

Newsletter

St Cuthbert Mayne | Autumn 1, 2023

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

A message from the Head

At curriculum evening earlier this term, I highlighted some core elements that I believe are needed to develop a truly great school: trust, effective communication and inclusion. I emphasised that a community is a place where people should feel a sense of belonging. Jesus demonstrated repeatedly that God wants us to include everyone in His community and our school Mission Statement calls us to live this out in our own work - to ensure everyone has the opportunity to succeed and flourish in school and therefore in the wider world.

There is much to look forward to this academic year: the possibility of joining an even bigger community through academisation; plans for construction to begin on a brand new school building; but most importantly opportunities for great learning and many successes that we will enjoy and celebrate together.

Alex Sallis (Headteacher)

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First Holy Communion

We were very proud to see some of the Year 3 children celebrate their First Holy Communion last year.

On the last day of the school, all year 3 children were gifted a Children's Bible to commemorate this special time.



Welcome Liturgy with Year 6

Thank you to Year 6 for leading our Welcome Liturgy this year. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new Year 3s, their parents as well as new members of staff in school.

RSE Consultation

We are looking to bring our RSE curriculum offer in line with St Roses and JFK and will be consulting with parents after half term.



Harvest Liturgy with the Chaplaincy Team

Thank you to the Chaplaincy Team for leading our Harvest Liturgy on the theme of God's Creation. It was wonderful to see so many parents join us – thank you!

Upcoming Mass / Liturgies in School

2nd November - All Saints Day led by 6MLK

30th November - St Cuthbert Mayne Feast Day led by 6J

CLASSES

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great first half term at St Cuthbert Mayne – full of ‘firsts’ and getting to know the school and each other. This half term a lot of our lessons have been focusing on The Stone Age. They have used their learning from their history lessons, and factual information from our key text *The Stone Age Boy* to help us understand this time in our past and use it to inspire our writing. We have been practising our descriptive skills to describe what it might have been like to visit or live in the Stone Age. This has also been linked to our science investigations where we have been learning about rocks and soil. We are looking forward to learning about fossils after the holiday.



CLASSES

Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful visit to Whipsnade Zoo. The visit has inspired work linked to their English writing based on *Butterfly Lion*, science work on habitats and geography lessons on South America. The children had a fabulous day exploring the zoo, taking part in a workshop and learning about the different animals.



CLASSES

Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been enjoying our science unit 'Earth and Space'. We have reenacted the solar system and the orbiting of the Earth around the sun, investigated shadows by creating sundials and are now writing an explanation text to inform the reader of how we get day and night.



Year 5 have also enjoyed being very active this half term! The children have been loving their swimming sessions each week where they are learning different styles and how to tread water. They have also been taking part in boxing sessions each week which has involved shadow boxing and practising with gloves!

CLASSES

Year 6

The children really enjoyed a chocolate workshop linked to our learning about the Maya Civilisation. They really impressed the lady who visited with their knowledge about the Mayans and then learnt lots about how chocolate is made. They also got to make some tasty treats to take home.

Linked to our learning about Hinduism in 'Other Faiths week' the children enjoyed making and tasting a vegetarian dish.

In Science, we created black out boxes to test the reflectiveness of a range of materials.



School Priorities

Each year we review what has gone well and where we can improve further then use this to plan what we want to focus on in the current academic year. We have a great school but we want to constantly improve and get even better so that everyone in our community achieves the very best that they can.

Key focus areas for 2023-24

1

Improve outcomes for children

- Reading and writing
- Curriculum development
- Inclusion

2

Develop staff at all levels

- Training
- Appraisal

3

Support wellbeing

- Communication
- Feedback

Forest School

Forest School is restarting after half term. We will be having fun outdoors in all kinds of weather, including the rain and there will be lots of mud! Please can we ask that all children are appropriately dressed with arms and legs covered (to protect from any brambles or nettles.) A waterproof coat and trousers that can be pulled over warm layers and wellington boots are essential, plus hat, scarf and gloves.

Amazon currently have waterproof trousers for under £7 and these really make a difference to the children's enjoyment - keeping them warm and dry.

We are still looking for parent helpers, so if you can spare the time for one session or several, please fill in the google form or contact the office.

Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer by committing to some regular time in school such as to support reading, swimming or helping with Forest School please email the office and someone will be in touch.

We would also be particularly interested if anyone has experience of applying for grants and think they might be able to offer some advice or support with this as we look for additional ways to raise funds for projects that we think will benefit the school.

Forest School	Thursday	Friday
Week 1, 3, 5	4A (am) 4J (pm)	6MLK (am) 3N (pm)
Week 2, 4, 6	5E (am) 5M (pm)	6J (am) 3A (pm)

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club continues to be popular. If you would like to make use of this club, please book on Arbor.

STAFF UPDATE

Welcome

We would like to welcome Mrs Whiteford (Coach Emma) who has joined us from Watford FC Community Sports and Education Trust this year to teach curriculum PE and run after school clubs.

We also welcome Mrs Jamieson who joins us after half term as an Additional Needs Support Assistant, working with children in school supporting by our Hub Provision.

Goodbye (for now)

Mrs Bassil has left for maternity leave – we wish her the very best at such a special time for her and her family.

Mr Dauda has been working with Mrs Poyner and Mrs Bassil this half term and will be taking over the teaching of 3N each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Bance

We are very grateful to Mrs Bance who has been working with Mrs Toms in 5E, taking the class each Friday.

PUPIL GROUPS

School Council

Well done to the children voted by their classes to represent them this year on the School Council.



Chaplaincy Team

Congratulations to our new Chaplaincy Team who were appointed by our RE leaders, Mrs Poyner and Mrs Hobbs. .



POPstars

Well done to our new POPStars who will be leading our work on 'Protecting our Planet'



House Captains



SPORTS UPDATE

Activity Ambassadors

Six of our Year 6 pupils attended an Activity Ambassadors training at the University of Hertfordshire. The Ambassadors will work together to support and improve Physical Activity, School Sport, and Active 60 through environmentally friendly opportunities, help advocate PE and School Sport. And help lead events/clubs linked to inspiring others to be active and healthy.



Dacorum Schools Sports Network Rugby Tournament

Earlier this term Year 5 and Year 6 Rugby Squad met at Camelot Rugby club to take part in the Saracens Rugby Festival. We have had only 5 lunchtime sessions with the squad, but I could not have been prouder of how everyone transferred those skills on to the rugby field. We played with great teamwork, superb passing and determined tagging.

Although Saracens had organised this as a fun festival without scores being kept, I did keep scores, so we knew how to improve each game. We played against 4 different schools in our pool and amassed an amazing 27 tries with only 6 scored against us.

Well done to everyone an excellent morning of rugby.

Mrs Tizard.



Governors

Governors do not get involved in the day to day running of the school, as that is the responsibility of the Headteacher and other school leaders. However, Governors do have an important role in helping to guide the overall strategic direction of the school. Governor duties include helping to set the strategy, policies and objectives for the school. They challenge and support decisions made by the Headteacher and other school leaders as well as approve the school budget and review progress against it throughout the year. To find out more about the Governing Body, email:

mariabutchart@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk

Attendance

Please see the most up-to-date information regarding attendance on our [school website](#).

DfE School Building Project

Thank you to all those who attended our consultation event. Planning will be submitted in November and if successful, building should begin around May 2024.

Parent Association

Through the Parent Association we have been able to purchase much needed equipment and resources for our Forest School that is set to begin after half term for all children. Keep an eye out in our Wednesday Bulletin for more information about this.

We are also excited to fund a WOW event for science week later in the academic year.

Thank you to all those parents who donated books for our class libraries this half term.

Look out for information about upcoming events including a school disco!

Academisation

The consultation period for the academisation process closed on Friday 20th October. A report will now be prepared for Governors to decide whether or not to proceed. If the decision to proceed is made, then we will work towards a conversion date of 1st April 2023, joining St Albert the Great, St Thomas More and JFK as a member of ASCAT within a Dacorum Hub.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations took place last week. It was wonderful to hear how proud everyone was of the work being put in by children in school – staff, parents and pupils alike!