



# Newsletter



*'Growing together in love and learning as followers of Jesus'*

St Cuthbert Mayne | Autumn 1, 2022



## A message from the Head

St Cuthbert Mayne is a very happy place for me. I wake up in the morning and find myself smiling, knowing that I get to come to work and spend time with such incredible staff and children: each day is filled with something new and exciting.

A key theme for me coming into my first headship has been trust. Trust in staff to be professional and strive everyday to provide the very best experience for our pupils. Trust in parents to support us in our mission. And trust in pupils to work hard and to treat each other with kindness. This trust has not be misplaced and I feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful, supportive community.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the activities that have been happening in school this half term and are as excited as I am about what lies ahead.

Alex Sallis  
Headteacher

## CATHOLIC LIFE

### Mass

Father Brian celebrated Mass with us for the new school year, welcoming the new Year 3s in particular as they began their journey with us at St Cuthbert Mayne.



### Harvest Liturgy

Thank you to the Chaplaincy Team for leading our Harvest Liturgy and for everyone's generous donations to DENS.



### Deputy Director of Education

Catherine McMahon from the Diocese of Westminster visited this half term and was impressed by the calm, purposeful learning she saw across the school.

# CLASSES

## Year 3

In both Year 3 classes, Mary Anning has been inspiring some of our learning this half term. We have been looking at rock types and how fossils are formed in our Science lessons. This has then extended into our English creative writing where we have been writing Explanation Texts about fossils and did some research to explain who Mary Anning was, and why she is so important. We then imagined we were Mary Anning discovering fossils in our diary writing, and finally, just like Mary Anning, we sketched our ammonites.



## Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful visit to Whipsnade Zoo. The children had a workshop by a member of the Whipsnade team on 'Habitats and Adaptations' linking to their science work and class book 'Butterfly Lion'. They had opportunities to handle animal bones, furs and stuffed animals while learning about how each species has adapted to their environment. They even got to touch a giant cockroach. Seeing the baby elephant was a highlight as were the tigers, chimpanzees and giraffes. Thank you to all the adults for helping make the day so successful.

Continuing our work on 'Habitats', Year 4 have been busy making 'Bug Hotels' from resources found around the school grounds and nature area. The children carefully selected leaves, sticks, acorns and made paper tubes to make layers for the insects to make their home inside milk bottles. Each hotel was given a name by the children and we have already seen some residence of earwigs and spiders. These are going to be put in the area outside the Year 4 classrooms which 4 Jemison have been tidying up and planting bulbs for the spring and winter bedding plants in pots.



# CLASSES

## Year 5

In Year 5, we really enjoyed exploring the story of Passover and created these amazing posters about how Jews celebrate the Passover. We also enjoyed trying matzah bread which is eaten as part of the Passover meal.



Children created some excellent work as part of their science homework demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of Space.

The artist, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, has inspired art work with children thinking carefully about the combination of colours used in their own pieces.

Children were also visited by a parent who talked with them about their role as a nurse.



## Year 6

In Year 6, as part of our 'Other Faiths Week' we learnt about different Hindu beliefs and duties including non-violence to animals. The children really enjoyed making and trying the vegetarian dip, Raita, made from Greek Yoghurt, cucumber, mint and coriander.

We have also enjoyed experimenting with watercolours and creating our own paint strips. We focused on the different tones we could create and the effect of layering.



# CURRICULUM

## Sketchbooks

We are currently working with HfL Education to look at further developing our 'Beyond the Core' curriculum in school. Our focus this term is on Art. Pupils will be introduced to sketchbooks in school and staff will be looking at how our art curriculum aligns with the schools PRAY curriculum drivers.



## Clubs

The clubs offered at school this half term have been really successful. We have entered the girls and boys football league, the netball league and cross country competition with matches due to start after half term. We are reigning champions in the cross country... no pressure year 5 and 6!

APEX, Kew Dance, Playfeet and Miss Shiraz's Art Club have also provided additional opportunities for curriculum enrichment.

## Music

The musical tradition at St Cuthbert Mayne is incredibly strong and continues to thrive. Instrumental lessons have continued in the old library. Ruth Patterson is generously supporting the very capable Year 6 musicians who form our school orchestra, and along with Bernadette Quinn, is running our singing practice each Wednesday. Ruth Larbey has been teaching Year 3 recorders and Laura Forster has been teaching music in Year 5 each Wednesday.

Mrs Rayson is excited to be setting up a 'Sing and Sign' Choir inspired by Makaton in the second half of the Autumn Term.

## Volunteers

We would love to hear from anyone who thinks they might be able to help with any aspect of the curriculum: whether it is coming in to read with children regularly in school or supporting our sports teams please email:

[admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk)



### Breakfast Club

The school's breakfast club continues to thrive. We managed to increase the numbers to 50 pupils through recruiting a new member of staff.

Although currently oversubscribed, if you are interested in your child taking up a place at the club, do let the office know as we will then be able to plan for possible future growth.

# STAFF UPDATE

## Welcome

Welcome again to Miss Godino and Mrs Mountford who have both hit the ground running: Mrs Mountford as a learning support assistant and Miss Godino as our curriculum PE teacher and sports coach.

## Goodbye

We say goodbye and thank you to Mr Edwards who has accepted a role at Galley Hill as a technician. Mr Edwards has had a huge impact on pupils, staff and the effective running of the school's technology and will be sorely missed. We wish him every success in the future.

# PUPIL GROUPS

## School Council

Our School Council is in post to represent their classes' opinions at meetings with Mr Sallis, feedback to their classes on decisions made, support fundraising events, improve learning and generally act as excellent role models.



## POPStars

The POPstars are our 'Protect Our Planet' champions and will be keeping Eco issues high priority in their classes, raising awareness across the school and developing new initiatives to improve how the school adopts sustainable practice.

## House Captains

Our House Captains are looking forward to leading House meetings, sporting events and have already shown themselves to be excellent role models for other pupils in school.



## Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team has already been hard at work. Since being formally commissioned by Father Brian at our Welcome Mass, they have supported our weekly whole school collective worship each Friday, led the Harvest Liturgy and supported the Month of the Rosary in school.

## Governors

The Governors play an important role as a 'critical friend' of the school. You will have met some of them at Parent Consultations this week. They work hard behind the scene guiding the strategic direction of the school and supporting school leadership to achieve the best outcomes they can for pupils and staff.

### CONSULTATION ON ST CUTHBERT MAYNE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024-25:

St Cuthbert Mayne Junior School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2024/25. The Proposed Admission Policy documents are available on our website: [St Cuthbert Mayne School Admissions 2024-2025 Consultation](#). Please send your responses or comments on the proposals to the Clerk to the Governors: [sbm@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sbm@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk)

## DfE Building Project

We are currently in the feasibility stage of the DfE's current building project programme. At the end of this phase, they will make a recommendation about the nature of possible improvements to the school building. We will keep you informed as the process progresses.

## PTA and Class Reps

Thank you to the PTA for their support so far this year. They have organised pantomime tickets and are excited to be bringing back the school disco with the first booked in for Friday 25th November. Look out for further news about their Christmas Raffle, Christmas Cards and the second hand uniform sale taking place at our Open Evening on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Mr Sallis will be meeting with class representatives each half term throughout the rest of the year. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions relating to school business please pass these onto the appropriate class representative so that these can be addressed through this forum.

## ASCAT Dacorum Regional Hub

Our Diocesan family of schools' designated Trust, ASCAT, is exploring setting up a Dacorum Regional Hub. The Governing Body is currently in discussions with other Catholic Schools within Dacorum, existing ASCAT schools, as well as the Diocese itself, about how we can work together to continue providing a first-class Catholic Education for children in Dacorum in line with the Diocesan academy strategy.

### Pupil and family support

Gade Schools Family Support Partnership have continued to support pupils and their families in school.

Please look back at our Wednesday emails from this term for further information and opportunities for support offered by this service.