Weekly Newsletter
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Week ending 24th October 2025

Dear All

As we come to half term, I think the children (and staff) are ready for a well-earned break. They have all worked so hard and made a great start to the school year!

We had a very busy open morning for prospective parents on Wednesday! It was lovely to show off the school and the Year 6 House Captains and Head Boy and Girl did a fabulous job of touring families around the school.

The Diwali dance workshops were such a great success. The children concentrated so hard to learn the moves and parts of a routine - I loved watching their performances.

We held our first Pupil Parliament of the year this week where the children in roles of responsibility were given the opportunity to share their goals and take ideas from the rest of the pupils in the school. It is so important that our children have their voice heard in school and their contributions as so valuable.

Can I remind parents that we are a nut and sesame-free school. We have children that suffer from these allergies and it is vital that we keep them safe. If you could be vigilant about checking the ingredients of any food coming into school please.

In this coming week's Gospel, through Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, we will come to know and understand that God forgives all who are humble and truly sorry.

'For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Luke 18:14

Have a lovely half term break!

Mrs Rainbow

Fair Dojo Winners:

F faith

A appreciate and articulate

I independence and initiative

R respect and resilience

This week's winner is **Betsy** in Reception, for being respectful and trying hard with her listening at carpet time.

Jessica in year 1 for showing great independence in the classroom by always being ready to start her learning. Well done!

Rachel in year 2 for being really articulate when giving answers and for being so respectful when listening to peers.

Alexander in year 3 for showing great independence and working hard on his home learning - keep up the good work!

Johnny in year 4 for showing determination and having a positive attitude to learning

Tobias in year 5 for being a supportive table partner and being articulate in responses from pair talk.

Our dojo winner is **Millie** in year 6 for showing great resilience in our maths lessons on long division this week.

The Week That Was—KS1

Year R: This week Reception have been learning about the celebrations of Baptism and Diwali. We learnt about what happens at a Baptism and the key symbols that are used to welcome the baby into God's family, such as the holy water and the oil. We also designed our own baptism candle using our favourite colours. We then listened to stories about how families prepare for and celebrate Diwali, we made rangoli patterns, decorated diya lamps and created our own mehndi patterns using different mark making tools. In Literacy, we read a story called "The world needs the wonder you see" and drew pictures of our favourite 'wonders' from the story, then used our Fred talk to write labels for our pictures.

Year 1: Year 1 had a good week to finish off this half term. We have reflected upon our Creation and Covenant RE lessons and continued to focus on how it is our responsibility to look after God's beautiful world. We have been using colourful semantics to write sentences and have consolidated our learning about part whole models in maths. We also took part in a really exciting Bollywood dance themed workshop.

Well done Year 1 on a brilliant first half term. Enjoy the well-deserved break!

Year 2: Year 2 are still learning about Baptism in RE we have been talking about the special symbols that represent Baptism and why might children get Baptised. Some of the children also got to show their knowledge this week about what we have been learning and it was amazing to see all the information from our RE so far this year. We have been doing our big writes in English this week where the children have written a journey story about a character of their choosing and it is amazing to see the work they have produced. They have done an experiment this week in Science where we looked at different materials in nappies and we cut them open to see all the different materials inside. It has been another amazing week in Year 2 where we have achieved so much! Keep up the good work Year 2 and enjoy a lovely half term.

The Week That Was—KS2

Year 3: This week, we have been living out the Go-Forth Mission by joining in with the Mark10Mission Rosary, taking time to reflect on how we show our faith through prayer and by spending quiet moments with God. In Art, we explored prehistoric creativity by creating our own handprints on a cave wall, just like early humans. In Maths, we have been subtracting 3-digit numbers across 10 and using counters to help us understand and visualise the process more clearly. In RE, we reflected on all our learning so far and thought about the many ways we can thank God for His wonderful creations. Geography was so much fun this week as we created our own biomes and thought about the different climates, plants and animals that live in them.

Year 4: Year 4 have had a busy last week of half term! In RE we started to look forward to our next Branch of learning by exploring the story of Joseph. We heard the story of Joseph and thought about how he lived out the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love. In English we used our homework research about a person who inspires us to write a biography about their life. We applied the skills we learnt in our imitation and invention phases. In maths we have been finding the equivalent difference between numbers and learning our square times tables number facts. In Geography we went on a big Route 66 road trip. We discovered the states and cities the route goes through, researched a city and added our research to a big class map and identified the physical features and human features along Route 66. In computing we learnt the features of a website and how to share things online - thinking about who owns the content on websites.

Year 5: In RE this week, the class used their home learning to support their work about virtues. The class were excellent in their understanding of a virtue and we focused on the cardinal virtues. These are ones that we can grow ourselves and this can lead to living a happier and holier life. In Maths, the children have been learning about factors and common factors in the multiplication and division unit. In English, it is BIG write week and so children have been using next steps from their previous write and applying it to this weeks write. I am looking forward to reading the information texts in half term. We have finished off Rooftoppers - the children enjoyed this book thoroughly and would recommend any other books written by Katherine Rundell. She is an excellent author of fun and adventure.

Year 6: Firstly, I have to mention our unforgettable trip to PGL, where every child showed remarkable resilience and enthusiasm. From high ropes to canoeing, they embraced every challenge with courage and teamwork. I am incredibly proud of how they represented our school — true ambassadors in every sense! Back in the classroom, our RE lessons have taken a fascinating turn as we explored the lives and contributions of Catholic scientists. We've been discussing how faith and science can work hand in hand, and how they complement rather than contradict each other. The children engaged thoughtfully with this topic, asking insightful questions and making meaningful connections. In Geography, we wrapped up our half-term learning with a creative twist — stop motion animation! Using their knowledge from the past few weeks, the children created animations that brought all their learning about the Amazon to life. It was a brilliant way to showcase their understanding and creativity. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest over the half-term break!

Month of October

This month is very special as it is the Month of the Rosary.

Family Prayer Leaf

This as set at home learning. Thank you so much for the beautiful leaves that have been sent into school. If yours is still at home you have time to bring it in for it to be placed on our prayer tree.

Rosary Beads

We have full class sets of Rosary Beads for the children to pray with every day. If your child wishes to bring in their own set from home, they are very welcome to but ensure they are labelled and understand the risk of lost, broken and stolen when brining items in from home.

KS2 Prayer Challenge

KS2 will be praying a decade of the Rosary each day in October and travelling with Mary through the mysteries of the Rosary each day. If you wish to join in at home, the link to the website is here.

The Mark 10 Mission - The Rosary Challenge

Break Time prayer group

Our prayer leaders will be taught how to lead on the Rosary and will set up a break time prayer group on Mondays. We look forward to spending time in Our Lady's prayer garden to spend some quiet time with her.

Month of October

The Magnificat

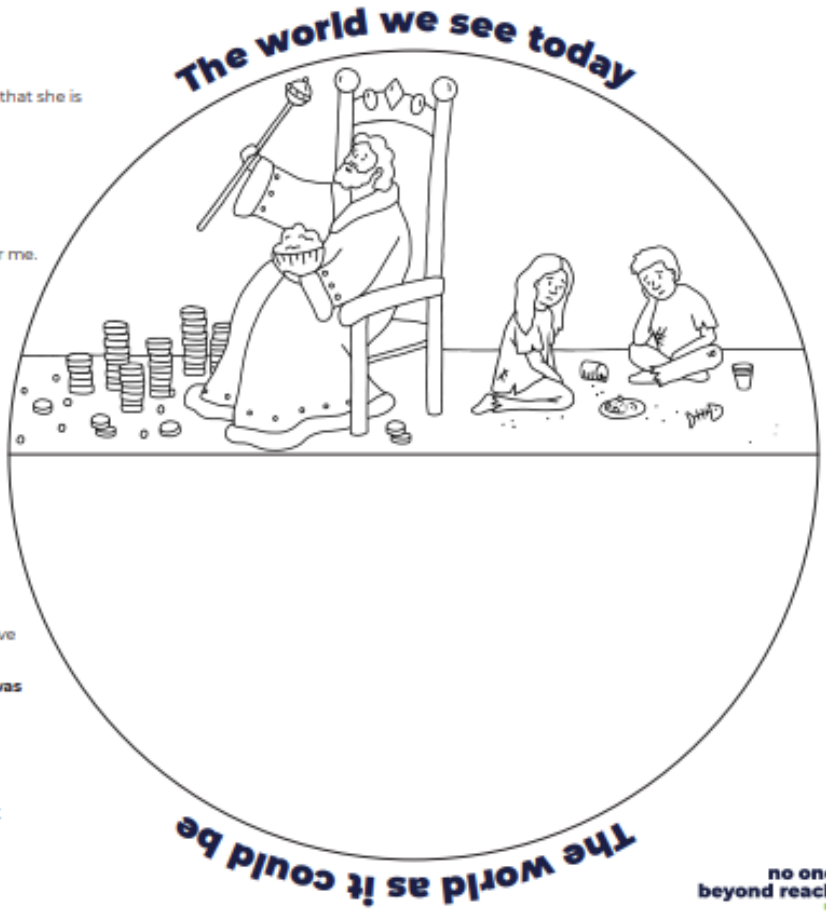
Gospel: Luke 1:46-55

This is Mary's wonderful song of praise when she hears that she is expecting a child, the son of God.

"My heart praises the Lord;
my soul is glad because of God my Saviour,
for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!
From now on all people will call me happy,
because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me.
His name is holy;
from one generation to another
he shows mercy to those who honour him.
He has stretched out his mighty arm
and scattered the proud with all their plans.
He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors
and has come to the help of his servant Israel.
He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham
and to all his descendants for ever!"
(Luke 1:46-55 GNT)

Mary is filled with joy because she realises that God's love can turn the world upside down.

Draw what you think the world would look like if it was more like Mary's song of praise, the Magnificat.



Find more activities and prayers for families at
cafod.org.uk/families

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

no one beyond reach

Student Council CAFOD Project

This term, our Student Council introduces a thoughtful initiative aimed at improving how we care for our school facilities—especially when it comes to water use. From encouraging everyone to turn off taps properly to reducing paper towel waste, students are taking the lead in keeping our shared spaces in excellent condition.

As part of this ongoing project, which runs until November, we are linking these everyday actions to a wider global cause. This Harvest Festival, we are raising money to support CAFOD's work in Ethiopia, where access to clean water remains a daily challenge. Through a visual tracker displayed in school, each class records their water-saving pledges—small steps that not only help our environment but also contribute to lasting change.

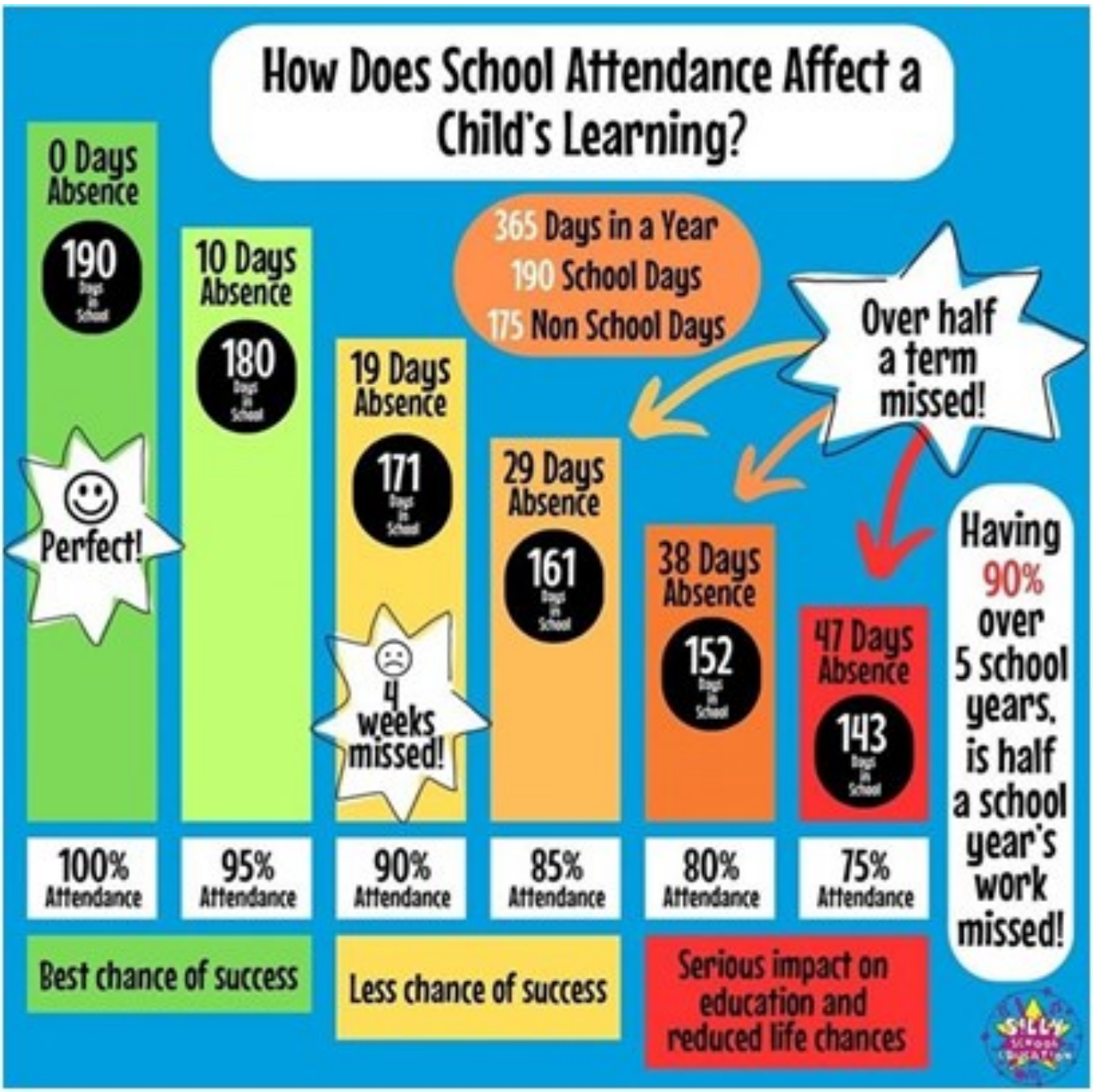
By giving, we can help experts like Abbiott, a Climate Change officer in Ethiopia, work with local communities to care for underground water tanks. These tanks can provide up to three months of safe drinking water, even during droughts. Your support helps ensure families like Adi's have the water they need to live, grow, and thrive.

Together, we are showing kindness and hope in this Jubilee Year—connecting our school's actions to meaningful impact across the globe.

Attendance

School attendance matters because it directly links to academic achievement, social development and future life chances.

Here at St Cuthberts we are proud of our attendance figures and look forward to continuing the working partnership with families to keep this up next half term.



Attendance

IF YOUR CHILD IS FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER,
IT CAN BE HARD TO KNOW IF YOU SHOULD SEND THEM TO SCHOOL OR NOT.
UNLESS THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE OF 38 DEGREES OR ABOVE, THEY'RE USUALLY GOOD TO GO.
SEARCH NHS SCHOOL ILLNESS GUIDANCE.
NHS
MOMENTS MATTER,
ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Attendance - When to keep your child off

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, **search for health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit https://qrco.de/minfec.

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Spare Uniform

If your child has borrowed any spare clothing from school, please return the clean items.

Our supply of spare clothes is very low. If you have any clean unwanted items listed below, please bring them to the school office:

Girls knickers

Boys pants

Socks

Dark colour tracksuit bottoms

Nut & Sesame Free School

St Cuthberts is a NUT AND SESAME FREE school. Children are not allowed to bring foods containing either of these ingredients into school. Please be mindful when packing your child's lunchbox to ensure neither of these ingredients are present.

This is a shared responsibility between us all.

Poppy Merchandise

We will be selling poppies and other Royal British Legion merchandise from Monday 3rd November onwards.

Items will be available to purchase from the school office at afternoon collection.

Autumn Term 2 Diary Dates

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October	Half Term
Friday 31st October	Secondary School Application Deadline (Surrey)
Monday 3rd November	Children back to school for Autumn Term 2
Monday 3rd November	9am All Souls Mass in school (parents welcome)

Autumn Term 2 Diary Dates

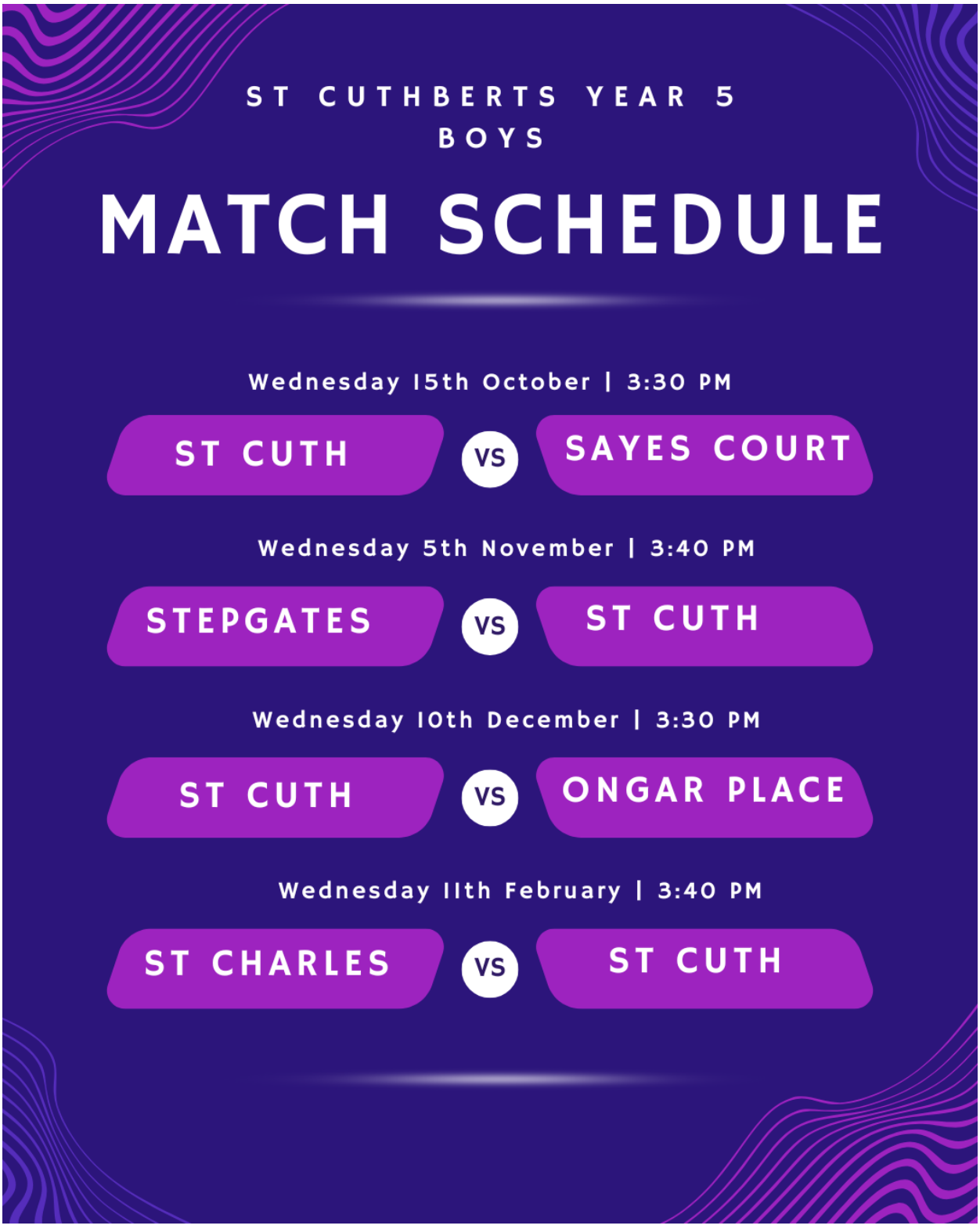
Monday 3rd November	Surrey Nursing Team in school (flu vaccinations & Reception/Year 6 heights & weights)
Tuesday 4th November	9am - Year 4 parent talk with Miss Galvin re-garding High Ashurst
Wednesday 5th November	Year 4 Egyptian Workshop in school - children to dress up (payments due via Scopay)
Thursday 6th November	Year 3 Stone Age Workshop in school - children to dress up (payments due via Scopay)
Friday 7th November	Year 6 to visit Englefield Green Memorial for a Remembrance Service (11am)
Monday 10th November	Start of Antibullying Week
Monday 10th November	Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Wednesday 12th November	Year 6 Junior Citizen at Thorpe Park
Wednesday 12th November	Fire safety talks in school for Year 2 & Year 5
Thursday 13th November	World Kindness Day
Thursday 13th November	Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop in school (payments due via Scopay)
Monday 17th November	Year 5/6 Boys & Girls Football Tournament at Salesians (details to be sent after half term)
Friday 21st November	Mufti Day - bring a bottle (donations for the PTA Christmas Tombola)
Sunday 23rd November	PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 24th November	St Cecilia House Day - house t-shirts to be worn for children in this house
Thursday 27th November	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Programme in school (assemblies and workshops)

Autumn Term 2 Diary Dates

Thursday 27th November	1pm School Tours for Prospective Parents
Monday 1st December	Inset Day (St Francis of Xavier) School closed to all pupils
Thursday 4th November	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday 3rd December	Year 5 Anglo-Saxon Workshop in school (costumes to be worn)
Saturday 6th December	6pm Mass in Church - Choir to sing (school uniform to be worn). Choir children to arrive at 5:30pm to meet Mr Ellson
Tuesday 9th December	KS1 Nativity performance to parents
Thursday 11th December	EYFS Nativity performance to parents
Friday 12th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16th December	KS2 Advent Service in Church
Friday 19th December	Last day of term. Children finish at 1:15pm. No After School Club.

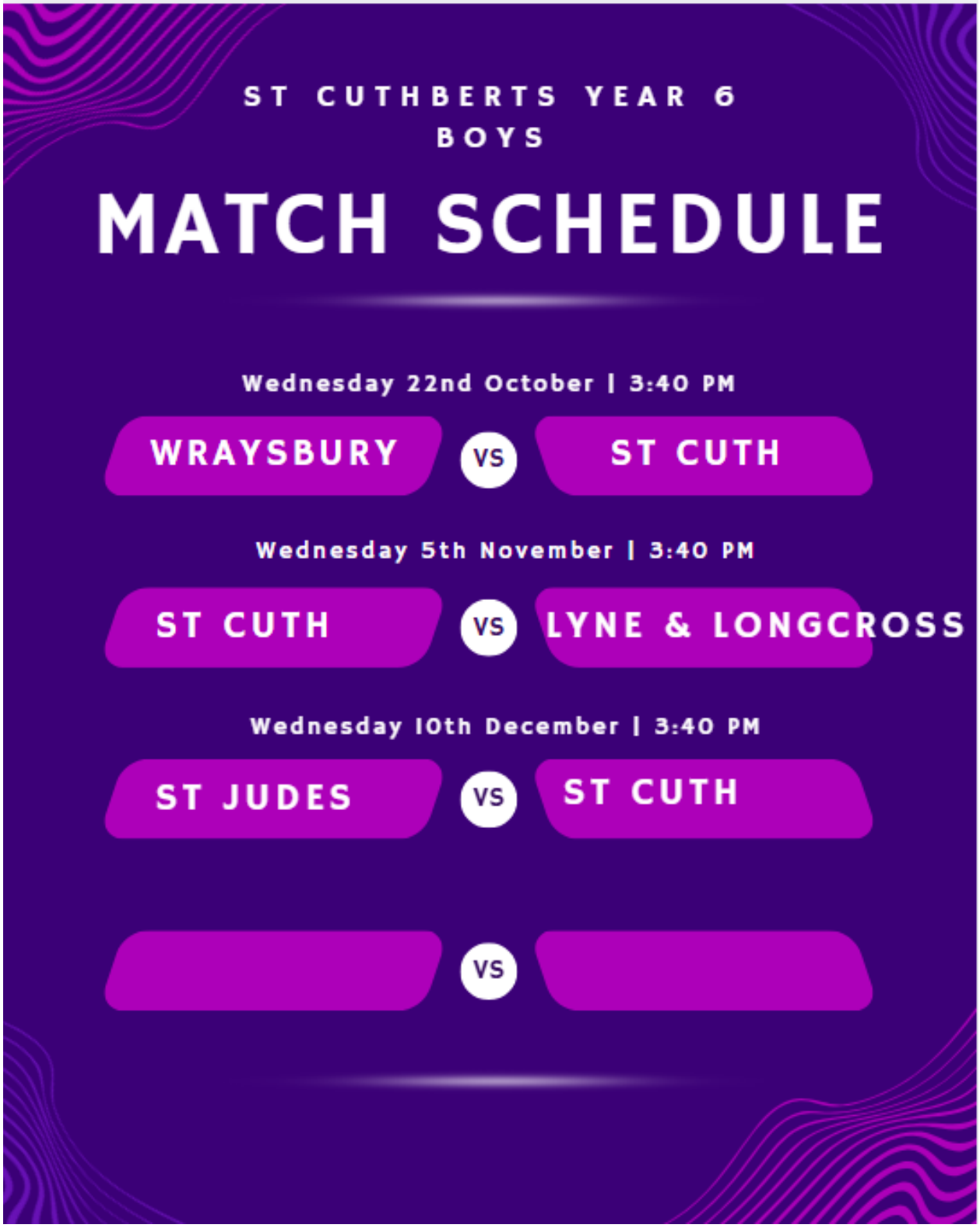
Year 5 Boys Football Club

Scheduled games so far:



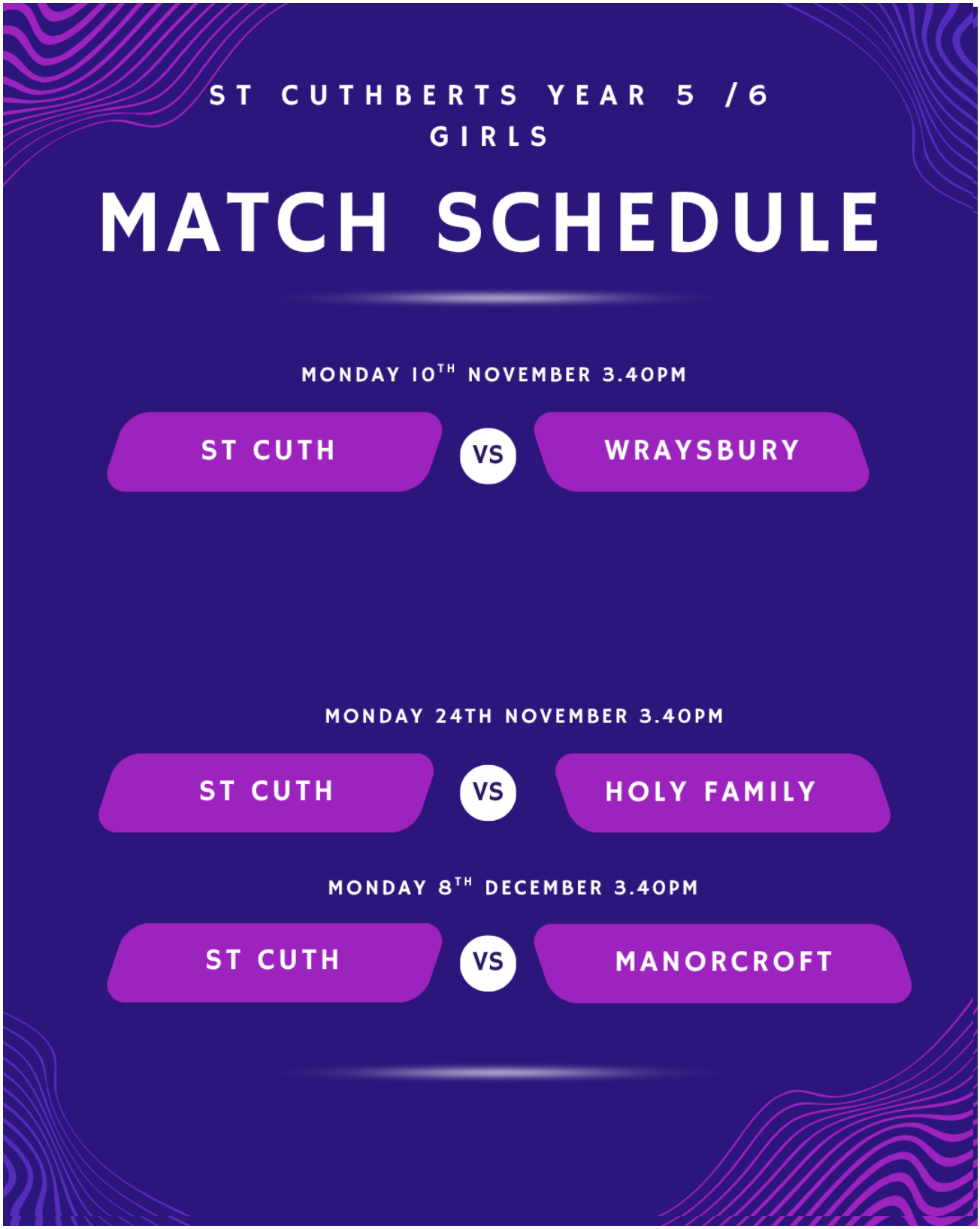
Year 6 Boys Football Club

Scheduled games so far:



Year 5/6 Girls Football Club

Scheduled games so far:



Year 5/6 Girls Netball

Wake Up Weekly Bulletin

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

1 LISTEN

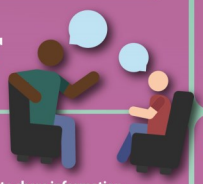
This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great . https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.



4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this… is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.

Sources of Information and Support

Your GP
Young Minds https://youngminds.org.uk/v
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/
https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/
https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.02.2020

Vacancies at St Cuthberts

Learning Support Assistant Role

Start date: ASAP

Hours and days of work: Monday to Friday 08:30am (8.20am start on Mondays) to 3.20pm (31.83 hours per week), St. Cuthbert's School Term time plus 5 INSET days

St. Cuthbert's is a happy and successful, single form entry, Catholic Primary School in Englefield Green (Egham). We aim to develop the Whole Child; our intent is to challenge all our children to develop their own unique spiritual, moral, intellectual, creative and physical potential.

We are seeking to appoint an Learning Support Assistant to support learning both in the classroom.

About you:

- You are committed to putting the needs of the children first;
- You will want to be part of our school community and to embrace our Catholic ethos, vision and values;
- You have high expectations of yourself and of others, are prepared to be flexible and have a desire to do a great job;
- You are someone who is kind and caring, keen to be a team player;

You might want to pursue a career in teaching in the future.

If you are interested and wish to find out any more information, please speak with Miss Elmer

Vacancies at St Cuthberts

Wrap Around Care Assistant

Start date: ASAP

Hours and Days of Work: Mondays to Fridays, Term Time Only (38 weeks per year)

Breakfast Club between 7.15am to 8.40am

and/or

After School Club from 3pm onwards (Latest 6pm)

We are seeking dedicated and enthusiastic Wrap Around Care Assistants, able to start work with us from November 2025 through to July 2026 for regular Breakfast and After School Club shifts.

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

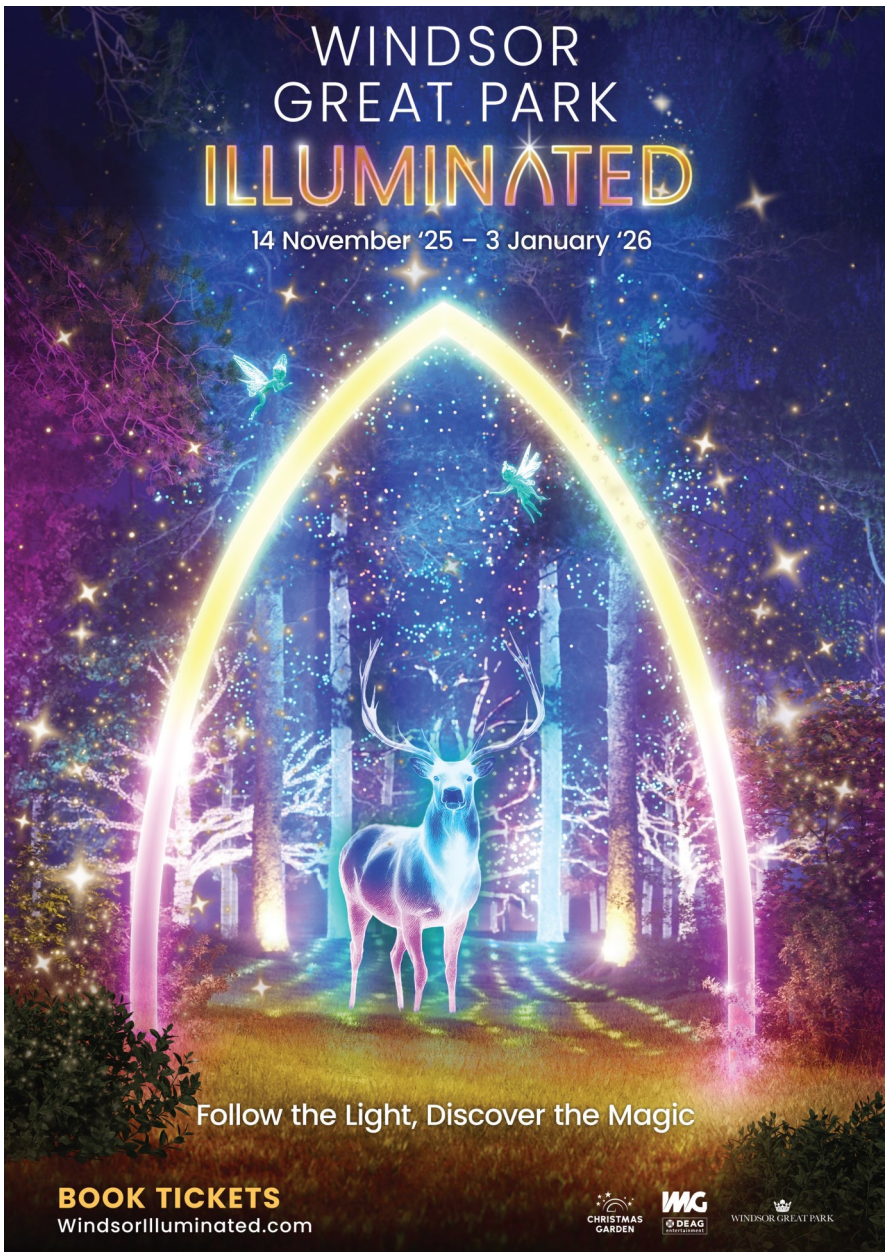
Previous experience of working with children and young people is desirable, but not essential. Please see the supporting documentation for full details of the role and person specification and requirements,

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.

Closing Date: 20th November

If you are interested and wish to find out any more information, please speak with Miss Elmer

Flyers:



🎄 A Magical Family Adventure at Windsor Great Park Illuminated! 🎄

From **14 November 2025 – 3 January 2026**, Windsor Great Park will sparkle with a brand-new illuminated trail, filled with dazzling new displays and returning favourites like the iconic Field of Light and Fairies.

It's the perfect festive outing for families and friends – wander through glowing woodland, watch colourful fountains dance, and stop to toast marshmallows or enjoy hot chocolate under the stars. Best of all, the trail is **dog-friendly every evening**, so even four-legged family members can join in the fun.

New for this year: **Low Sensory Sessions** on **Tuesday 25 November**, offering a calmer way to enjoy the magic.

Flyers:

eikon helping young people in Surrey

Family Wellbeing Support

Supporting parents to build confidence, connection, and family wellbeing.

Delivered by The Eikon Charity in partnership with YMCA East Surrey.

Join our free four-week online group for parents and carers of children aged 8–18 living in Runnymede and Elmbridge..

Each week, we explore practical strategies to:

- Understand and manage anxiety
- Support emotional regulation
- Improve communication
- Build family resilience

Upcoming groups: January 2026, April 2026

- (One session per week – choice of three convenient times. Attendance at all four sessions is required.)

Ongoing 1:1 Support

After completing the group, parents are offered up to three months of one-to-one support to help put tools and strategies into practice.

Alternatively, you can access 1:1 support directly, without attending the group. This can be online or face-to-face in the community.

Drop-in Coffee & Cake Sessions at Eikon:

Come along to find out more about the programme, meet the team, and ask questions.
7th & 11th November, 10am–12pm at The Eikon Charity, Selsdon Road, New Haw, Surrey KT15 3HP

Referral information:

Parents must give informed consent before referral.
A separate referral form is required for each parent attending.

LEARN MORE ABOUT EIKON HERE

www.eikon.org.uk

The Eikon Charity is a registered company limited by guarantee (Company No. 05402398). Registered Charity No. 1109190 (England & Wales)

Flyers:

ETON COLLEGE COLLECTIONS

ARCHIVES, ART, LIBRARY & MUSEUMS

Flying High: 150 Years of Birds and Beaks

Free family activities and birds of prey shows at Eton's Natural History Museum, celebrating the museums 150th anniversary.

Join us for a fun range of half term family activities at the Natural History Museum on the 30th October.

The museum will be open 1 – 4 pm.

Free entry – no need to book.

For more information, visit: https://collections.etoncollege.com/whats-on/events/11036/

Natural History Museum, Eton College, South Meadow Lane, Windsor SL4 6ES