

Newsletter

St Cuthbert Mayne | Summer 1, 2023



A message from the Head

In our collective worship this half term, we learnt that Eastertide is a time to rejoice in the joy, hope, peace and love that Jesus brings through his death and resurrection.

Working in a school means that there is a lot to be joyful about. There is, for example, huge joy in knowing that pupils and staff know more each day than they did the day before. There is joy in each smile given and received every day. There is joy in the looks of pride and satisfaction as children understand something new.

But there are also huge challenges, and this is where hope is so important. Hope that the government and unions resolve their ongoing dispute; hope that members of our community find ways to reconcile differences peacefully; and hope that we continue to work together to achieve success in all we do.

As we enter the final half term of this academic year there is much to look forward to and I am excited to share in all of these experiences with you!

Alex Sallis (Headteacher)

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House winners

Congratulations to the winners of the House Cup - St Rose - with 2,127 House points collected from Homework, Classwork and acts of kindness.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to two of our Year 3 pupils who made their First Holy Communion last week in their parish of Chipperfield.



Marian Liturgy - 4J

Thank you to 4J who led the whole school Liturgy to celebrate "Mary the first Missionary" as identified by Pope Francis in Laudato si'. Children were invited to bring a flower to decorate Mary as a symbol of love.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Those pupils taking theirs within the Parish of Hemel West will receive the sacrament of reconciliation with Father Brian after half term.

Visit from our diocesan advisor

Tony Hall from Westminster Diocese visited this week and had the opportunity to participate in a Year 3A pupil-led class worship, meet the Year 6 Chaplaincy Team and speak with myself and Mrs Hobbs about the work we are doing in school. He was incredibly impressed with all the children he spoke with and commented on how welcoming he found the school in general. We will look forward to seeing him again during the next academic year.



Upcoming Mass / Liturgies in School

8th June - Corpus Christi

7th June - Y5 to celebrate Mass with the Y2s from St Roses at St Marys and St Josephs

19th July - Leavers' Mass (Y6 and parents) TBC

CLASSES

Year 3

We started our term with a goodbye to our Ancient Greek topic, and we did this by hosting our own mini-Olympics! We competed in our house teams to time and measure our events and of course encourage each other to do our very best. We took part in discus (frisbee) throwing; wrestling (shadow dancing); marathon (not 26 miles though!) and of course 'chariot racing' with our own hobby horse we named Zeus!



As an end of half term treat, 3Aning teamed up with our class friends in 5Einstein. We took it in turns to read and to share our favourite books. It was so lovely to see both classes so engrossed and enjoying their reading. It was also an opportunity to reflect on what it means to have a St Cuthbert Mayne Buddy - Yr3 have had fabulous Yr6 buddies this year and they were keen to share and help prepare their Year 5 friends who will be taking on this role next year guiding our new Year 3 classes!

We also enjoyed our Coronation Celebration day - especially learning how to draw the St Edward's crown and our having our in-door picnic. We wore red, white and blue to school and everyone had a handmade crown!



3N were very excited by the arrival of the chicks to St Cuthbert Mayne. We had a very professional introduction to chick care by one member of our class and we had a couple of chances to cuddle the chicks while they were here.



In Forest School we have been looking at wildlife. We have made bug booklets and last week we created these amazing collages of herons.



CLASSES

Year 4

Year 4 have been taking part in Money Zone workshops organised by Metro Bank. Both classes had three lessons in school learning about all aspects of banking including money, bank accounts and savings. The fourth visit was a trip to the Hemel Hempstead branch, where the children used the money magic machine, visited the bank vault and were given a goody bag including a money box.



In science, Year 4 had a Stempoint workshop on electricity. The children learnt about renewable and non-renewable energy, made electrical circuits and used solar power to rotate a plastic blade.



We enjoyed celebrating the King's Coronation with an indoor picnic. Both classes made collages of the King as part of our art collage topic.



CLASSES

Year 5

In Science, we have been exploring forces. We begun by looking at gravity and tested its force by dropping different size spherical objects into flour and measuring the craters.



In Maths, we have been exploring different types of numbers. We did an investigation to find different cube numbers.



We have been exploring air resistance as a type of force during our Science lessons. In groups, we made and tested parachutes with a big question to focus on: does the size of a parachute affect the speed in which it falls?



CLASSES

Year 6

Year 6 successfully finished their end of key stage assessments and then enjoyed a week in Swindon on PGL.



We then started work on our end of year production and are continuing with a particular focus on writing.

Curriculum Development

I am really excited about the curriculum being developed for pupils by staff this year. A lot of thought is going into how to ensure that it is ambitious, engaging and cohesive... watch this space!

Transition

A core part of our work in school is to ensure children are ready for the next phase in their educational journey. Next half term there will be a number of activities to support transition for pupils.

Forest School

Children have continued to gain so much in Forest school with Year 5 creating their own mythical forest creatures. They have shared imaginative stories about their creations while enjoying hot chocolate made over the fire!



Improving Writing

Mrs Bance will be reviewing the progress children have made with their teachers and is looking forward to working with some smaller groups as well as whole classes over the final half term of the academic year.

Volunteers

Thank you again to all volunteers that have given their time and expertise to school this half term. Many of the fun activities we have run would not have been possible without your support. If you think you are able to commit to some regular time in school please email the office and someone will be in touch!

Chicks

The chicks brought lots of joy over the previous two weeks... to staff and pupils alike!



Breakfast Club

We are recruiting for breakfast club staff. If you are interested, please contact the office and arrange to visit and find out about the role and how to apply

STAFF UPDATE

Goodbye

In addition to Mrs Knight and Mrs Field, we are also saying goodbye to Mrs Williams and Mrs Hudd, both of whom have worked for the school for over 20 years. We wish them the very best in the future.



PUPIL GROUPS

Sports Council

Thank you to the Sports Council for helping us to set up the daily active mile in school.

Chaplaincy Team

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

POPStars

The POPStars visited The Friends Of Water Gardens to learn about the Red Mason Honey Bees and their life cycle. They then explored the garden and had the opportunity to pull fresh Radishes and plant our own Potatoes. It was a soggy walk home so we enjoyed some well-deserved cookies when we got back to school.



SPORTS UPDATE



Year 4 Kwik Cricket

On Tuesday we took a Year 6 cricket team to the Dacorum School Sports Network mixed Dynamos cricket tournament. We have been practicing on a Tuesday lunchtime and it has been great to see over 30 children attending and really enjoying their improved batting and bowling skills.

I selected 5 boys and 5 girls to represent St Cuthbert Mayne and I would firstly like to say how proud I was of not only their individual skills but they worked brilliantly as a team with lots of support and encouragement for each other throughout the day.

We were in a very strong pool and we started against St Paul's with us batting first. We scored 74 runs. ST Paul's came into bat and we proved some excellent bowling which was accurate and consistent which allowed them more chances to hit the ball. They won scoring 93 runs.

We then went onto play Hobbs Hill Wood and fielded first. The team had learned a lot from the first match and with tight bowling and some great catches they only scored 73 runs. St Cuthbert Mayne batted brilliantly with lots of 4's and 6's! We scored a massive 165 runs.

In our final pool game we played Hobletts Manor. This was a really close game with us fielding first and scored 60 runs off some very wide low balls so tricky to actually score well off. Hobletts then faced our good accurate bowling and had more chances to score the big runs. They won the game with 76 runs. St Paul's won our group and went into the semi finals.

I really enjoyed working with the children and watching them improve as the games went on. Thank you to Mrs James for being our school adult and chief supporter and to all parents for transporting the children to and from the tournament.

Mrs Tizard

Year 5 Dodgeball

A group of 6 children participated in a sports event at Longdean Secondary School. The activities ranged from tri-golf, bench hockey to wheelchair-friendly family tag (which was a big hit!)

Mrs Knight



Governors

This year's school budget successfully made its way through the Finance Committee and the Full Board this half term.. The Catholic Life and Curriculum Committee will meet next half term, followed by the Admissions Committee and then a final Full Governing Body meeting before the end of the academic year.

There are currently two vacancies on the Governing Board. If you are interested in finding out more about being part of it please contact Maria Buchart on:
mariabutchart@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk

PGL

Year 6 enjoyed their residential trip at PGL in Swindon. They had a fantastic time. A huge thank you to the teachers that went with them.



Parent Association

The Parent Association have continued to support the school through fundraising efforts. Treat Friday has been popular and the Rainbow Day was as colourful as ever!

A huge amount of work is going on behind the scenes to ensure that the summer term is as successful as previous years. If you are able to support in any way, I know that the PA would welcome any help that comes their way!

Attendance

To ensure that we are fulfilling our statutory responsibilities from September 2023, we have been reviewing attendance process and updating our school attendance policy to reflect the most recent guidance published by the DfE. We will be sharing this new draft attendance policy next half term with parents and would welcome feedback.

MUSIC



Royal Albert Hall

Give Life to Music

This performance was the culmination of many Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes spent working hard learning complex but exciting music. Hearing it as part of over a thousand primary school voices accompanied by the Hertfordshire Youth Symphony Orchestra and led by Rufus Frowde was a truly exciting and exhilarating experience! Obviously, we couldn't take photos of the performance, but here are a few to show the build-up to the big moment.

