes place continuously at St. Cuthbert's and includes a Roundhouse session once every two weeks. **Children should come to school wearing old clothes that will get dirty on their Roundhouse day only**, the dates for this half term for each class are below.

Roundhouse Dates	
Nursery	(Tuesdays) 19/03/2024
Reception	(Tuesdays) 19/03/2024
Year 1	(Fridays) 22/03/2024
Year 2	(Fridays) 22/03/2024
Year 3	(Wednesdays) 20/03/2024
Year 4	(Wednesdays) 20/03/2024
Year 5	(Mondays) 18/03/2024
Year 6	(Mondays) 18/03/2024

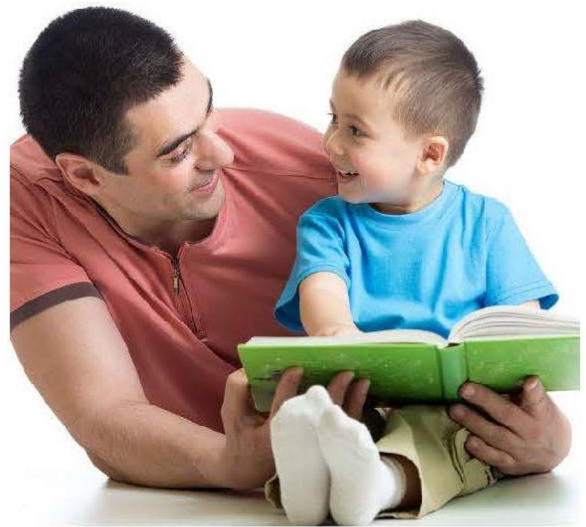


St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School families are invited to join our

Book-sharing Course

This course is for 7 weeks starting Wednesday 17th January until 15th February from 2.15pm. Then we will have a further 3 sessions starting 28th February until 13th March.

This friendly group for local families and is not about reading stories to your child but is about giving you new skills and confidence to share books with your 2-4 year-old.



This Book-sharing course has been proven to:

- help your child's language development
- encourage children to concentrate and give attention for longer
- help your child get on with others better and improve their social skills
- give you and your children a closer connection and a special time together
- build an even stronger relationship between you and your child



This course is being run for FREE by the Parents and Communities Together (PACT) team in partnership with St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School. For more information call Wendy on 07950426786. You can book your place by contacting school on 0191 691 9876 or by texting/calling Wendy on 07950426786.



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FREE

Do you want to improve your child's health?

Our 10 week programme supports you and your family to make healthy lifestyle changes together.

Interactive sessions are delivered by an expert and friendly team and focus on nutrition and physical activity to give you and your family a real boost.

The team delivers family programmes for two different age groups:

Ages 4-7 years old
Ages 8-14 years old

Register:



Sessions take place once a week, after school

In 10 weeks we cover:

- Simple food swaps to reduce fat and sugar intake
- The right size portions for children and adults
- How to understand food labels and afford healthy options
- Opportunities to add run and play into your daily routine

Eligibility criteria applies, please ask for more details.

0191 643 7454
CHAT@northyntside.gov.uk
www.activenorthyntside.org.uk



No Limits

Monday at
The Lakeside Centre
4-5.30PM

Tuesday at
The Parks Sports Centre
4.30-6PM*

Wednesday at
Hadrian Leisure Centre
5.15-6.30PM

Activities include:

- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Dodgeball
- Plus football coaching with the Newcastle United Foundation

No Limits activities are available in term time only. A valid eascard is required. Children and young people must behave in accordance with our Customer Charter. *The soft play is available to use free of charge for siblings under 8 years old while this session takes place.

FREE
FOR KIDS AGED
8-13
YEARS



REGISTER HERE!

www.activenorthyntside.org.uk | 0191 643 7171



Active North Tyneside



@active_NT



No Limits

FREE
FOR KIDS
ALL AGES

POOL SESSIONS

Thursday at
Waves
6.20-7.20PM

Friday at
Tynemouth Pool
4-5PM

Saturday at
The Lakeside Centre
11AM-12PM

Saturday at
Hadrian Leisure Centre
2.15-3.15PM



No Limits pool sessions are available in term time only. A valid eascard is required. Children and young people must behave in accordance with our Customer Charter. Pool admission policy applies.