



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 14th June 2026 www.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.com 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

We enjoyed another fantastic and eventful week at St. Cuthbert's last week. Our Year 6 children had a brilliant residential trip at The Great Tower in Windermere, and classes across the school continued to work with Michael Heatley as they put our summer dance spectacular together for everyone to enjoy.



Year 3 have won the attendance star trophy with a score of 98.6% last week! 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. Information about the impact of attendance and punctuality on your child's education is available on our school website. You can find it on the [Attendance](#) and [Term Dates](#) pages. If your child is feeling unwell and you are unsure about them being in school, the NHS have a page of guidance on the subject, which you can find by clicking on this link: [NHS Is My Child Too Ill For School?](#)



Class	%
Reception	93.0
Year 1	96.9
Year 2	97.0
Year 3 🥳	98.6
Year 4	93.0
Year 5	96.3
Year 6	93.3
Whole school	95.5

Our whole school has been dancing, singing and getting ready for our big summer dance extravaganza at the Saville Exchange on Tuesday 7th June. We will have two shows, one during the school afternoon and one later, after school. We'll send all the details out to everyone soon, and all families will have the opportunity to buy tickets to see the amazing performance which has been created by Michael Heatley and our children. The theme this year is books and stories and there will be the usual rollercoaster of emotions for everyone who gets a ticket for the show.



Years 4 and 5 visited North Shields Library last week to celebrate the National Year of Reading with Rebecca from 'Go All In' - a campaign to tackle the decline in Reading for Pleasure. The children explored how we put reading at the heart of everything we do and make it a central part of every day. At St. Cuthbert's, we know that reading, storytelling and allowing our imaginations and creativity to flourish is a vital part of our learning as children and adults!





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Our school vision and missions are built on the teachings of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. We are called to place relationships, compassion and care at the centre of everything we do. This is what defines who we are as a school community; we are a place where everyone belongs, where every child, member of staff and family are known, valued and supported, and where kindness and empathy shape daily life. Through our *Compassion Matters* approach, we prioritise conversation, collaboration and connection. We believe that we all thrive through strong human relationships. In a rapidly changing world, it is these relationships—not technology—that enable us all to grow in confidence, resilience and understanding. People truly do need people, and at St. Cuthbert's, we live this out each day through the way we care for one another and work together as a school family. This sense of belonging is strengthened through the rich experiences we provide, including our commitment to outdoor learning, wellbeing and shared opportunities that bring our community together. These experiences help our children to develop not only academically, but socially, morally and spiritually as well. A fantastic example of this was our Year 6 residential trip to The Great Tower in Windermere last week. The children had a truly spectacular time, fully immersing themselves in every activity. They challenged themselves, stepped outside of their comfort zones and, most importantly, supported and encouraged each other at every stage. It was wonderful to see their teamwork, resilience and leadership skills develop throughout the week. Trips like this give our children opportunities that we simply cannot replicate in school. They create lasting memories, strengthen friendships and help children to grow in independence. Our Year 6 children demonstrated exactly what it means to be part of St. Cuthbert's—looking after each other, showing kindness and, of course, having a fantastic time with lots of laughs along the way. We would like to extend our deepest, heartfelt thanks to Mrs Cottiss, Mr Capper, Miss Tallen and Miss Dooley for giving up their own time, away from their own families, to make this trip possible. Their dedication, care and compassion ensured that every child was supported and able to take part fully. They are a wonderful example of the fantastic staff we have at St. Cuthbert's, who, rightly, always put our children at the centre of everything we do. They model and live out our mission and are brilliant examples of compassion and care in action, with a big helping of fun and togetherness. Together, we continue to build a community rooted in compassion, where everyone belongs and where “magnificent humanity” is lived out each and every day. At St. Cuthbert's, we know that people really do need people.

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.



Y COMPASSION MATTERS



We nurture compassionate global citizens



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Can we remind all families that children need to wear sensible shoes or trainers to school every day. We have a very active curriculum, and the appropriate footwear helps children make the most of everything we do. We have an increasing number of children wearing Crocs and crocs-style sandals to school, and they are not safe or suitable footwear for school. The only time any child can wear crocs or sandals is if a family has had a chat with Mrs Cottiss or me and there is a good, genuine reason. We are very understanding with our approach to uniforms, and we always support families. We also have our uniform rails in school and they have lots of items of uniform which families can have free of charge. Our uniform rails are a brilliant example of how St. Cuthbert's families support each other and we encourage everyone to make use of what is there. All children should wear a full uniform every day and our PE uniform on their PE day. If your child has outdoor learning or is attending campfire club, then they need to wear clothes that are suitable for climbing, playing and getting dirty.

Can we remind all families that all children should wear a full school uniform every day unless they are doing PE or outdoor learning. On PE days, children should be wearing the school PE kit, and on outdoor learning days children should be wearing old clothes which will get dirty. **Children are not permitted to wear jewellery in school apart from a small stud in their ear and a watch. Children cannot wear earrings in school as these pose a very real health and safety risk. When children play and take part in sports, earrings can get caught and cause cuts. Smart watches of any kind are not allowed in school as these are a safeguarding risk. They can usually be used to take photos, record other people and they are a big distraction for children. Children cannot wear any makeup in school or have false nails. We have an increasing number of children across the whole school wearing makeup; they should not be wearing any.** We have an increasing number of children in school with long and false nails. These aren't suitable for school and also get in the way of some children being able to access the active and creative curriculum we have at St. Cuthbert's. You can find out more about our uniform policy on our school website, <https://www.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.com/parents/school-uniform> you will also find our school uniform policy there. We always support families with uniform and we have our uniform rails in school, which everyone can use free of charge. The uniform rails are incredibly popular across school, and we always welcome your donations, which are added to our stock. If you have any questions or would like any support around school uniforms, please speak to Mrs Cottiss or me, and we will do everything we can to help. Working together and with a consistent approach is always best and helps all our children understand why we have the rules that we have.

Ange and our kitchen staff do an amazing job of cooking for everyone every day. We have a meal ordering system in school that all families have access to and that all families are asked to use. The Appetite system allows you to order meals up to two weeks in advance. This helps children know what they are having for lunch each day and it also allows our kitchen staff to plan and prepare the correct number of meals every day. If a family have not ordered a meal for a child then they are unlikely to get what they want for lunch. Ange and her team do their very best to make sure all children get what they want but they cannot do this if meals have not been pre-ordered. This



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Can I also remind everyone that we have a policy of no nuts in school. If your child has a packed lunch, can you please make sure they do not have any nuts or any food that contains nuts. We have children in school with severe nut allergies, and just having nuts near them is a big risk. Children with these allergies do not need to touch or eat nuts to have a reaction. The most common source of nuts in packed lunches is usually products with Nutella in them, including spreads and snack bars. I know you will help us make sure all our children are safe and if we will continue to send any food containing nuts home with children if they are mistakenly in their lunch.

Can we remind everyone that both school gates and the school doors are locked at 8.55 am.

This means that children should be in school before then, and any adults who have brought them to school should be off-site by 8.55am to allow the gates to be locked on time. Mr Smart, Mr Capper, Mrs Cottiss, and I are on the school yard and at the gates from before 8.30am, and once we have locked the gates, it takes time for us to secure the school site, get around school and be ready for the rest of our working school day. We have all been late for meetings with families, colleagues from other schools and organisations and other visitors due to people needing an extra few minutes past the 8.55am lock-up time. It is also incredibly important that your children are in the class on time, know what will be happening during the rest of the day and have had time to settle in to their learning. As adults, we all know how it feels to be late when meeting up with people at social events; that feeling we have is the same as the feeling children have when they are late. Thank you to everyone who makes sure children are at school on time. Everyone can have the occasional time when they are running late, and this is not a problem. If you are in this position, please make your way to the school office entrance, not the school gate.

Thank you for supporting us in using book bags and not large backpacks at school and for making sure children have sensibly sized water bottles. We are delighted that our classes are almost all full but this does reduce the space we have in shared areas. We do not have lots of space, and therefore, we are asking that children just bring a book bag to school each day. If they have a packed lunch then a small lunch bag is good as well. We do not have space for backpacks and other large bags that many children bring to school.

Lots of our children have them and they have very little in them but they take up a lot of space and end up lying on floors in corridors. They actually take up so much space that we have identified them as a fire hazard, as they are blocking corridors because they can't hang on pegs. Can we also ask that children have standard-sized water bottles? We have very limited sink space, and 30 bottles take up quite a lot of space. If children bring large bottles,





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Our SEMH team continue to meet and work with Connect North Tyneside. The Connect team have begun work with our Year 5 and 6 children which will go on for six weeks. Our SEMH team is made up of Ms Shepherd as SENDco, Mr Capper who has a wealth of experience leading support and inclusion at a large local high school, Mrs Cottiss, and Mr Dillon, who are Senior Mental Health Leads and Mrs Lavery, who is our new Family Support Worker. Our team have made connections with North Tyneside Connect Team and has begun working with a number of children and families already with more families coming forward for advice and support. In addition to the team and the partnerships created 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. Mrs Lavery works with us every Thursday and you can contact her by email at any time, her address is kiera.lavery@stcuthberts.email 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, aren'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 to wait 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





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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 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 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/>



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



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Thank you to everyone who has been using Tapestry, keepingintouch@stcuthberts.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:

- **Email keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email** 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 or to let us know your child will be picked up early for an appointment. 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-upon 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.

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.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.com/key-information/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



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Can we ask that all items of children's uniform have their name written clearly on the label please. We had an incredible amount of uniform and other items of clothing left behind at school before the summer, and that was after weeks of having the uniforms out on the playground for everyone to check at the end of each day. We don't want to get to the situation where we have so much again.

Thank you for your fantastic, continued support,
Shaun Dillon



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.

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PE and Outdoor Learning Timetables 2025/2026

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

PE	
Day	Class
Tuesday	Year 3
Wednesday	Year 1, Year 6
Thursday	Reception Class, Year 2, Year 5
Friday	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 (which are appropriate for climbing, getting mucky and possibly smelling of smoke), 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	(Tuesday)
Year 2	(Tuesday)
Year 3	(Wednesday)
Year 4	(Wednesday)
Year 5	(Monday)
Year 6	(Monday)



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Below are some of the main dates and times for events during the rest of this school year. We will be adding more to the list each week, and if there are any changes, we will give you as much notice as possible. Information about any individual trips or events will be sent home through Arbor.

Date	Time	Event	Location
16 th June	5.30pm	Summer Sing Event	Whitley Bay Playhouse
29 th June- 3 rd July	All week	Week of Sport at St. Cuthbert's	School
1 st July	9am	Whole school sports day	School
7 th July	Afternoon and evening TBC	Saville Exchange Dance Show	Saville Exchange
11 th July	Morning	Mouth of The Tyne Festival	Tynemouth
13 th July	2pm	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	School
15 th July	9.30am	End of Year whole school Mass	School
15 th July	Afternoon	Whole school end of year picnic	School
15 th July	3.25pm	End of 2025/ 2026 school year for children	
16 th and 17 th July	All day	Staff training days	