



Weekly Newsletter St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Week ending 15th December 2023



*"We are a Catholic community, living and learning in faith.
Through the Gospel values of faith, hope, trust and love,
we aim to recognise individuality and enable each other to fulfil our potential"*

Dear All

What a lovely festive week! Our youngest children have brought the joy with their amazing Nativity performances. They were so confident speaking, singing and acting and it was evident that they enjoyed every minute! Thank you so much to all the parents who have supported with costumes and the staff who have worked so hard to produce these performances. It is KS2's turn next Tuesday evening to share their Advent service in the church - I can't wait. There will be drinks and nibbles in the Jurgens Centre afterwards, so please join us for that.

We said goodbye today to one of our most loved members of staff, Mr Taylor. The children (and staff) did an amazing job of sharing how appreciated he has been and how much they will miss him. We wish him all the best for the future and hope he comes back to see us from time to time.

Christmas lunch took place on Thursday and the part the children seemed to most enjoy was being served their meal by the staff! It really got us all into the Christmas spirit.

We are just finalising a new timetable for PE and clubs that will commence in the new year - this will go out on Monday so parents have time to sign up.

Next week we will be sending out an end of term report to share data from our recent assessment week. I appreciate that parents are keen to understand how their child is progressing and I have tried to provide some context to the scores that will be shared. It is important to note that these scores provide information to help the teachers understand any gaps in the children's knowledge, but they do not represent the ability of a pupil on their own. Teachers gather a fuller picture of your child's ability through classwork, verbal responses and their behaviour for learning.

This coming week the Gospel reveals Jesus as 'the light'. John the Baptist continues his role as a witness, who helps others to believe that Jesus, the light, is the long-awaited Christ. Will you be ready to believe, and worship Jesus this Christmas like the shepherds and the kings?

'...so that everyone might believe...'
John 1:7

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Rainbow

Important Dates For December and January

Monday 18th Dec	KS2 Advent Liturgy Rehearsal (in church)
Tuesday 19th Dec	7pm KS2 Advent Liturgy (in church, during school hours)
Thursday 21st Dec	School finishes at 12pm for all children
Monday 8th Jan	Return to School
Friday 12th Jan	New Year's Mass

Diocesan Christmas Card

Please find the link to the Diocesan Christmas Card we our children were part of recording

<https://vimeo.com/893128413>

Lost Property:

We have a very large collection of lost property items in the office. Please do have a look through at morning drop-off or afternoon collection to reclaim any items.

Please note: anything not collected by Thursday 21st December will be removed from the office.

From Mr Taylor...

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the lovely gifts, cards & messages I have received this week. It's been somewhat overwhelming. I am extremely grateful.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All the best

Mr T

Admissions

For all parents applying for a Reception place starting September 2024, please remember that the closing date for applications is **15 January 2024**.

Surrey encourages online applications via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>, however parents can also request a paper application form or seek impartial help in completing an application via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). Full information is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

Applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child. Surrey will **only** consider an application as on-time even if it has been made late if there is a genuine reason why the application could not reasonably have been made before the closing date. If the child lives in another local authority, they should make an on-time application which can include Surrey schools, to that local authority, even if they know they will be moving. More information on this is available on Surrey's [website](#).

St Cuthbert's Parish

This coming weekend we celebrate *Gaudete Sunday* and at "Our Lady of the Assumption" we continue our annual tradition of Blessing the Baby Jesus figures for the Nativity Scenes, from our home, school, and church. Please bring them to Mass, or you can bring a picture / handmade Baby Jesus. The Blessing will take place Saturday Evening and at both of our Sunday Morning Masses. I will be wearing the Rose / Pink vestment and invite others to wear pink or other bright colours as we "rejoice" in our Lord's imminent coming.

All our "Fourth Sunday of Advent" and "Christmas Masses" are listed in this weekend's Parish Newsletter available on our website, livestream page or by email. Paper copies are also available at the back of the church. I look forward to seeing the parishioners over Christmas. For those Catholics who are not in St Cuthbert's Parish, our Non-Catholic families, and those of other faiths, can I wish you *all* a very Happy Christmas from myself and the whole parish community.

The partnership between parish and school is increasingly important as we seek to build God's Kingdom and be a source of faith to young people and their families. To recognise this, new parish priests and new headteachers are formally inducted into the communities they serve. We look forward to celebrating the induction of Ali Rainbow on **Sunday 28th January at the 11am** Mass, with Bishop Richard Moth and Julie Oldroyd (Diocesan Director for Schools). Together with our Executive Head (Mrs Licence) and our deputy (Mrs Gray) we are extremely blessed. Everyone is welcome from our school community, the Xavier Trust and beyond. As a church community we look forward to a continued partnership with the school and celebrating together in the years to come.

In past years I have given chocolates or biscuits as a Christmas Gift to the teachers and staff of St Cuthbert's as a "thank you" from the parish. I am so grateful for the hard work and dedication in 2023, that I wanted to give something a bit more special this year. Therefore, through the charity "Mary's Meals" a child will be fed for a whole school year in thanksgiving for the dedication and warmth of the *St Cuthbert's teachers and staff*. The charity feeds some of the poorest children throughout our world every school day, encouraging them into the classroom, and helping to provide an escape route from poverty. Such awareness of overseas needs features so highly at the school and I would like to congratulate (on behalf of the parish) all who helped to raise £701 for the victims of the Pakistan floods.

I have greatly enjoyed the school nativities from the EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils. Now I look forward to the Key Stage 2 celebration, which will take place in the church. I am extremely blessed to celebrate with you all.

With Love and Prayers,

Canon Chris Spain

School Chaplain

The Week That Was

Year R:

This week Reception have been working hard with their final Nativity rehearsals. The children were so excited to show years 1-6 their dress rehearsal and really enjoyed being in their costumes. Thank you to everyone that came and saw the show, we hope you enjoyed it! We have been having fun taking part in lots of Christmas activities this week. We have been writing Christmas cards, using our art and cutting skills to decorate a suit for Father Christmas and baubles for the tree. We have been practising our counting with lots of different Christmas objects and making Christmas pictures out of different shapes.

Year 1:

This week has been very exciting for Year 1! We had our KS1 nativity. The children all worked so hard learning their lines, the songs, the stage directions. I think the hard work they put in really showed on stage. They all did a fabulous job! In maths, we have been continuing numbers to 20. The children have grasped these really well. In Science, we did a learning walk around the playground. We discussed indicators that help us know what season we are in. We all decided that it's probably Winter! A very exciting week.

Year 2:

What a festive week we have had in Year Two, with the Nativity play being the highlight. This pairs well with our learning in RE as we are focusing on the visitation as well as the journey that Mary and Joseph had to take to get to Bethlehem. In Maths we are continuing with the unit based around addition and subtraction, with the children adding 10s and then adding 1s to a 2 digit number,. In History, we finished the unit with an evaluation of whether the children thought London was a better or worse place after the fire.

Year 3:

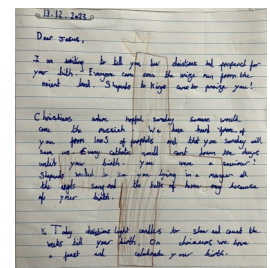
In year 3 we have been learning about the seasons of the Church's year. Thinking of the times of Jesus' life being celebrated in these seasons. We have completed our big writes by creating an explanation text describing the different climates in the world and explaining what life is like in these climate zones. What a treat it was to watch the KS1 and the EYFS dress rehearsals for their nativities.

Year 4:

Year Four have been working hard this week to complete their sewing project, there have been some fantastic amounts of creativity to create some great book sleeves. They've also been using their creativity to write their own Haiku poems! They are singing beautifully and really looking forward to the Advent service next week!

Year 5:

This week in RE, we have discussed the importance of being patient and linked this to how we can be patient during the time of advent. Our task was based on writing a letter to Jesus about how Christians prepare themselves during advent to meet him.



Year 6:

This week in RE we have been looking at The Magnificat and the different depictions of it in art and music. We have also been working hard to prepare for our Advent Liturgy next week.

The children have also been working hard on their sewing skills learning both running stitch and blanket stitch to complete their Christmas stockings. As a final flourish, they will also be adding a button fastening to their stockings.

Term Dates

Academic Year 2024—2025

Please see below term dates for the next academic year. These are in line with schools from Xavier CET. We will confirm all further INSET Days in due course.

AUTUMN TERM 2024

Inset Day	Monday 2nd September 2024
Term starts	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Half Term	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
Term ends	Friday 20th December 2024
Schools closed	Monday 2nd December 2024

SPRING TERM 2025

Term starts	Monday 6th January 2025
Half term	Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025
Term ends	Friday 4th April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

Terms starts	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Half term	Monday 26th to Friday 30th May 2025
Term ends	Friday 18th July 2025

Fair Dojo Winners:

F faith

A appreciate and articulate

I independence and initiative

R respect and resilience

Congratulations to this week's winners:

In EYFS, **Angelo** has been developing his independence with coming into school and saying goodbye to Mum. Well done Angelo, it has been lovely to see your smile!

This week's dojo winner in Year 1 is someone who worked so hard for our nativity. She practiced all the songs and made sure that her smile could be seen from the back of the hall. Well done, **Otylia**!

Teddy in year 2 has been appreciative of his time in school and is able to articulate things he likes about school.

Well done to **Rosie** in Year 3 for her articulation in her explanation big write. Her knowledge of the tropical desert climate was very impressive.

Amelia P is treating all of her learning with respect and creativity. It's also lovely to see how she helps others and encourages them with their learning too. Well done **Amelia**!

Our dojo winner in year 5 is someone who has made great improvement in their work ethic and attitude to learning. Keep up the good work **Josh**

Summer in year 6 has been quietly getting on with her work and trying her very best in every lesson. Well done, Summer.

Wrap Around Care—Recruitment

We are still actively recruiting to increase our staff numbers for our wrap around care.

Should you or anyone you know be interested in working at either our Breakfast or After School Club, please do get in contact.

**Mondays to Fridays,
7.30am to 8.40am for Breakfast Club
3pm onwards for After School Club**

Term time only – 38 wks pa.

Salary: Surrey S3.1 - FTE £19,313 p.a., £2,623 pro rata, £10.29 per hour

St. Cuthbert's is a happy and caring school with wonderful children and a great staff team. We are seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Extended Schools Assistant, able to start work with us as soon as possible – initially mornings only but with possibility of more hours.

We are looking for applicants who:

- Are supportive of our Catholic ethos
- Are patient and care for children
- Are team players who are flexible and personable
- Are positive and resilient in their approach with children



Previous experience of working with children and young people is desirable, but not essential.

Please email office@stcuthberts.surrey.sch.uk for an application form or call Mrs Turner for further details.

St. Cuthbert's is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS is essential for this position, which can be organised through the School.



'We play loads of fun games, do activities and challenges and sometimes get badges'
Matilda

Rainbows
Englefield Green
Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm

Girls play, learn and have tons of fun
for ages 5 to 7

At Rainbows, we welcome all girls to play, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space for all abilities.



Registered charity number:

Join a local Rainbows group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Contact Megan at egrainbows@outlook.com
or call 07768 293 396

Egham Library Code Explorers Club

Thursdays 4pm - 5pm
Starts Thursday 11 January





The amazing and hidden world of microcontrollers


In this club we will be learning about electronics and coding, building projects using the Arduino microcontroller which has been developed with learning in mind.

To find out more visit www.arduino.cc

Suitable for children 9 - 13 years of age
Spaces are limited, so booking at the library is essential
This activity is FREE of charge





JOIN OUR CHATTERBOOKS READING GROUP



At Egham Library
For Children aged 8-11 years
On once a month on a Tuesday
4pm - 4.45pm

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE
PLEASE EMAIL
EGHAM.LIBRARY@SURREYCC.GOV.UK



CHATTERBOOKS **THE READING AGENCY**

