



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 13th September 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 a great week at St. Cuthbert's last week, full of learning, fun and being active. Cricket began across school, and classes began their outdoor learning sessions. Our curriculum has been designed to give our children as many opportunities as possible to make their learning as practical and meaningful to them. We are all looking forward to another fantastic year at St. Cuthbert's.



Year 3 have won the attendance star trophy again with another perfect score of 100%! 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	95.3
Year 1	95.2
Year 2	94.0
Year 3 🏆	100
Year 4	93.7
Year 5	87.9
Year 6	99.3
Whole school	95.1

Can we ask that all children have what they need for each day at school. Children should wear their school uniform to school, hoodies are not part of our day-to-day uniform. Children can wear their PE kit on their PE day, they can wear their school hoodie on that day. They should wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty on their outdoor learning day. Children should wear appropriate footwear every day. This means trainers on days they are doing PE or another sport. Classes are currently doing cricket each Wednesday, so they need trainers that day. PE and outdoor learning timetables are further on in this newsletter; they are there every week. If children do not have the appropriate clothes and footwear for a timetabled activity, they cannot take part in that lesson until families bring the correct things to school.



You can find a list of key dates and times for events this term at St. Cuthbert's. We will be adding more events and celebrations to the list and will update weekly in the newsletter. Classes will also be organising trips and events in school, and school staff will let you know about these through Arbor. The support all our families give our children and staff is fantastic and an incredibly important part of what makes St. Cuthbert's such a special community. We greatly appreciate everything you do for our children and school, and working together, we give the children the best opportunities to enjoy and succeed.



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At St Cuthbert's, we know that children flourish when school and home work together. As a Catholic school community, we believe that families are the first educators of all children, and that strong partnerships built on trust, communication and shared values create the best possible foundations for success. Research consistently shows that when families are actively engaged in their children's education, children learn, achieve, enjoy and succeed more highly, attend school more regularly, develop stronger friendships and enjoy better emotional wellbeing. The Education Endowment Foundation identifies parental engagement as one of the most effective ways to support children's learning, with positive impacts on academic progress. Likewise, international studies from organisations such as the OECD highlight the importance of family involvement in helping children develop confidence, resilience and a lifelong love of learning. These findings reflect what we see every day at St Cuthbert's. Whether it is attending celebrations of learning, supporting reading at home, joining school events, communicating with staff or encouraging excellent attendance, every partnership makes a difference. Our most recent Ofsted inspection recognised the caring, inclusive and ambitious environment we provide for our children, while the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has highlighted the strength of our Catholic ethos and the importance of relationships across our school community. Together, these affirm our commitment to working alongside families for the good of every child. This commitment is reflected in many aspects of school life. Through Compassion Matters, we nurture empathy, kindness and service to others. As a School of Sanctuary, we aim to ensure everyone feels welcome, valued and safe. As a Gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School, we place children's dignity, voice and wellbeing at the heart of all we do. These values are strengthened when school and families work as one. Inspired by the Gospel, we recognise Christ in one another and seek to build a community rooted in love, respect and hope. By walking together in partnership, we help our children grow academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually, equipping them to become the compassionate and confident citizens our world needs. Thank you for the continued support, encouragement, and trust you show each day. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of our children.

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.



Children's Compassionate School Award

GOLD AWARD

We nurture compassionate global citizens

Y COMPASSION MATTERS



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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. Can we remind all families that children need to wear sensible shoes or trainers to school every day, depending on what they are doing. 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 and teach 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.

Can we 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



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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 schoolyard 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, they are stopping other children from being able to keep their bottles at the sink. I know these things might seem trivial on their own, but multiply each thing by 30 and you can see the problem. I hope that everyone can help with this request; we don't want to get to the situation where we have to ask people to take bags and bottles home. You don't need to buy branded book bags; any green book bag will be great. Book bags are brilliant because they help keep the books clean, dry and less likely to get torn or curled or damaged to the point where we have to ask for a replacement book.

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



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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 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



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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 has been using Tapestry, keepingintouch@stcuthberts.email, and school phone to keep in touch with school staff. Lines of communication must be kept



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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 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.

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



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Thank you for your fantastic, continued support,
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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2025

Every year, Ofcom releases its Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report, offering fresh insights into how young people are using digital platforms. The 2025 edition highlights key safeguarding concerns as children's engagement with social media, gaming, and live streaming continues to grow. This guide pulls out the top statistics from the report, focussing on the main areas of concern for parents and educators.





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PE and Outdoor Learning Timetables 2026/2027

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

PE	
Day	Class
Wednesday	Year 1, Year 3, 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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Date	Time	Event	Location
15/09/2026	Morning	School Photos	School hall
25/09/2026	Morning	MacMillan in hall	School hall
05/10/2026	Morning	Activity morning	School
14/10/2026	Morning	Mass at St Cuthbert's Church	
21/10/2026	After school	Parent's evening	School
22/10/2026	9am	Harvest Festival	School hall
11/11/2026	Morning	Remembrance Day	North Shields Cenotaph
27/11/2026	2.30pm	1 st Advent Service	School hall
02/12/2026	9am	EYFS Nativity	School hall
02/12/2026	2pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	School hall
03/12/2026	9am	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	School hall
03/12/2026	3.00pm	EYFS Nativity	School hall
04/12/2026	2.30pm	2 nd Advent Service	School hall
07/12/2026	Morning	Trip to Fenwick's window	
10/12/2026	All day	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner	School hall
11/12/2026	2.30pm	3 rd Advent service	School hall
14/12/2026	Afternoon	Whole school panto	Saville Exchange
TBC	Afternoon	Key Stage 2 Carol Service	St. Cuthbert's Church
18/12/2026	2.30pm	4 th Advent service	School hall
TBC		Whole school Advent Mass	St. Cuthbert's Church