

Newsletter

St Cuthbert Mayne | Spring 1, 2024



A message from the Head

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through the academic year.

The highlights for me have been our programme of liturgies, with the most recent led by our youngest pupils, the Year 3 classes, and the growing number of parents who join us for these celebrations.

We have also had a number of sporting successes with pupils reaching county finals in two of the competitions entered.

Our orchestra continues to bring me huge joy – 17 pupils strong with a range of instruments; it really is an incredible experience watching them accompany pupils.

Academisation and our building programme are on track and the excitement of joining a larger community of Catholic Schools along with a brand new school is beginning to set in.

All in all, we have much to celebrate and be happy about as we move in the second half of the year.

Alex Sallis (Headteacher)

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House Winners

Keep an eye out for our House Winners in the first Wednesday Email after half term!

Father David

A very warm welcome to Father David, who visited school on the final Friday before half term. Mrs Hobbs gave him a tour of the school, he joined staff for a hot drink and biscuit and we agreed some dates to celebrate Masses over the remainder of the year.



Wave of Prayer

This half-term our Catholic Social Teaching focus has been 'Peace and Solidarity'. We would like to invite families to light a candle and say a prayer for peace at some point over the half term holiday. The Chaplaincy Team posted on class google classrooms with some prayers that you might like to read whilst your candle is lit and will be creating a display showing us all praying for peace together.

Liturgies

Year 3 have led liturgies this half term: Service of Light and Ash Wednesday were the themes. The children were wonderful as were the orchestra and it was especially lovely to welcome a growing number of parents to join us for these celebrations.



RSE Consultation

Classes have begun the new Ten:Ten RSE scheme. Parents can view resources on the parent portal using this link: [Parent Portal](#)

Upcoming Mass / Liturgies in School

May 2nd - Marian Liturgy (4J)

May 9th - Ascension Liturgy (4A)

CLASSES

Year 3

We started this half term with our wonderful Shakespeare Workshop where we acted out the play A Midsummer Night's Dream. This really inspired our writing especially when we took on the role of being Queen Titania or King Oberon!

Both Year 3 classes had the honour of hosting their first liturgy at St Cuthbert Mayne. In January 3Nightingale's Service of Light Liturgy started many of our Year 3's on their journey as they prepare to make their First Holy Communion later this year.

3Nightingale also spent time with 6Johnson to learn more about planning and presenting their own Class Worship. The Year 6's were able to pass on their valuable learning and ideas.



Year 3 also had a lot of energetic fun taking part in the Dacorum Target Games sporting event. They were able to demonstrate their skills in throwing, golf, football, archery and Quidditch! Well done to 3Nightingale who were ranked in 3rd place!

From learning about the people of Athens in A Midsummer Night's Dream at the start of the term, we have also been delving into the history of Ancient Greece and ended our half term exploring the world of the fearless fighters and their strategic battle plans. Here are 3A demonstrating the Grecian phalanx from the Battle of Marathon!

CLASSES

Year 4

16 Children went to Astley Cooper School to compete in the Rapid Cricket Tournament. We entered two teams. Everyone played brilliantly and one of our teams went on to win! Well done children and thank you Mrs Tizzard and Mrs Waters for taking them.



Year 4 enjoyed trying their Shakespearean insults out in their workshop of Romeo and Juliet. Writing of direct speech has been spicier than ever because of this inspiration!

CLASSES

Year 5

What a busy half term it has been! We had a wonderful start to the half term with our Shakespeare workshop on 'Hamlet'. The children absolutely loved being a part of bringing the play to life, creating a deeper understanding of the play and enabling the children to produce some beautiful pieces of letter writing and newspaper articles, centred around it, including an Agony Aunt letter asking for advice.

At the end of this half term, we had a fantastic trip to the museum in Hitchin to support our Spring Term learning based around Victorian Britain and to prepare us for the next book that we will be studying in our English lessons: 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Year 5 were able to explore Victorian life through a tour of a Victorian home, some excellent discussions, taking part in 'drill' activities and being a part of a Victorian classroom. I think that it's safe to say that the year 5 children have a renewed appreciation for school in the 21st century, rather than Victorian times!



CLASSES

Year 6

We have had a very busy half-term getting to grips with the Year 6 Curriculum in preparation for taking our SATs in May.



We all enjoyed the Macbeth Shakespeare workshop we took part in – it really brought the story to life. It has inspired us to write some excellent letters in character as Macbeth and a newspaper article about King Duncan's murder.

We have also found the Positive Minds sessions run by Watford Football Club extremely helpful as the children have had a chance to think about how gaming and social media, amongst other things, can affect their mental health which is very timely as they begin to transition towards Secondary School. The children have been learning some tools to help them to manage their mental health and how to support their friends as well. The children are looking forward to the rest of these sessions after half-term.



Curriculum Development

Take a look at our curriculum on our website: [Our Curriculum](#). Our vision documents outline how our curriculum links to our whole school curriculum drivers as well as the knowledge and skills taught in each subject.

P	R	A	Y
Protect our Planet	Resilience	Aspirations	Yes! To equality
			

SEND

Thank you to those parents who attended our SEND coffee morning. Our partners at Gade Partnership and DeSC attended to discuss how we can support all children to thrive during their time at St Cuthbert Mayne and beyond. Speak with your child's class teacher if you have any concerns about your child's learning and they can support you with a referral to Mrs Rasyon, our Inclusion Coordinator, who will be happy to signpost or discuss any support we are able to provide.

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.

New sessions for the summer term will be shared before Easter.

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 Stroud will join us as an Additional Needs Support Assistant after half term. Miss McGuinniss had also joined our team to help when required.

We currently have a job advert out for a full time class teacher on [Teach in Herts](#). If you or any one you know is interested we would love to hear from you.

Goodbye

After 5 years of supporting the school with singing practice each Wednesday following her retirement, Mrs Quinn is finally throwing in the towel... we are eternally grateful for Mrs Quinn's contributions even after leaving as head and will all miss her enormously.

PUPIL GROUPS

School Council

The School Council will be leading fundraising efforts for Red Nose Day next half term. A smaller group of School Council members have been working with Mr Sallis to create child-friendly policies starting with the school behaviour policy. With an anti-bullying and online safety policies to follow.

Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team have been working on supporting Catholic Social Teaching in school as well as continuing to support Mr Sallis with collective worship each Friday.

POPstars

The POPStars have begun thinking about how they can raise the profile of our 'Protect the Planet' curriculum driver and will be sharing their ideas with everyone soon!.

House Captains



FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School has continued to develop with children beginning to explore the wooded area immediately outside the school grounds adjacent to the school field. Our tent has taken the brunt of strong winds so is taking some time to dry out but will be re-pitched in the coming weeks.



MUSIC

Herts Music School

Children across the school have attended music days and the number of children taking on music lesson in school has increased this half term. Visit the [music school's website](#) if you would like to enquire about music lessons.

Orchestra

Mrs Patterson and Mrs Sallis have been working with pupils to provide opportunities for our school orchestra to continue playing and practicing. They have played at both liturgies this half term.

SPORTS UPDATE

Rapid 6 Games

Congratulations to all the children that went to the DSSN Rapid 6 games. They all played really well and it was fantastic that Team 1 won the event. They will now represent Dacorum at The County School Games finals on Tuesday 19th March at Wodson Park in Ware. A massive thank you to Mrs Waters for coming with us and helping ensure the wellbeing of all our children.



Cross Country

Our District Cross Country Team came second overall in this year's competition.

Year 6 then entered the County Championship on the 3rd February. It was a perfect morning for Cross Country at St Margarets school in Bushey and it was a beautiful setting but a difficult and narrow course. All our Year 6 children competed strongly and I was so proud of their determination to run so well against the best runners from schools across the County. Thank you to the parents and supporters for enabling the children to run.



Indoor Athletics

Our Year 6 Indoor Athletics teams competed incredibly well. The girls team came first and the boys' team second. Both will now have the opportunity to represent the school at the County Finals.

Football

Watford Education FC took a squad of Year 6 football players to the Utilita U11s Kids Cup @ The Dome (Watford FC Training Ground).

It was a 7 a-side tournament, which as an EFL Club, Watford a tournament which the winners will then go on to represent Watford within finals across the EFL Play-off weekends in May, against other schools representing other EFL clubs. Our squad played incredibly well coming second overall!

Lunchtime Clubs

Pupils have continued to have 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.

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

The Dacorum Borough Council planning committee will review plans later in March at which point we will know whether the building work can begin and what conditions may be required.

School leadership are working with contractors, DfE and MACE partners to ensure that the project timeline stays on track and that we get the very best out of the programme for our community.

Academisation

Governors will meet this half term to make a final decision. If they agree, we are aiming for a 1st April conversion.

Parent Association

There are lots of events planned for the remainder of the year, starting with a Curry and Quiz night next Wednesday followed by mothers' day gifts being distributed on Friday 8th and then an Easter Egg hunt in school for children on Friday 22nd March. Thank you to the Parent Association for their continued support for the school!

Attendance

Please continue to 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](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support!