

Newsletter

St Cuthbert Mayne | Spring 2, 2024



A message from the Head

During the season of Lent, children have been learning about the promises that God made to us. In last week's assembly, we learnt that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as a permanent sign of belonging to God.

This belief in belonging to God emphasises our fundamental need for connection and community, and highlights our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of each person, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Psychological research backs this up. It agrees that humans have a need for belonging and social connection and that this feeling of connection to others supports our well-being, mental health, and resilience. When we feel a sense of belonging, we are more likely to thrive.

In school, we strive everyday to create a nurturing and inclusive community that reflects the principles of Catholic social teaching. Everyone is encouraged to support and care for one another. Our behaviour policy is rooted in the importance of positive relationships and how we help children to see the impact of their behaviour on others, restoring relationships when they have broken down. This is not always easy.

We strongly believe that the role of parents is to ensure their children are able to live independently. The underlying principle should always be, 'What does my child need to be able to manage the challenges that life will bring them?'. This is in our view the best way to protect children: building resilience, helping them to master their own behaviours and developing empathy for others and for themselves. As parents, by allowing them to develop these skills, you set them up to succeed in life. We are grateful for your support in this important aspect of your child's educational journey.

Alex Sallis (Headteacher)

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House Winners

Congratulations St Dominic for winning the House Cup this term – as you can see from the photo they were very happy!



Mass and Liturgies

Father David celebrated Mass with us this half term on the theme of St Joseph. 5M led the Mass and it was wonderful to share the celebration with parents, staff, pupils and governors. We have arranged opportunities for further celebrations of Mass – the pinnacle of our religious life in school – throughout the summer term when we will be making use of both St Mary's and Joseph's and St Marks.



Comic Relief and Big Lent Walk

Thank you to Mrs Hobbs for organising the hugely successful and enjoyable 'Big Lent Walk' this week. Thank you also to Miss Phillipps and the school council for running the equally successful Comic Relief Cake Sale. These two events have raised over £1200 for those in need. Raising money for charity not only instills compassion and empathy in our pupils but also reinforces the Catholic social principle of solidarity, urging them to actively contribute to the well-being of others. Thank you to everyone in the community for your generosity!

Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching provides us with principles to help guide us on how we should respond to our faith as individuals, and actively respond to God's call to work towards a common good. Each half term we will look at one of the key themes:

- Human Dignity
- Community & Participation
- Care for Creation
- Dignity in Work
- Option for the Poor
- Solidarity & Peace

Upcoming Mass / Liturgies in School

May 2nd - Marian Liturgy (4J)

May 9th - Ascension Liturgy (4A)

June 6th – Whole School Mass at St Mary and St Joseph in Boxoor

CLASSES

Year 3

We have been extending our learning about Ancient Greece this half-term, not only from a historical point of view but also in our writing, through exploring and retelling Greek myths. We have enjoyed learning all about the Greek Gods, human heroes and of course the mythical monsters. We can now consider ourselves expert Minotaur slayers and would also know how to defeat Medusa if we ever met her!

In our RE learning, we have been learning more about the Eucharist as part of our Listening and Sharing lessons. As many of our year group prepare for their First Holy Communion this summer, we have been looking deeper into the symbolism and meaning of the Sacrament to allow us to better understand the importance of this part of our Catholic life. It was wonderful, therefore, to see this 'close up' and be part of our recent whole school mass with Father David.

Children also really enjoyed the Big Lent Walk.



CLASSES

Year 4

On the 20th of March Year 4 took part in a Roman Day. The children used their shields to train like a Roman soldier, to learn about the armour and Roman battle formations. Each class also took part in a Roman feast to learn about life in a Roman villa. The children had fun dressing up in togas, trying Roman food and playing Roman games.



4A's mixed Cricket team went to represent the schools in Dacorum at the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership County Finals... and won!!

CLASSES

Year 5

This half term, we have immersed ourselves in the Victorian era. In year 5, we have been delving into the fascinating world of 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Through insightful character descriptions, the children have worked on their writing skills, bringing Jim Jarvis and other key characters in the text to life.

5 Mandela also led the whole school in a Mass on St Joseph's Day with our new priest, Father David. All the children read beautifully and let us in thoughtful prayer and reflection.

5 Mandela's Easter artwork:



CLASSES

Year 6

This half term, Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum in Tring where they explored the animals throughout the museum. During the visit, the children took part in an 'adaption' workshop where they had the opportunity to investigate the different textures of animals and think about how the animals had adapted to their habitats.



Behaviour

A sub-group of pupils in our School Council helped Mr Sallis create a child-friendly behaviour policy to support pupils' understanding of our therapeutic approach to behaviour in school. You can see the policy on our [school website](#). I think you'll agree they have done a fantastic job!

Behaviour at St Cuthber Mayne

Our goal...
 Inside and outside - behaviour that ensures everyone is:
 • Safe
 • Can learn

Positive behaviours

- Follow instructions
- Be polite and courteous
- Take responsibility for our actions
- Protect others' feelings
- Be attentive to learning

Responses to difficult behaviours

- Help to understand how you and others feel
- Calm down spaces
- Reflection form to give you a voice and help us understand what happened

Ways we support positive behaviour...

- Positive, specific feedback
- Praise children for doing the right thing
- House points
- Citizenship stars

Consequences...
 Any 'consequence' will have a clear purpose

What are the consequences?

- Protective**
E.g. different place to play
- Educational**
Activities to help you understand how to behave differently next time

After School Clubs

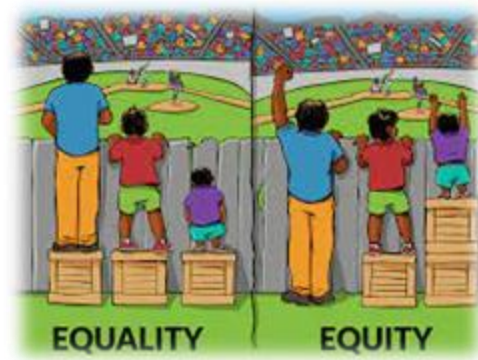
After school clubs have been well used. For the summer term clubs please see this week's Wednesday email. New additions to the offer are tennis and rounders!

Volunteers

Thank you to all the parents and governors who have volunteered throughout the half term. Any support for Forest School, Swimming or other trips and events is always very welcome.

Inclusion

This well-known image illustrates our approach to provision in school.



SEND

Mrs Rayson held a coffee morning for parents alongside one of our partner agencies, Gade Family services, where parents were able to find out about the support available for pupils and families both in school and in the local area.

Summer 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	Tennis Years 3-6	Rounders 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

We welcome Miss McGuinness and Miss Jackman to our education support staff team bringing a wealth of enthusiasm and skill to the school in her place.

Mrs Florido, an experienced KS2 teacher, will be working in Year 5 Einstein each Friday throughout the summer term.

Goodbye

After 19 years of service to the community, Mrs Waters will be retiring at Easter to be able to spend more time with her grandchildren. She has given so much to the school and will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike. Thank you Mrs Waters!

After 10 years first as office manager and then more recently as Business Manager, Mrs Deane has also decided to leave St Cuthbert Mayne with a leaving date of 30th April. She has been an exceptionally skilled member of our office team and a huge support to me as a new head teacher and will be greatly missed by all.

PUPIL GROUPS

School Council

The School Council prepared and led an assembly and cake sale to raise money for comic relief. Staggeringly, they raised over £500! Thank you to everyone for their support and generosity. They have also created a pupil friendly behaviour policy which has been shared with pupils in whole school assembly.

Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team have continued to support the Catholic Life of the school. They welcomed Father David in school and supported Mrs Hobbs with our Big Lent walk which has so far raised over £700 for CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development).

POPstars

The POPStars will be contributing to activities that support the school's travel plan that will be shared with the community after Easter.

House Captains



FOREST SCHOOL

The Forest School Team published their first newsletter this half term and was shared with parents on Wednesday and can be viewed on the [school website](#). It continues to be an incredibly rich and popular activity providing children across the school with a unique educational experience every two weeks.



MUSIC

Herts Music School

Children across the school have continued to attend music days in Spring 2 and the number of children taking on music lessons in school has increased further. Visit the [music school's website](#) if you would like to enquire about music lessons.

Orchestra

Miss Patterson has been further developing the orchestra this half term. They have participated in whole school singing practice as well as a liturgy and Mass. They are an incredible example of excellence in music in school.

Goodbye Concert for Mrs Quinn

Pupils learnt and sang a range of songs to say thank you to Mrs Quinn for her support with singing over the previous years. Three children in particular took the spotlight with a performance of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' sung by Lorrin and accompanied by Anneliesa and Delilah. It was exceptional!



SPORTS UPDATE

County Finals at Wodson Park

On Tuesday 19th March, after winning the Dacorum school's competitions in both Year 4 Rapid 6 cricket and Year 6 Indoor athletics, we went onto represent Dacorum at the County finals.

We were all very excited and nervous at the prospect of such a big competition but all the children excelled and represented our school to the very best of their abilities.

Year 4 won all their pool games and then went on to beat The Grove school in the final becoming for the first time ever in Dacorum history County champions!

The athletes were facing some very tough opposition from the other 11 Districts and we did have some great successes on the track and the field events with our children achieving personal bests. The girls came 9th and the boys 10th .

Thank you to our parent helpers and Coach Emma - we could not have attended without you.

Football

Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 Girls football team who were promoted to the compete league.

We also attended the 'Biggest Girls Football Day' for international woman's day with girls from across the school taking part.



Netball

Our girls have played in the Dacorum Schools Sports Network (DSSN) League and have made lots of individual progress over the year and the Year 6 team look forward to attending a tournament after Easter.

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. These are carefully chosen to prepare children for competitions run by DSSN. After Easter Mrs Tizard will be running the following clubs:

Summer 1

Year 3 and Year 4 – Tennis
Year 5 and Year 6 – Cricket

Summer 2

Year 3 and Year 4 – Cricket
Year 5 and Year 6 - Rounders

Governors

We welcome a new Governor, Ebbah Kwambai to our Governing body as a Foundation Governor.

The board's three committees met during the term and reported into the full governing body meeting. Governors voted in favour of joining ASCAT at an exceptional meeting of the board this term.

Teachers met with link governors to report on their specific areas of responsibility within the curriculum or wider work for the 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

As communicated earlier this week, the planning application was rejected by council members. We are working with partners to explore options going forward.

Academisation

We have started work with other schools at governor, senior leadership and teacher levels within the Trust this term. Delays in the transfer of land has resulted in a new conversion date of 1st May.

Parent Association

The currey and quiz night was enjoyed by those that attended. Teacher teams had the edge of the night, taking the podium positions – something parents will hopefully be reassured about! Mothers' Day presents were created and distributed for children in school. The Easter Egg hunt was thoroughly enjoyed by children at lunch time. All these activities provide a hugely welcome source of funds to benefit pupils in school.

A huge thank you to those parents who make this possible. We desperately need some support for the planning and running of our Summer Fair. Please contact Laura Goodwin via your class rep or directly if you are able to help.

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](#).