



## Weekly Newsletter

# St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Week ending 9 February 2024



*"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

We were very lucky to have a visitor in on Monday morning to talk to Year 1 through to Year 6 about dental care. The children were given lots of goodies to go away with. Thank you so much to Mrs Bell for your time!

On Tuesday, we welcomed a visitor to look at Inclusion at St Cuthbert's in an effort to obtain an award. The day was timetabled to share many elements of our school and pupils, parents, governors and support staff were interviewed, as well as lessons observed and books examined. The feedback was very positive and we excelled in many areas. We are awaiting a more formal response - so watch this space. Thank you to parents and governors who took part to support us.

As part of their RE curriculum, Year 1 surprised me on Wednesday with an invitation to visit their classroom for a wonderful experience! The children had created a menu to provide me with a snack and drink and then presented me with handmade gifts and cards. I then had the pleasure of enjoying a singing and dancing performance, finishing with a chance to look at a piece of work selected by each child. It was such a delightful start to my day (this must be one of the perks of the job!).

Parents' evenings took place on Thursday and the staff had the opportunity to share the children's achievements so far this year. The children work so hard and it is lovely to be able to celebrate this with parents and carers. There was also the opportunity to share your views on the options for our new PE uniform that we are introducing in September. The response was very positive and parents are keen to welcome a tracksuit that is fit for purpose and worn at least two days of the week. There were some questions about why the tracksuit is black, I have looked into maroon but creating a bespoke version for our school would be very expensive. We hope the new uniform will reduce the amount that needs spending on our main school uniform and the quality will mean it lasts longer.

It was brought to my attention that there has been an understanding, amongst parents using the road outside our main entrance to park and drop off, that a one-way system is in place. This means that when driving along with the school on the right, it is helpful to continue on around the block, rather than turning around in the road. With new families joining the school I thought it might be worth mentioning that this system is in place to avoid congestion as much as possible.

PE lesson days may be changing for some year groups after half term, as we adapt the timetable as specialist dance sessions come to an end. Please note the changes below.

Through the Gospel account of Jesus healing a leper, this week's worship explores those who might be excluded and invites children to follow Jesus' example of compassion and welcome.

*"If you want to," he said, "you can cure me." Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him. "Of course I want to!" He said. "Be cured!" And the leprosy left him at once... (Mark 1: 41)*

Have a lovely rest over half term!

**Mrs Rainbow**

## Important Dates for February

Tuesday 20th	Year 3 Retreat at The Jurgen Centre Year 4—Roman Workshop Year 5/6 Girls Football League Game at home to Cobham Free School
Wednesday 21st	Year 3 Feet First Walking Training
Thursday 22nd	Year 5 & 6 Reconciliation
Friday 23rd	Year 2 Class Liturgy - Year 2 parents welcome - 9am in the school hall Year 4 Reconciliation
Tuesday 27th	EYFS Heights, Weights & Vision Check Year 4 Retreat at The Jurgen Centre Year 5 and 6 Science Fair
Wednesday 28th	Class Photographs KS2 Surrey Youth Games Assembly No Boy's football training with Mr John
Thursday 29th	Year 5 Football Tournament at RHU

## Coming up in March (more details will follow after half term)

World Book Day (7th March): parents will be invited to watch the children's parade

MAGS Day (8th March): Mums and female relative will be invited for our special collective Worship

In other news, **Mr Ellson**, who is currently running our hymn and choir practise as well as Year 3 singing, will be singing live on BBC R3 on 14th February at 4pm. This is an Evensong for Ash Wednesday and involves James Macmillan's amazing setting of Psalm 51, Miserere Mei Please do tune in and listen to it:

[BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong, Guildford Cathedral](#)

## PE Days after half term

Please note the new PE days starting after half term:

<b>Monday:</b>	Year 4	Year 2	Year 1	Year 6	Year 3
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Year 3	EYFS	Year 5		
<b>Thursday:</b>	EYFS	Year 1	Year 6	Year 4	Year 2
<b>Friday:</b>	Year 5				

## PE 'round up'

We have had an exciting start to 2024 at St Cuthbert's for PE.

First of all, I would like to thank Keeley for her hard work with teaching dance to the children in Key Stage 2 this half term. It has also been great to have Mr Bacci from PS Sports Coaching on board. He has started to put the children from years 3 to 6 through their paces getting some of them ready for the cross-country competition next month.

Right at the beginning of the term, we had a year 6 dodgeball tournament, where the pressure was on the year 6's to keep our 5-year tradition of winning the competition going. I am delighted to say they managed this feat and demonstrated fantastic resilience and sportsmanship in the process.

We have also had 2 football fixtures so far this term, including our first girls' game. While sadly they have not started with victories, I have been extremely proud of those involved and we will continue to work hard going forward.

Enjoy your half term break

**Mr John**

## Fair Dojo Winners:

**F** faith

**A** appreciate and articulate

**I** independence and initiative

**R** respect and resilience

### Congratulations to this week's winners:

Reception's winner is **Nyameaye**, for trying hard in her independent learning and having a go at lots of different activities in class. Well done!

**Lily** in year 1 has been working so hard with her sentences. She takes her time and makes sure to produce lovely work. She is very articulate and uses words such as fantastic and incredible to describe. Well done, Lily!

**Beau** in year 2 is making a huge effort with his handwriting. He has shown the value of respect by improving the presentation of his work over the past two weeks. Well done for working so hard on this.

**Nina** in year 3 received the dojo badge for her FAITH for being a good play buddy this week. Her kindness has helped others have a good playtime.

In year 4, **Jack** has been focusing on his handwriting and trying his best to improve his writing independently, using spellings he has chosen himself to work on. Well done Jack, for your hard work!

Our dojo winner in year 5 is someone who has been putting great effort into their maths work and shown great resilience with their maths problem solving challenges. Well done **Daisy**.

**Mia** in year 6 is such a wonderful role model. She puts so much effort into every lesson, she asks for help when she needs it and she is always happy to support those around her. Well done, Mia.

# The Week That Was

## Year R:

This week, Reception have been continuing our learning about the feeding of the 5000. We sat together to share a special snack of lots of different fruits and created our own prayer, to say thank you to God for giving us enough to eat. In English we have been reading the story "Little Red Riding Hood". We made a shopping list for things we could take to Grandma's house to make her feel better. We also did some role-play pretending we were Mr Wolf, to help us think of some exciting words to describe the way he looks and acts. In maths we have been exploring doubling and using the balance scales to help us find doubles by putting Numicon pieces in each side to see if they matched.

## Year 1:

This week has been another great one for Year 1! We have continued to learn about Luke's gospel and how Jess welcomed everyone, even tax-collectors like Zacchaeus. We've imagined how Zacchaeus felt before and after Jesus's kindness. We've decided it would be a good idea if we are kind to everyone, just like Jesus. We also welcomed Mrs Rainbow to the classroom, just as Jesus welcomed the children! Mrs Rainbow was offered a drink and some snacks (and lots of paper chain crowns!) before the children showed her a performance they had been working on. They finished the visit by showing Mrs Rainbow their favourite piece of work. We have continued working hard in English and Maths. In Science, we learned about our senses and tested our sense of taste by experimenting with different flavour squash. A very exciting week for Year 1. Thank you for your continual support and hope everyone has a restful break!

## Year 2:

In Y2, despite it being the end of the half term we have moved onto a new RE topic based around the Eucharist. This means thanksgiving and so to kick start the unit, the children thought about what 'giving thanks' means to them. The children had a fun and practical end to their Geography unit based on the journey of food, by cooking Welsh Cakes with Mrs Protheroe. What a nice way to celebrate food from other places. In music, Mrs Savage has been teaching the children how to play the glockenspiel. The class are just about sounding in tune and in time. Well done on your focus with this during this half term. It has been a busy week with a focus on children's mental health and they created posters to show why their voice matters, as well as it being Safer Internet Day earlier this week. To draw attention to this important subject, the class has discussions about their digital footprint and what this means to them.

## Year 3:

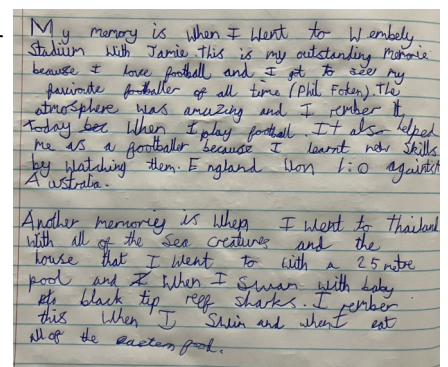
In year 3 we have programmed sounds in scratch, by creating an algorithm for Twinkl Twinkl Little Star in computing. In history we have written conclusions on whether the Bronze and Iron Ages were a dangerous time to live using a variety of sources. In English we have started to explore persuasive writing by arguing for the banning of football at playtimes.

## Year 4:

Year Four have started a new RE topic this week, on Giving and Receiving. They shared their experiences of giving to others and how it makes them feel happy to make others feel happy. They have absolutely loved learning about Oliver Twist in English and have started to prepare to write their own scene! They are also gripped by our book in Guided Reading and it was interesting to hear all of their thoughts on it as they discussed in 'book club' this week!

## Year 5:

This week in RE, we have started our new topic on Memorial Sacrifice. We have discussed what memories are and why we can remember certain ones. We also talked about what can trigger certain memories and how certain feeling can make them memorable.



My memory is when I went to Wembley Stadium with Jamie. This is my outstanding memory because I love football and I got to see my favourite footballer of all time (Phil Foden). The atmosphere was amazing and I remember it today because when I play football, I also looked up to him as a footballer because I learnt new skills by watching him. England won 1-0 against Australia.

Another memory is when I went to Thailand with all of the sea creatures and the house that I went to with a 25 metre pool and when I swam with baby black tip reef sharks. I remember this when I swim and when I eat all of the seafood food.

## Year 6:

This week we looked at the seventh and final miracle in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus – we discussed how John uses this miracle to point us to the events of Holy Week.

In Geography we are asking the question: How can we, as a school, be more sustainable? The children posed questions and interviewed staff and children to see what we could do as a school to reduce our impact on the environment.

## The Parish - Message from Canon Chris

As the new term got under way for all of you, I enjoyed my Christmas break in Malta, somewhat later than most people's celebrations. I seem to have been busy catching up ever since! It was lovely to return to the wonderful Induction Mass for Mrs Rainbow, conducted by Bishop Richard and in the presence of Julie Oldroyd (Diocesan Director for Education), representatives from the *Xavier Academy Trust*, past teachers and headteachers, many from Mrs Rainbow's previous School in Chertsey, her lovely family, and, of course, many current parents and pupils. Thank you to all who helped by participation in the church or with the lovely refreshments following!

I have enjoyed my visits to the school and especially Blessing the School Candles for Candlemas with the EYFS Class, last week. It is also lovely to see the children preparing for their First Reconciliation, which is coming up very soon. Please do keep bringing your children to Mass, they are an important part of the life of our parish in these changing times.

A new Pastoral Plan has been written by our Bishop and the changes are explained. The full or abridged version can be found on <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/bishop-richards-new-pastoral-plan> explaining our prayer, mission and formation needs.

It is best to read the abridged plan, or you may wish to stretch yourself and read the whole plan? However, a big change is that "The groupings of parishes that form deaneries, will become parishes. The numbers of priests will continue to decline over an extended number of years. In structural terms, this gives us two alternatives: either to reduce the number of parishes gradually (which extends a period of pain and uncertainty and is problematic as vacancies do not always occur in places that would be suitable for amalgamation) or take the bold step of reducing the number of parishes in one go to a level that is sustainable long-term. Once the Diocese is restructured, each parish can be run with the number of available priests. This gives the flexibility to respond to challenges in a way that is resilient, sustainable, and adaptable."

Whilst this will mean change for the *style of parish* we have become used to; we really want this to be a positive and productive time as we seek to build God's Church on earth. The partnership of the church with our faith schools is an extremely important section of the longer plan (Section 4 "The Mission of our Schools") and I encourage parents, teachers and governors to read it and pray for the changes ahead.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Half Term break and I look forward to celebrating our "Lenten Retreat Days" with our year 3, 4 & 5s in the near future, Reconciliation in school with year 4, 5 and 6 and other visits too.

PLEASE do join us to start Lent. **Ash Wednesday** is usually celebrated in school, but this year it falls in the Half-Term break. We encourage you to join the Parish Mass at **12 noon or 7pm on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> - Assumption of our Lady** (or wherever you may be for half-term)!

With my prayers and good wishes for the season of Lent and beyond!

## 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

## **Job opportunities at the diocese**

The vacancies, including the job descriptions are on the Diocesan website under Careers <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers>.

**Buildings Officer: School Buildings and Finance, closing date 16 February**

Part time (0.6 FTE)

Based in Crawley - with travel around Sussex and Surrey

Salary £27,000 (FTE £45,000)

The Diocesan Education Service is seeking to recruit a part time Buildings Officer - School Buildings and Finance. The successful applicant will ensure that public capital funding provided to the Diocese is spent appropriately and that the Diocese can provide assurance to the DfE and auditors as to compliance with the conditions of funding. Key areas of responsibility include ensuring that the diocesan education estate is safe and well maintained, prioritising school building projects, planning the maintenance and development of new and existing school stock and being the first point of contact in the Diocese for schools' capital issues.

**Pastoral Coordinator - The Catholic parishes of Woking & Knaphill – closing date Friday, March 1, 2024.**

The Catholic parishes of Woking & Knaphill are seeking an energetic, committed worker with a good understanding of Catholic faith to join their pastoral team, to assume responsibility for coordinating and developing catechesis, developing lay leadership and promoting a culture of missionary discipleship across our twin parishes.

The post is full-time but applicants who can offer least 0.6 FTE will also be considered.

Salary £32,000-35,000 depending on experience and qualifications.

Application deadline: Friday, March 1, 2024.

Interviews: Friday, March 15, 2024.



# Confidence Building Fun

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— My children have developed self-confidence, ease while speaking in public and a love of performing, which will be beneficial to them no matter what they choose to do for a career. Geraldine Zolynski

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- Specially created scripts, videos and apps to support your child's learning
- End of term presentation for family and friends

— I'm very impressed by the thoughtful way each session is run. It is great to know that Ethan is not just being 'entertained' for the hour but proactively being taught new life skills. Kate Whytey

**PERFORM**  
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[perform.org.uk](https://perform.org.uk) 020 7255 9120

## Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School** if they sign up by Saturday 4th May. Parents should quote SCCR040524 when they book their free session by going to [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try) or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try). Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).





# Volunteers Needed

Do you have parental experience? Could you spare 2-4 hours a week to help a local family in need? Our home visiting volunteers work alongside families to give compassionate and confidential support, tailored to each family. Full training and expert ongoing support given.

**Courses starting throughout Surrey in Spring 2024, contact us today to register your interest.**

**[homestartsurrey.org](http://homestartsurrey.org)**

**01252 737453**

**[volunteers@homestartsurrey.org](mailto:volunteers@homestartsurrey.org)**

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