St. Cuthbert's School Newsletter #stcuthbertsns

Sunday 18th October 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

We have three pieces of writing on our walls around school that our children and staff see every day, and anyone visiting the school sees on their way around. In the entrance, we have an extract from the poem *People Need People* by Benjamin Zephaniah. In the hall we have our school prayer which is also our mission and we also have a line from the Oscar Romero Prayer by Bishop Ken Untener which says, *We plant the seeds that will one day grow.* These three pieces of writing tell the world who we are at St. Cuthbert's. They remind us of our mission, of our work to treat each other with kindness, dignity, respect and compassion and our work as teachers, and we are all teachers, to plant and nourish the seeds of what we want St. Cuthbert's children to grow up to be. Together, home, school, parish and our wider community work to give our children the opportunities to floursih and this only works when we are working together. People need people.



Year 2 have have won our attendance star trophy this week with a near perfect 99%! 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	97.3
Year 1	98.4
Year 2	99.0
Year 3	98.7
Year 4	90.4
Year 5	95.6
Year 6	94.5
Whole school	96.3

We would love to accept your donations of tins and packets of food for our Harvest Festival. Donations can be brought into classes every morning, and everything you donate will go to support our partners at Nite Bite in North Shields. You are welcome to our Harvest Festival celebration at 9am on Thursday 22nd October. All our classes will be putting on a performance for you to enjoy!

Thank you to Fr. Chris and the parish for celebrating our first whole school Mass of the year with us last Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who walked to and from St. Cuthbert's Church with us and for celebrating Mass with us as well. The partnerships we have between home and school are very strong and help us create and maintain the wonderful and strong community we are all part of.

Parents' Evening meetings for families with children in Reception Class, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6 will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 21st October. Year 4 Parents' Evening meetings will be held on Thursday 22nd October. Families will be able to sign up for a 5-minute meeting from tomorrow, Monday 19th October. The first available meetings will be at 1.45pm, with the last at 4.55pm.

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At St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, our mission is much more than a statement displayed on a wall. It is our school prayer, a living expression of who we are and who we are called to be each day: *"Dear Lord, help us to keep Jesus at the centre of our community where we learn, achieve, enjoy and succeed with Him in our thoughts, in our words and in our hearts."* What makes this mission especially meaningful is that it was written collaboratively by our children alongside our parish priest at the time, Fr. Peter Stott. Together, they reflected on what makes St. Cuthbert's such a special place and how our faith should shape every aspect of school life. As a result, the prayer belongs to all of us and continues to guide the decisions we make, the relationships we build and the opportunities we provide for our children. Our mission sits at the heart of everything we do. It inspires our work as a School of Sanctuary, where everyone is welcomed with kindness and compassion. It underpins our commitment to Compassion Matters and informs our dedication to the Rights of the Child, ensuring every child is valued, listened to and respected. It motivates our fundraising and awareness work with Children in Crossfire and CAFOD, helping our children understand their responsibility to support those most in need, both locally and globally. The mission also reflects our place within the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust and the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Through these partnerships, we work together to ensure that faith, service, dignity and excellence remain central to the educational experience of every child. Importantly, our mission belongs not only to the children and staff but to every member of our wider community. Whether we are parents, carers, governors, parishioners or school staff, we all play a role in modelling the values we want our children to embrace. By treating one another with care, respect, dignity and compassion, we demonstrate what it truly means to keep Jesus at the centre of our thoughts, words and hearts. St. Cuthbert's is a unique and special community. Our greatest strength lies in the partnerships between home, school and parish, working together to help every child flourish. When we live our mission together, we create a community where everyone can learn, achieve, enjoy and succeed, together. People need people.

Look with kindness and you will always find wonder









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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

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.

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

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

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

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 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

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.

Information about admissions for September 2027 is now available on North Tyneside Local Authority website. This information is for families who have children who will be joining Reception Class, moving on from Year 6 to Year 7 or moving from Year 4 to middle school. You can find more information, including deadlines, at North Tyneside Schools Admissions. If you have any questions at all, please get in touch.

Thank you for your fantastic, continued support,

Shaun Dillon

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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.



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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
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	1st 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	2nd 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	3rd Advent service	**School hall**
14/12/2026	Afternoon	Whole school panto	**Saville Exchange**
17/12/2026	Afternoon	Key Stage 2 Carol Service	**St. Cuthbert's Church**
18/12/2026	9.30am	Whole school Advent Mass	**St. Cuthbert's Church**
18/12/2026	2.30pm	4th Advent service	**School hall**
18/12/2026	3.25pm	Break for Christmas holidays	
04/01/2027		**Return to school for new term**	

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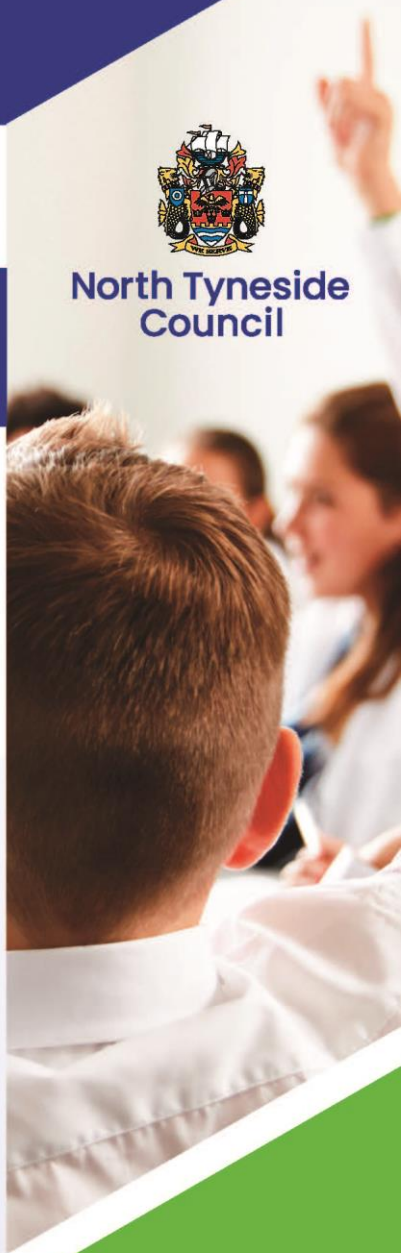
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Apply now for admission to school next year

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.

North Tyneside Council



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.

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