

Newsletter

St Cuthbert Mayne | Spring 1, 2023



A message from Mr Sallis

Earlier in the term, Year 5 led a Mass on the theme of peace. In our Friday assemblies during Spring 1, we learnt that it is through our own words and actions that we show God's Peace to the world. More recently, during Lent, we have focused on the importance of finding opportunities to GIVE, ACT and PRAY in our daily lives.

Every day brings opportunities for disagreement, upset and frustration, but by putting Jesus at the centre of our lives, maintaining our own peace; between family members, friends, peers, colleagues or those in the wider community becomes easier.

I hope that everyone in the community enjoys a peaceful Easter break and very much look forward to seeing everyone in the summer term!

Alex Sallis (Headteacher)

Quick Links

- ★ [Catholic Life](#)
- ★ [Class News](#)
- ★ [Curriculum](#)
- ★ [Staff Update](#)
- ★ [Pupil Groups](#)
- ★ [Sports Update](#)
- ★ [World Book Day](#)
- ★ [Other news](#)
- ★ [PA event photos and lunch time rules](#)

House winners

House Points are being counted and the winners will be announced after the Easter break!

CATHOLIC LIFE



CAFOD

We have been working with the local parish to support CAFOD during Lent and have encouraged children to go to Mass in their parish to support.

Mass

Thank you to Father Brian for coming to celebrate Mass earlier in the spring term. Year 5 Einstein and their teacher Mrs Hobbs did a wonderful job preparing an inspiring Mass around the theme of 'Peace'.. It was also wonderful to see parents attend!



Liturgy - 3N and 3A

Thank you to 3N for leading a liturgy 'Service of Light in Spring 1. 3A also led an Ash Wednesday liturgy to kick start Lent shortly after half term.

Be Spirited Day

Children spent the day moving around the school exploring our Dominican Heritage with different teachers looking at St Dominic and particularly his prayer.

Upcoming Mass / Liturgies in School

4th May - Marian Liturgy

18th May - Ascension Liturgy

CLASSES

Year 3

During our fantastic Shakespeare Workshop, Year 3 studied A Midsummer Night's Dream. We were transported to Ancient Greece where we all took part in acting out the very amusing interaction between the humans and the magical but mischievous fairies!

We have continued this theme across our lessons, writing play scripts in English and starting our study of the history of Ancient Greece in our Topic work. We have even looked at the art of pot making as part of our amazing Forest School sessions... along with enjoying hot chocolate and marshmallow treats!



Both Year 3 classes lead their first Liturgy this term.

3 Nightingale lead the liturgy of the light and blessed everyone who began their holy communion journey.

3 Anning lead our Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Both classes were amazingly brave standing up in front of the whole school!



CLASSES

Year 4



In our science lessons on sound, we have been learning how sound travels, effective ways to block sound vibrations and measuring sound using data loggers. The class were asked to design, plan and make ear defenders for a music concert.



The children had a very exciting afternoon learning about the Shakespeare play, Romeo and Juliet. Character parts were given out, the class were divided into the Capulet and Montague families and everyone enjoyed the acting.



As part of Science Week, Year 4 carried out an investigation to find out which biscuit would be best for dunking. We had lots of fun and worked well as team.



We then imagined that we were a biscuit and described our journey through the digestive system.



We loved celebrating World Book Day!



CLASSES

Year 5

Year 5 really enjoyed their 6 weeks of boxing lessons - not just learning how to box but also exploring how to develop the mindset of a boxer.

5E have been really enjoying their forest school sessions - this is the picture they used in their handmade picture frames.



As part of Science Week, 5M had fun experimenting which biscuit would be best for dunking. Within each group we had: a dunker, a timer and an observer.

5M also got into character for St Cuthbert Mayne's Book Day and joined with a buddy in 4J to share some paired reading.



CLASSES

Year 6

During Spring 1, we had a fantastic time learning about the play written by William Shakespeare, Macbeth. All the children had a chance to act and be involved with telling the story. The workshop has inspired some excellent writing surrounding the question: Is Macbeth a hero or a villain?



Maya Chocolate workshop

In Year 6 this term, we had a visit from the chocolate museum to teach us all about the history of chocolate, how it is made and the importance of chocolate in the Maya civilisation. Children had the opportunity to try several types and flavours of chocolate. We had a lot of fun!



Curriculum Development

A school's curriculum sets out what children need to know and by when. Often there is a lot of knowledge that needs to be learnt and understood along with skills too.

We teach 13 separate subjects in KS2 - that's a lot of learning! That's why recent research has shown that a well constructed curriculum is one of the most important aspects of ensuring an excellent quality of education.

As a school, we are currently working to make make our curriculum offer even better.

Improving Writing

To support their writing, children complete daily grammar focused activities that link directly to their current writing targets set out in their 'toolkits'. Children have also been working to ensure that they produce their very best writing in whatever subject they are completing.

Mrs Bance has also continued to support our writing focus through teaching handwriting along with other basic but essential skills. The impact she has had on children's outcomes has been excellent.

Volunteers

Thank you to all volunteers that have given their time and expertise to school this half term. If you think you are able to commit to some regular time in school please email the office and someone will be in touch!

Questioning and feedback

Every child is expected to think in every lesson. You wouldn't expect to get stronger and fitter by watching others exercise and this principle underpins our focus on effective questioning.

Children have to do their own thinking if they expect to learn!

Clubs

Clubs are a great way for children to develop skills, have fun and make new friends. Take a look at our Wednesday Email for the clubs on offer next term and get signed up!

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club now hosts over 60 pupils throughout the week. Children start the day with great breakfast and a chance to play with other children

before school. Thank you to the breakfast club team for making the club so successful and welcoming for pupils.

STAFF UPDATE

Goodbye

Mrs East is left us shortly after half term after 8 years at the school. She started as a TA before taking up her role in the office. I know I speak for everyone when I wish her the very best in her new role.

Office Manager

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Godwin who will join the office team after Easter. Thank you to Mrs Maloney and Mrs Seabrook for covering the office so effectively since Mrs East left.

PUPIL GROUPS

Sports Council

Children will be spending 10 minutes everyday running, jogging or walking an 'active mile' route at the end of our lunch period from after Easter before afternoon lessons. Look out for an invite to join us on the last Friday of each half term when parents will be invited to join their children to run our active mile at the beginning of the day.

Amanda Tizard has helped us set up lunch time sports activities in school. This term so far children have enjoyed dodgeball, badminton and Kwik Cricket among other activities.

Music Achievements

Congratulations to Tobi in Year 6, Hannah in Year 5 and Teo in Year 5 who were all awarded a merit in their grade 1 violin exams!

POPStars

The POPstars have signed up to a local project 'Dacorum Street Heroes' and 'Junior River Warden Project' which will both get started in the Spring Term. These activities will support an application for an eco Blue Peter badge.

Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team have continued to support whole school collective worship each Friday.

School Council

The School Council worked with Mrs Young to refine our break and lunch time playground rules. See the outcome of this work [here](#).

Miss Philips worked with the School Council to support the PA with [Treat Friday](#).

SPORTS UPDATE



Year 5 Dodgeball

We have been running a dodgeball club on a Thursday lunchtime which has been really popular. We have played lots of games against each other over the last few weeks which has been fun and then a team was selected to go and represent the school at the Dacorum School Sports Network (DSSN) Year 5 competition on Tuesday 21st at the Laureate.

We played 4 matches and the children were great with their attacking and defending skills. They were great sports and were extremely well behaved. Our pool was very competitive and we came 3rd. I was very proud of how hard the children tried and they were a credit to their school.

Mrs Tizard



Girls Football

The Girls Football team have had a fantastic season; it has been wonderful to see them learn to work together.

Year 4 Kwik Cricket

Cricket club on a lunchtime has been very popular and the children have really practiced hard their accuracy in batting and their fast fielding and running between wickets.

We went to Laureate School to attend the DSSN Rapid 6 tournament. Both teams won their groups and so we went into the Semi finals.

One of our teams made it into the final against Micklem. It was an exciting match and great sportsmanship and batting skills meant we won 69 runs to 31.

All the children played brilliantly and were very well behaved. I was really proud of all the teams that played and look forward to meeting more children at lunchtime clubs.

Mrs Tizard



Boys Football

The Boys football team have also had a fantastic season reaching the final which will be played after Easter.

Governors

I know you will all join me in offering a huge congratulations to our vice chair of governors, Mary Heffernan, who has been awarded the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse.

This title is awarded to nurses who have demonstrated a high level of commitment to patient care and nursing practice in the community - well done Mary!

Academisation

Governors have been meeting with their counterparts at St Roses this term to continue to explore the opportunities that academisation may bring for both schools. Make sure you read our Governors' update for more information.

Parent Association

Thank you to all parents who have generously supported the PA's work this term.

'[Treat Friday](#)' proved to be very popular and after some minor tweaks it will be even better next time! Thank you to the school council and PA for running this event.

The [Easter Egg Hunt](#) was a huge success with children across the school having fun finding clues that led them to a tasty Easter treat! Thank you to the PA and Year 6 pupils who helped to run this event.

Class Reps

School met with some class reps this term and agreed a way to receive and respond to feedback regularly throughout the year. Please see the slide below for how this will work. We look forward to your feedback!



Feedback via class representatives



The school would like to work with class representatives to improve the school experience for both pupils and parents through regular opportunities for feedback.



Discussion Points

Class reps will request, collect and prioritise feedback from parents in the first week back after each half term



Email ahead

Class reps will send feedback to school by the first Friday of each new half term, will ensure feedback is constructive and will share positive feedback too!



Feedback

School will address feedback within 5 working days.
Responses can then be shared with parents

Individual concerns

Please continue to redirect any individual concerns to class teachers in the first instance in line with school policy and not on social media

World Book Day

We celebrated St Cuthbert Mayne Book Day on 10th March. The classes took part in a variety of activities such as making bookmarks, buddy reading and blind date with the class teacher's book.



Can you spot Wally?!!

We were feeling very 'Wednesday'!







PA TREAT FRIDAY AND EASTER EGG HUNT



PUPIL GROUPS

Dining Room Rules

-  Kind and considerate to everyone.
-  Classes to arrive with a member of staff and to sit quietly.
-  You can wear your coats to the dining, but please do not take them off.
-  Bring your water bottles.

Safe and Fair Play

1. Kind and considerate play for everyone.
2. Equipment to be used wisely.
3. First break everyone to use both playgrounds.
4. Football only at lunchtime.
5. Only foam balls to be used for football.
Red = Year 6, Blue = Year 5, Yellow = Year 4 and Green = Year 3
6. Football days on lower playground.
Mondays and Wednesday = Years 4 and 6
Tuesdays and Thursdays = Years 3 and 5
- BALL FREE FRIDAYS**
7. Class clubs for cards, toys and colouring.
8. Buckets for coats and jumpers. Classes to organise water bottle and lunchboxes.
9. No playing with sticks.