

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 12 - January 2024

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Miller

Head of School: Mr S Keys

Chair of Governors: Mrs C Bainbridge

Telephone: 0191 378 0552

E-mail: stpl@stpl.bwcet.com

Website: www.stpatrickslangleymoore.org.uk

Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term. 2024 has begun at a brisk pace and children have already been working really hard.

We returned to what is called 'ordinary time' in the liturgical calendar. However it is in the ordinary that we can have the greatest impact on those around us, in our communities and throughout the world. During this time let us invite God into our lives, homes, school and families. Let us set an example of prayer and peace for our world.

Best wishes,

David and Sam

Attendance Policy

Attendance Ladder		
How close is your child to 100%?		
0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equivalent to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equivalent to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equivalent to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equivalent to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equivalent to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

This week you have received a letter explaining the new Attendance Policy that has been adopted by all schools, who like us, are part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. The full policy is available on our website or from the school office. We know that all families share our desire to provide the best educational experience possible for all our children and attendance at school is crucial for this. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss the content of the policy at all.

Seeing is Believing



We would like to invite you into school to share some learning time in the classroom with you child(ren). The 'seeing is believing' events take place during the afternoon and will give the children an opportunity to share what they have been learning in school. The sessions will be fun, interactive and highly informative. At the end of the day there will be tea, coffee and biscuits provided by the school. Please see the diary dates to find out when the sessions will be taking place. Both the teachers and the children are looking forward to welcoming you into school—please see the diary dates section.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Online Safety Tips

Article 19: The right to be protected from all forms of harm

Free speech v Hate speech



Contentious or provocative viewpoints are shared every second of the day online. That's not to say, however, that an opinion is less valid simply because it's initially unpopular: just think about Galileo or Emmeline Pankhurst. The facility to have our beliefs questioned – and to challenge other people's in return – is often a catalyst for scientific and social progress.

With disturbing frequency, though, some individuals post damaging hate speech online under the guise of 'freedom of expression' – and unless young people can identify hate speech, there's a risk of them being influenced by such harmful content. Our guide explores the crucial differences between free speech and hate speech.

Freedom of expression is enshrined in international law. Some individuals, however, misunderstand the right to share their opinions as a license to target others with the most horrendous prejudice. So how do we balance people's prerogative to have their voice heard against everyone's right to live in a respectful, inclusive society?

This conflict frequently unfolds in the digital world. Online posters can be falsely accused of hate speech, while actual hate is often defended as merely being 'free speech'. To help children and young people learn to identify the boundaries and recognise genuine hate speech when they see it, our guide provides some helpful definitions and guidelines.

GameFinder: Age related gaming



Finding games for children which are appropriate for their age, which work on the devices the children use and the children will actually enjoy playing can be a minefield, particularly when parents are being bombarded with the 'but everyone else is playing this game' script!

Game Finder is a new and free service available from Taming Gaming which shows parents advised games for their child, depending on factors such as how old they are What devices they have and what types of games do they like to play. The answers to these filters will then allow GameFinder to provide an instant list of recommendations of suitable games.

To use GameFinder, visit: <https://www.taminggaming.com/en-gb/gameFinder>

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Any new dates added to the calendar will be shown in blue.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
Monday 8th January	Children return to school	8:45am	Yes
Tuesday 30 th January	SEND Parental Coffee Meeting	9am	Yes
Wednesday 31 st January	Year 2 parents SATS Meeting	3:30pm & 4:15pm	Yes
Thursday 1st February	Year 4 parents Tables Check Meeting	3:30pm & 4:15pm	Yes
w/b Monday 5 th February	Children's Mental Health Week	All Week	No
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day	All Day	No
Wednesday 7 th February	Year 1 Parental Phonics Meeting	3:30pm & 4:15pm	Yes
Thursday 8 th February	Year 6 parents SATS Meeting	3:30pm & 4:15pm	Yes
Friday 9 th February	Break up for half-term holiday	3:25pm	Yes
Monday 19 th February	Return to school for Spring 2nd Term	8:45am	Yes
Tuesday 20 th February	Year 1/2 'Seeing is Believing'	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Wednesday 21 st February	Year 3/4 'Seeing is Believing'	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Thursday 22 nd February	Year 5/6 'Seeing is Believing'	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Wednesday 6 th March	Reception Stay and Discover Number	AM	Yes
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day	All Day	No
Friday 8 th March	Interim Reports go out	3:30pm	--
Monday 11 th March	Parents Evening	3:30pm - 6:00pm	Yes
Tuesday 12 th March	Parents Evening	3:30pm - 6:00pm	Yes
Friday 15th March	Comic Relief: non-uniform day	All Day	No
Monday 25 th March	Year 1 & 2 Palm Sunday Liturgy	2:45pm	Yes
Tuesday 26 th March	Year 3 & 4 Last Supper Liturgy	2:45pm	Yes
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 5 & 6 Garden of Gethsemane Liturgy	2:45pm	Yes
Thursday 28 th March	Crucifixion and Resurrection Liturgy	1:00pm	No
Thursday 28 th March	Break up for Easter holiday	3:25pm	Yes
Monday 15 th April	Return to school for Summer Term	8:45am	Yes

Thank you!
FOR SUPPORTING

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attendance MATTERS

Procedure for appointments during school hours

If you have to take your child out of school for any reason, including a medical, dental, school visit appointment, please could you inform the school office prior to the appointment along with any supporting evidence of the appointment. This is so that we can authorise the absence where we can and your child is not marked as unauthorised in our register.

Please see below guidance from the government regarding school attendance. <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

Children should aim to arrive in school by 8.55 am at the latest. **Persistent lateness causes disruption to your child's education.**

Year	Attendance this week:
R	88.5%
1 / 2	89.9%
3 / 4	100%
5 / 6	97.7%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 94.6%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.4%	

Late arrivals

Class registers are taken at 9:00am prompt as we don't want to miss any learning opportunities. **All children should be in class and sat down by 9:00am.**

We want all of our children to be sat down at their desks for 8:40am whenever possible.

Standards at St. Patrick's

Our expectations on attendance must remain strong and, as the parent community know, we take this part of our job very seriously indeed. We will be contacting parents/carers of those children who are persistently absent, this means any child with an attendance percentage of 90% or less. Please understand that this is a supportive measure and that we are working hard to leave no stone unturned to help your child achieve the very best possible outcomes.



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HOUSE POINTS

Feast Days:	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
25th May 20th March 17th November 31st August				
Weekly total	412	305	331	443
Running total	1186	1015	1016	1098

Stars of the week

- Finley** **Year R** For being kind and helpful in class.
- Oren** **Year 1 / 2** For always doing the right thing.
- James** **Year 3 / 4** For being considerate to others.
- Nathan** **Year 5 / 6** For fantastic reasoning and resilience in maths.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Lyla, Summer and Maddison
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Ella
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
Orange	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Freya N (Every colour!)
Purple	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
Pink	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	
Blue	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	Peaches and Arira

**The rainbow is a sign of God's promise,
 He will guide us through any storm.
 When you feel battered by life's storms,
 Just remember God's rainbow is coming -
 It's only a prayer away.**

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Ask your child



We're sure you all ask your children what they have learned at school every day. We're also sure that the depth of answers that you receive will also vary, with some children saying, 'nothing'. To help aid your discussions, each week in the newsletter we will include a starter question that will help your child to talk about what they have been learning that week in school. Try it tonight

Reception	What is a habitat?
Year 1 / 2	What happens in the book 'Toys in Space'?
Year 3 / 4	Did the Indus Valley civilisation have monuments?
Year 5 / 6	What were the results of our science experiment?
General	What did Simon Peter's name change to?

Article 14: The right of freedom of thought, belief and religion

The Gospel in Church - Sunday 21st January



After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men." And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Adapted from Mark 1:14-20



In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him. Today, Jesus calls people, like you and me, to help him - to build his community - a community built on love.

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

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Recommended Read

Anemone is not the Enemy

Anemone lives all alone in the rock pool with only the boring barnacles for company. High tide brings visitors but no one ever comes too close because anemone has a nasty streak...STING! It is hard to make friends when all you do is hurt anyone that comes too close. Poor anemone thinks it will never make friends and then a sprightly clownfish appears. Perhaps it can help...

Page Count: 32

Age: Year 1 and 2

Genre: Non-fiction narrative

Themes: Oceans, animals, plants



'a word about books' says... *"On the surface, this is a simple story of mishaps, misunderstandings and a search for a friend. But dive a little deeper and it is a fascinating look at life in a rock pool, an anemone's defence mechanism and special symbiotic relationships."*

Azzi In Between

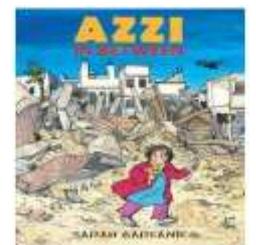
Despite the war moving closer to Azzi's home, her life is very much going on as normal. Her father goes to work as a doctor, her mother makes clothes, her grandma weaves blankets and Azzi goes to school. The war doesn't bother Azzi until one terrible evening when the phone rings and her life changes forever...

Page Count: 40

Age: Year 3 and 4

Genre: Everyday life

Themes: Immigration, refugees, international, family, friendship, moving home



'a word about books' says... *"Azzi In Between tells a very real story and for many the stories will not have happy endings. But in the case of Azzi's family it is a wonderfully uplifting read full of hope and new possibilities and shows the strength and courage of the human spirit."*

Because

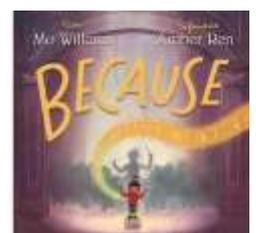
It only takes a moment to change a life. After an expected evening out at a concert hall, a young girl's life is changed forever. The orchestra's powerful music stuck a chord within her, and so begins a lifetime of learning and discovery on a path which leads to the grand stage...

Page Count: 40

Age: Year 5 and 6

Genre: Everyday life

Themes: The arts, music, dreams, community



'a word about books' says... *"Have you ever listened to a song or a piece of music that has changed your life? 'Because' is a celebration of the arts, particularly the beauty and wondrous nature of music, and how it can inspire everyone, especially young children."*

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HOLIDAY SPORTS & ACTIVITY CLUB



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WHEN

- **FEBRUARY 2024** Monday 12th February - Friday 23rd February
- **EASTER 2024** Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 12th April
- **MAY 2024** Tuesday 28th May - Friday 31st May
- **SUMMER 2024** - Monday 22nd July - Friday 3rd September
- **OCTOBER 2024** - Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November
- **CHRISTMAS 2024** - TBC



WHAT

- MULTISPORTS
- TABLE TENNIS
- COMPUTER GAMES
- LEGO
- ARTS AND CRAFTS
- FOOTBALL

"My little boy has been to simply sports club last summer but always with a friend. He went this time alone and as any mom can imagine I was beside myself as he is only 6 and still my baby! The staff at simply sport have been amazing! He has had a fabulous time and is asking when he is there next and even said the coaches were cool! Thank you simply sport, it's lovely to not worry and know my boy is happy and enjoying himself! I would highly recommend the club!"

Parent Facebook review

TO BOOK

Head over to our websites holiday club section:

www.simplysportltd.co.uk/holiday-club

Any Questions? email: info@simplysportltd.co.uk

Disability Cricket Taster Days

Durham Cricket in partnership with Durham Council are running Disability Cricket Taster Days.

Come along and have a go at a new sport.

Open to all disabilities and ages

Venues

Meadowfield Leisure Centre,
Durham DH7 8RG

Saturday 27th January
10.30am - 12.00pm

Spennymoor Leisure Centre
Spennymoor
DL16 6DB

Saturday 24th February
10am - 12pm



For register, please contact :
daryl.smith@durhamcricket.co.uk

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What Children & Young People Need to Know about **FREE VS HATE SPEECH**

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's *not* the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right *not* to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the DEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College

NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-approach>

Source: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-approach>



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