



St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter

#stcuthbertsns



Sunday 27th September 2026 www.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.com 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

Thank you for another fantastic week at St. Cuthbert's. We have another busy week ahead which will include welcoming visitors to St. Cuthbert's who are coming to see what we do, how we do it and how much our children learn, achieve, enjoy and succeed at school. We always look forward to working with partners and sharing what we do, and we are looking forward to families joining us on Monday 5th October for our first activity morning of the school year. The activity morning will run from 9am- 10am.



Year 6 have won the attendance star trophy with a score of 97.6 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	95.3
Year 1	91.2
Year 2	95.9
Year 3	92.4
Year 4	96.3
Year 5	93.3
Year 6 🍌	97.6
Whole school	94.6

Thank you to everyone who supported our MacMillan Coffee Morning last Friday morning. St. Cuthbert's community is a very strong, special one who always come together to support each other and the organisations and charities who support us all. Thank you to our Mini Vinnies, Mrs Cottiss, Miss Robinson, Miss Taylor, Mrs McArdle, Mrs Stephens and Mrs Lavery who organised everything, made the hall look so brilliant and who worked with our Year 6 children to keep everyone is tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits! Thank you also to Baristocracy Coffee who donated the beautiful coffee that everyone enjoyed so much, you can find out more about the business and their amazing coffee on their website, <https://baristocracycoffee.com/>. Together St. Cuthbert's raised £396.18, the largest amount we have ever raised for our coffee mornings. Thank you!

Our school community has always worked together to look after one another, and safeguarding is a responsibility we all share. Following recent developments in national safeguarding guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), including Keeping Children Safe In Education 2026, (KCSIE 2026), we are updating our arrangements around photography and filming. From now on, we ask families and visitors **not to take photographs or videos at school events or anywhere on the school site**. We appreciate that taking photographs has traditionally been part of performances, assemblies and other celebrations. However, with images now so easily shared beyond their original audience, we believe this approach provides greater protection and reassurance for every child and family. Our staff will continue, where appropriate, to capture some of those wonderful St. Cuthbert's moments and share them safely, taking account of parental permissions. We know our families will support us in putting the safety and privacy of every child first. Thank you for helping us to keep St. Cuthbert's a safe, caring and welcoming community.





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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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Mass times online on Facebook and at St. Cuthbert's each Sunday at 11am. Fr. Chris Hughes can be contacted on 257 5801 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 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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As a parish community, we are delighted to offer children in Year 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to prepare for, and to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. This Sacrament focuses on the Eucharist, which nourishes our life of faith. Your child must have been baptised to begin preparation for this sacrament. If you are interested, please bring your child's Baptism certificate to the introductory meeting for families. This will be held on **Wednesday 1st October 2026 at 6pm at St Cuthbert's Church.**



Important information about the programme, expectations and key dates will be shared at the meeting. We hope you will be able to attend, and we are looking forward to starting this faith journey together.

The admissions process for families of children in Year 6 due to move to high school in September 2027, and the families of children due to join our Reception Class in September 2027 has now begun. You can find more information about admissions to St. Cuthbert's and to St. Thomas More Catholic High School on the admissions page of our school website, www.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.com. There is an opening evening at St. Thomas More for all our current Year 6 families on Tuesday 22nd September from 5- 7pm. We are always delighted to welcome visits to St. Cuthbert's any time through the school day.

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 National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



Social media influencers are people who have established credibility in a specific industry and have the power to influence other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, 'influencers' will usually have a large number of followers and be viewed as authentic by their audience. It is for this reason that many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.





What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'



AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.



BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like they're own life isn't very fulfilling.



ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.



THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.



AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.



Safety Tips For Parents

FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.

TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.

DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.

ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.09.2019



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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
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



Apply now for admission to school next year

Is your child due to start school or transfer to a new school in September 2027?

From 7 September 2026 you can apply for their place.

If you live in North Tyneside apply online at **www.northtyneside.gov.uk**. Alternatively you can complete a paper application form.

Apply if:

- Your child is due to start school for the first time, in September 2027
- Your child will move to the next stage of education, in September 2027 (for example from first to middle, from middle to high, or from primary to high)

Application deadlines:

Your application needs to be submitted by:

30 October, 2026

for middle and high school applications.

11 January, 2027

for first and primary school applications.

Full details of the council's admission procedures, and how to apply, are available at **www.northtyneside.gov.uk** and in 'The Essential Guide to North Tyneside Schools' brochure.



North Tyneside Council



It's quick, simple and secure to apply online at www.northtyneside.gov.uk

We'll confirm your application by email and you can change details on your application up until the deadline dates.

You will also receive earlier confirmation of which school your child has been offered.

If you have any questions, or need further help with your application, please email: **school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk**