

Newsletter

St Cuthbert Mayne | Autumn 2, 2023



A message from the Head

Looking through this newsletter, it is no wonder that everyone was ready for the Christmas break: it has been a half term packed full of great learning, enriching activities and wonderful achievements. Thank you to everyone in our community from pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and all the other people and organisations that contribute to the incredibly important work we do – I see day in and day out that together we provide an environment where everyone has the opportunity to grow and learn together as followers of Jesus.

Just as we read in Genesis that God rested on the seventh day I think that we all now follow His example. Byung-Chul Han, a philosopher who explores the prevalence of burnout in modern society, recommends that we should resurrect the weekend and holidays to actually rest: to be idle, turn off and take time to contemplate in order to escape the cycle of exhaustion. Well, that is certainly something that I will raise a glass to this Christmas – and I hope you all do too!

Alex Sallis (Headteacher)

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House Winners

Congratulations St Rose for the most house points this half term!

Dens

Thank you for your generosity in providing donations for Dens throughout December. Mrs Hobbs delivered this to the local charity to support their work with homeless people in our local area.



Caritas

Thirty nine children came to join me to sing and play for the elderly at their special afternoon tea on Sunday afternoon. The children performed beautifully with energy and pizzazz!

RSE Consultation

We are pleased to let you know that from January, we will be using the programme, Life to the Full, produced by the Catholic educational organisation, Ten Ten Resources to teach the RSE curriculum.



Westminster: Chaplaincy Team

Our Chaplaincy Team went to Westminster with St Roses 'Dom Squad' to attend a Christmas Service.

Upcoming Mass / Liturgies in School

New Year - Mass to be confirmed

February 1st - Service of Light (3N)

February 14th - Ash Wednesday (3A)

CLASSES

Year 3

We ended our first term at St Cuthbert Mayne with our Spanish day – celebrating the start of our Spanish speaking school journey, and our module looking at the geography of Spain.

Both classes enjoyed our Flamenco Workshop learning about the cultural music, rhythms and dance moves of Spain with our internationally renowned flamenco dance teacher and professional flamenco guitarist. We studied the art of Spain exploring the work of artists including Miro, Picasso and Gaudi as well as making our own Christmas cards. We also enjoyed learning about festivals, sport and testing our Spanish speaking skills playing games. Finally, we were also able to enjoy a taste of Spain with some yummy churros courtesy of our Spanish teachers Mrs Wiles and Mrs Sattolo!



CLASSES

Year 4

Year 4 worked hard at the end of the term to learn play words and new songs and actions for the Christmas performance of 'Lights, Camel, Action'. The children were outstanding in all the performances and were so excited to share their Christmas joy with you all. The children have also been making Christmas cards and decorations to share with their friends and family.

Earlier in the half term, Year 4 went to St John's Church in Boxmoor to see a live performance of 'Star Flutes' organised by Hertfordshire Music School.



CLASSES

Year 5

This term, year 5 loved their trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum. We learnt all about Anglo-Saxon life, explored Saxon artifacts and even became archaeologists for the day.

In addition, we have been working extremely hard on our descriptive writing based on the book 'How to Train Your Dragon'. The children have loved challenging themselves to describe effectively, creating vivid imagery for their reader.

Year 5M's Christmas cards:



CLASSES

Year 6

Year 6 As part of our Science and Design & Technology learning this half term, we made steady hand testers. We had to use our Science knowledge to create a working circuit with a buzzer. We then made a box from a net we designed.



CURRICULUM

Curriculum Development

Look out for our new suite of curriculum information that will be published on our website following staff INSET in the New Year.

Education Support Staff

We have an incredible range of experience and skill within our education support staff group. We have staff leading individual and group pastoral interventions through our in-school mentors, targeted academic interventions for reading, writing and maths as well as specialist programmes for pupils with specific learning needs. We are fortunate to have such skilled staff able to fulfill these roles.

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.

After School Clubs

We have a great after school club offer at the moment with a selection of school-run and externally run sessions.

If you would like to book onto these clubs please sign up via Arbor for school-led clubs or see our website for flyers and booking information for external clubs.

Spring Term After School Clubs 2024					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
APEX		Inclusive Football (Mixed) Years 3-4		Inclusive Football (Mixed) Years 5-6	
Watford Educational Trust	Dodgeball Years 4-6	Squad Football (Boys) Years 5-6*	Squad Football (Girls) Years 5-6*	Benchball Years 4-6	Table Tennis Years 3-6
Mrs Tizard		Netball (Mixed) Years 5-6			
Challenge Education					Boxing Years 3-6
Playfeet		Drama Years 3-6	Drama Years 3-6		
Kew Dance				Dance Years 3-6	
Mona Shiraz	Art Club Years 3-6				

Breakfast Club

If you would like to make use of our breakfast club provision, please book on Arbor. Children choose two delicious but healthy breakfast items from a variety of choices and enjoy time with peers before the school day begins.

STAFF UPDATE

Welcome

Mrs Gunasekera joined the breakfast club team this half term and Mrs Reed will be also be joining the team in January.

Katie from HCL, our kitchen contractor, has joined us in the kitchen and has had a really positive impact... and yes, that is Miss Brydon in the kitchen helping to serve Christmas lunch!



Goodbye

Miss Foster had been teaching music at St Cuthbert Mayne for several years but sadly left the Music School earlier this term. She was a highly skilled music teacher and we wish her the very best in her future career.

Mrs Stewart has accepted a job at a specialist provision school and will therefore leave us during Spring 1. She has been a valued member of staff and I know you will join us in wishing her the very best too.

PUPIL GROUPS

School Council

The School Council will be meeting regularly throughout the Spring Term.



Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team have continued to support worship in school and enjoyed a trip to Wesminster Cathedral.



POPstars

Miss Thompson will be working with our POPStars throughout the Spring term.



House Captains



FOREST SCHOOL

'Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.' (Forest School Association). Thank you to Mrs Wheeler for developing our Forest School Provision this term – it has been hugely successful.



MUSIC

Welcome

Two keen violinists from Year 4 and Year 5 represented our school by taking part in an Orchestra Day organised by Dacorum Music at Hemel Hempstead School. They joined other pupils from Berkhamsted and Tring to form their own orchestra for the day, learning new musical pieces on their instruments which were later performed at a special concert, and even learned how to compose their own pieces digitally!



Mrs Patterson has been working with pupils to get our school orchestra up and running with children practising at every opportunity – even on the playground during break and lunch! Year 3 are also getting very good at their recorders with Mrs Larby.



SPORTS UPDATE

Activity Ambassadors

Our Year 6 Activity Ambassadors have been helping prepare equipment for use by children at lunchtime. Throughout the next term they will begin leading activities with support from Mrs Tizard.



Cross Country

Our District Cross Country Team came second overall in this year's competition. We are looking forward to entering the County Championship on the 3rd February where runners will have the opportunity to qualify for National Y5/Y6 Cross Country Championships.

Lunchtime Clubs

All pupils have had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of sporting and physical activities led by Mrs Tizard at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These have included both indoor and outdoor activities and have allowed pupils to develop sport-specific skills as well as having fun with peers in a friendly but competitive environment.



Sport Fixtures

We have taken part in three leagues this term: Netball, Girls Football and Boys Football. A huge thank you to Coach Emma, Mr Dauda and Mrs Tizard for developing the teams so successfully.

Governors

Governors have continued to provide crucial support, strategic oversight and challenge to senior leadership in school. If you would like to find out more about the role of the Governing Body, please email:

mariabutchart@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk

DfE School Building Project

Planning permission has now been submitted to Dacorum Council. If you are in support of the plans for the new school we would really appreciate it if you could submit your comments at:

[St Cuthbert Mayne Planning Application](#).

Select the option on-line or web comments and follow the instructions. It would be great to have some positive support for the project which is being funded by the Department for Education.

Academisation

Governors will review all the information gathered over the previous 12 months and will make a final decision on whether we join ASCAT (All Saints Catholic Academy Trust) later in the academic year.

Parent Association

A huge thank you to the Parent Association for their work in supporting both fundraising as well as fun opportunities for pupils. The School Disco was really successful. Please do take the time to read their recent flyer outlining their plans for the year along with our fundraising targets.

Any practical help you can provide during the year would be warmly welcomed by the Association.

Attendance

Please report all absences and medical appointments via the dedicated attendance email:

attendance@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk

For all other absence requests please continue to complete the Google Form: [Application for Leave of Absence](#)

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

Merry Christmas!