# St Cuthbert Mayne Junior School Newsletter

**Friday 23rd October 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of a very busy first half term, it is a good opportunity to pause, reflect and give thanks for all that has taken place across our school community.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 3 children and their families to St Cuthbert Mayne, as well as other families who have joined us across the school. We hope that you are already beginning to feel very much part of our community. This half term has been full of activity, with Masses and liturgies, trips, rosary making and many other opportunities for our children to learn, grow and take an active part in the Catholic life of the school.

A particularly important moment this half term was our recent Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) inspection. I would like to thank our children, staff, governors and families for the part they played in helping us to share the Catholic life, mission and work of St Cuthbert Mayne. We now look forward to receiving the final report and will, of course, share this with our whole school community as soon as we are able.

You will also have seen the significant building work taking place on site. It has been exciting to watch the new building begin to take shape. We continue to meet regularly with the building team and are pleased that the project is progressing on track. We recognise that work on this scale inevitably brings some disruption, and I would like to thank our children, staff and families for their patience and understanding while the work continues. We look forward to sharing further information about the next stages of the project next half term.

As we finish the half term, I would like to thank our staff for their continued hard work and commitment, our children for the enthusiasm and joy they bring to school each day, and our parents, carers and governors for their continued support.
I hope the half-term break gives everyone an opportunity to slow down, spend time with family and friends and enjoy a well-earned rest.
**May God bless you and your families, and I wish you all a happy, peaceful and restful half term.**

Mrs M Anderton, Executive Headteacher

**Loving God,**
**As we come to the end of this half term,**
**we thank you for all that we have shared together.**
**Thank you for our children, our families and our staff,**
**and for all those who help to make our school**
**a place of faith, learning, friendship and love.**
**We give thanks for the new families who have joined our community.**
**May they always feel welcomed, valued and cared for.**
**Thank you for guiding us through the challenges**
**and celebrations of this half term.**
**Help us to recognise your presence in all that we do**
**and to continue to follow the example of Jesus**
**in the way we treat and care for one another.**
**As we begin our half-term break,**
**keep our children, families and staff safe.**
**Give us time to rest, to enjoy being together**
**and to return refreshed for the half term ahead.**
**St Cuthbert Mayne, pray for us.**
**Amen.**

## Catholic Life of the School

**Masses and Liturgies**

This half term has been filled with opportunities for prayer, worship and reflection across our school community. We were delighted to join Year 5E for their Harvest Liturgy, where they shared a powerful message about the importance of caring for God's creation. Through thoughtful readings, prayers and reflections, the children encouraged us all to consider how we can make responsible choices, particularly through recycling and reducing waste. Their confidence, reverence and excellent delivery were a credit to both themselves and their teachers, and they certainly gave us much to think about.

**Section 48 Inspection**

We were incredibly proud to welcome visitors to our recent Section 48 inspection. Throughout their visit, the inspectors spent time with pupils across the school, observing prayer and worship, visiting lessons and speaking with children about their Religious Education learning and experiences of school life. The children spoke confidently and enthusiastically about their faith, their RE learning and what it means to be part of our Catholic school community. They demonstrated a deep understanding of our mission and values, and represented our school with great maturity, respect and pride.

**Chaplaincy and Faith Formation**

Our ASCAT Chaplaincy Advocates, Bethany and Skye, have continued to support and enrich the spiritual life of our school. They recently led a Saints Skills workshop with Year 6 pupils, encouraging them to reflect on the qualities and virtues demonstrated by the saints and how these can inspire our own daily lives.

In addition, Bethany and Skye led a series of Rosary-making workshops to mark the Month of the Rosary. The children enjoyed learning more about this special prayer tradition and had the opportunity to create their own rosaries while reflecting on the life of Jesus and Mary through prayer.

**Looking Ahead**

This week, we welcomed a representative from Hertfordshire County Council, who delivered a whole-school assembly and lead workshops focused on recycling and environmental responsibility. This provided an excellent opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of sustainability and the positive impact that small actions can have on our world.

As part of our Religious Education and Catholic Social Teaching, we will be linking this learning to the principle of *Care for Creation*, reminding us that we are all called to be stewards of God's world and to protect the gifts He has entrusted to us for future generations.

## PARENT NEWS

We will now be producing the Newsletter half-termly but will continue with the weekly Wednesday email with up-and-coming information.

**School Dates:**

Key dates for the school year are at the bottom of this newsletter.

## OPAL

As ever, it is wonderful to see the children using their imaginations through play and making the most of the rich opportunities provided through our OPAL programme. Every day, children can be seen collaborating, problem-solving, creating and exploring, developing important social skills while having fun outdoors.

The children have been making great use of our newly improved Mud Kitchen and digging areas, where countless creations, recipes and magical potions have been concocted. These areas have become hubs of creativity, teamwork and imaginative play, with children working together to design, build and experiment.

Dressing up continues to be a firm favourite across the school, and our new wigs have proved especially popular. It has been lovely to see children embracing different roles and characters, developing confidence, communication skills and creativity through their play.

We were also very grateful to receive a donation of tyres for our field this term. Alongside the pallets, cable reels and milk crates already in use, these resources are helping to create exciting obstacle courses and construction opportunities. Children are using them in inventive ways to build, balance, transport and collaborate, demonstrating many of the key values at the heart of OPAL.

## We Need You!

As we continue to develop our outdoor provision, we are always looking for additional resources. We would be very grateful for donations of large branches, tyres, pallets and tarpaulin. Donations of small-world toys, dressing-up clothes, trains, cars and sandpit toys are also always appreciated. With the support of our school community, we can continue to enrich our OPAL provision and provide even more exciting opportunities for play, creativity and learning.





**St Cuthbert Mayne Open Events**

To book on one of our Open Events please use the following link: St Cuthbert Mayne Tours 2027 - 2028 Admisssions – Fill in form



# 2026 – 2027 Dates

## Autumn Term

| November | |
|---|---|
| 2/11/26 | Start of Autumn 2 term<br>Year 5 trip to National Maritime Museum<br>All Saints Liturgy (6MLK) 9am |
| 9/11/26 - 13/11/26 | Inter Faith Week |
| 11/11/25 | Remembrance Liturgy 10:50am<br>Open Evening 6:00 – 7:00 |
| 12/11/26 | Yr 3 Celtic Harmony |
| 13/11/26 | World Kindness Day |
| 16/11/26 – 20/11/26 | Odd socks day<br>Anti-Bullying Week |
| 19/11/26 | Open evening for potential pupils 2027 – 2028 4pm – 5pm |
| 27/11/26 | Occasional Day – school closed |
| 30/11/26 | St Andrews Day – children are invited to wear a blue accessory |
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| **December** | |
| 1/12/26 | First Day of Advent – pupils to wear a purple accessory |
| 10/12/26 | Year 3 & 4 Christmas Performance 1:45 |
| 11/12/26 | Year 3 & 4 Christmas Performance 1:45 |
| 16/12/26 | Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner |
| **18/12/26** | **End of Term 1:30pm finish** |

## Spring Term

| January | |
|---|---|
| **4/1/27** | **INSET – school closed to children** |
| 5/1/27 | Term starts |
| | Year 4 Swimming starts |
| 7/1/27 | 10am Epiphany Mass – Mass @ St Mark's |
| 12/1/27 | Year 3 open morning 9:15am meeting in hall and whole school tour |
| **February** | |
| 2/2/27 | Presentation of the Lord Liturgy (3N) 9am |
| 9/2/27 | Safer Internet Day<br>Shrove Tuesday |
| 10/2/27 | 9am Ash Wednesday Liturgy – Father David |
| **15/2/27 – 19/2/27** | **Half Term** |
| **March** | |
| 1/3/27 – 5/3/27 | St David's Day – children invited to wear a yellow accessory |
| 4/3/27 | World Book Day - details TBC |
| 17/3/27 | St Patrick's Day – children invited to wear a green accessory |

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| 14/3/27 | Lenten Liturgy 2:15pm – Parents Welcome |
| 15/3/27 – 22/3/27 | Science Week |
| 22/3/27 & 23/3/27 | Year 5 Apsley Paper Mill |
| 25/3/27 | End of Term 1:30pm finish |

## Summer Term

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| **April** | |
| 12/4/27 | INSET – school closed to children |
| | Year 4 swimming continues |
| 13/4/27 | Term starts |
| 23/4/27 | St George's Day – children invited to wear red, white or blue accessory |
| May | |
| 3/5/27 | Bank Holiday |
| 4/5/27 | Marian Liturgy (4J) 9am |
| 10/5/27 - 14/5/27 | Year 6 SATs Week |
| 27/5/27 | Corpus Christi Mass @ St Mark's 10am |
| 28/5/27 | Sport's Day @ JFK - details TBC |
| 31/5/27 – 4/6/27 | Half Term |
| June | |
| 7/6/26 | Y6 PGL School Journey starts |
| 25/6/27 | INSET – school closed to children |
| 29/7/27 | St Peter & Paul Liturgy (5M) 9am |
| July | |
| 6/7/27 | Year 6 Concert 2pm for parents and pre schoolers |
| 7/7/27 | Year 6 Concert 6pm Not for primary aged children or younger |
| 8/7/27 | Transition Day |
| 15/7/27 | YEAR 6 LEAVER'S MASS 10am |
| 20/7/27 | End of Term 1:30pm finish |
| 21/7/27 | INSET – school closed to children |
| 22/7/27 | INSET – school closed to children |