

## St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 13 - 2nd February 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](mailto:stpl@stpl.bwcet.com)

Website: [www.stpatrickslangley Moor.org.uk](http://www.stpatrickslangley Moor.org.uk)

Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

We are now into February and fast approaching a half term break. The children have worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks and we have been very impressed by efforts, attitudes and behaviour. We would also like to celebrate and thank you for the excellent progress with attendance too—leaders from the Trust reached out to us to thank our whole community for the improved statistics.

Can we also thank you for your support with the various parent/carer events that have taken place recently. We highly value working with parents and carers and so it has been lovely to see many of you attending the SEND coffee morning, the Year 2 SATs meetings and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check meetings. Next week we have Year 1 Phonics meetings and Year 6 SATs meetings and shortly after half term, we have our 'Seeing is Believing' events, where you are more than welcome to come and see what is going on in your child's classroom.

Best wishes,

David and Sam

### Athlete Event

On Tuesday 6th February, Lucy Turner will be visiting us in school. All children will need their PE kits as they will be taking part in their sponsored circuit event before listening to Lucy's inspirational story! We are really looking forward to what promises to be an exciting afternoon.



*Use well the gifts that God has given you*



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

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
w/b Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week	All Week	No
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day	All Day	No
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Lucy Turner—Athlete Visit	PM	No
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 Parental Phonics Meeting	3:30pm & 4:15pm	Yes
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 parents SATS Meeting	3:30pm & 4:15pm	Yes
<b>**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**</b>	<b>**Sponsored Pancake Flip**</b>	—	No
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half-term holiday	3:25pm	-
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Return to school for Spring 2nd Term	8:45am	-
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1/2 'Seeing is Believing'	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 3/4 'Seeing is Believing'	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 5/6 'Seeing is Believing'	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Stay and Discover Number	AM	Yes
<b>**Friday 8th March**</b>	<b>**World Book Day (Date changed)**</b>	All Day	Yes (letter to follow)
Friday 8th March	'Someone Special' Event	2:30pm	Yes
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Interim Reports go out	3:30pm	-
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening	3:30pm - 6:00pm	Yes
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening	3:30pm - 6:00pm	Yes
Friday 15th March	Comic Relief: non-uniform day	All Day	No
<b>**Thursday 21st March**</b>	<b>**Choir Concert**</b>	4pm	Yes
<b>**Friday 22nd March**</b>	<b>**School Disco**</b>	TBC	No
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 & 2 Palm Sunday Liturgy	2:45pm	Yes
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 & 4 Last Supper Liturgy	2:45pm	Yes
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 & 6 Garden of Gethsemane Liturgy	2:45pm	Yes
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Crucifixion and Resurrection Liturgy	1:00pm	No
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for Easter holiday	3:25pm	-
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to school for Summer Term	8:45am	-

*Thank you!*  
FOR SUPPORTING

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*

# 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	80.56%
1 / 2	97.1%
3 / 4	97.2%
5 / 6	94.4%
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance: 94.37%</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date: 95.14%</b>	

## 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	300	352	307	298
Running total	1596	1401	1377	1496

### Stars of the week

<b>Lucas</b>	<b>Year R</b>	For working really hard in Phonics.
<b>Patrick-Joe</b>	<b>Year 1 / 2</b>	For contributing to class discussions.
<b>MacKenzie</b>	<b>Year 3 / 4</b>	For amazing haiku writing.
<b>Emilija</b>	<b>Year 5 / 6</b>	For fantastic listening and being ready to learn in every lesson

### Rainbow Rewards

<b>Red</b>	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Dylan, Miss Holden & Janette
<b>Green</b>	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
<b>Yellow</b>	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
<b>Orange</b>	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	
<b>Purple</b>	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
<b>Pink</b>	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	
<b>Blue</b>	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	

**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.**

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*

**Ask your child**

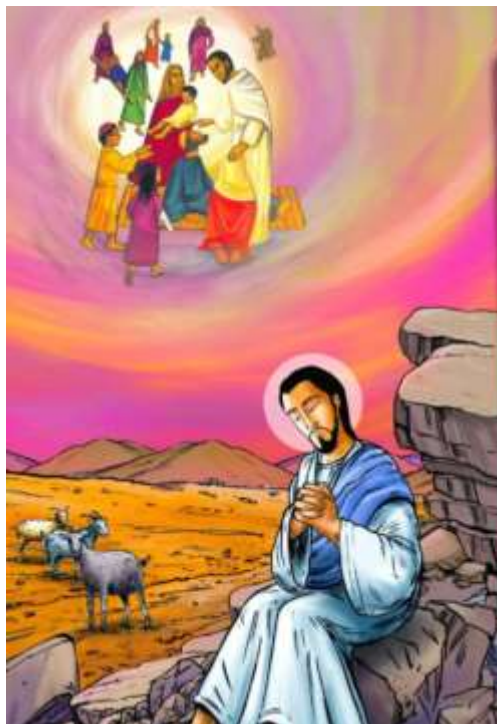


We're sure you all ask your children what they have learned at school every day. We're also sure that the depth of answers that you receive will also vary, with some children saying, 'nothing'. To help aid your discussions, each week in the newsletter we will include a starter question that will help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


Reception	Can you name some animals that live in the Arctic?
Year 1 / 2	Who was St Patrick?
Year 3 / 4	How can we protect our eyes from the sun?
Year 5 / 6	What is air resistance?
General	What are rights and what are responsibilities?

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

**The Gospel in Church - Sunday 4th February**



**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**



On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many evil spirits, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.

Adapted from Mark 1:29-39  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Come and learn more about the Gospel above, and say some prayers for your family & friends, at your local parish church this Sunday.

It's good to be a 'healer'. We can hurt people by unkind words, by a look or by refusing to speak to them. But we can heal people by a smile, a greeting or even by asking for their forgiveness or offering them ours.

**This week I will try my best to...**

**Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley**

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# HOLIDAY SPORTS & ACTIVITY CLUB



Become a Holiday Club Member and receive reduced rates!



SimplySport



**MULTISPORTS CLUB**



**FOOTBALL CLUB**



**LEGO CLUB CLUB**

Come and Join our popular as-ever holiday activity club in Durham City.

Running for over 20 years

**FROM ONLY £12 A DAY**

**OPEN 8:45AM - 4PM**

**BOOK AT [WWW.SIMPLYSPORTLTD.CO.UK](http://WWW.SIMPLYSPORTLTD.CO.UK)**

**BASED AT NEW FERENS PARK NEXT TO INFINITE AIR DH1 1GG**

## 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](http://www.simplysportltd.co.uk/holiday-club)

Any Questions? email: [info@simplysportltd.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:daryl.smith@durhamcricket.co.uk)

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# My VOICE MATTERS

Place2Be's  
**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

## TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

### Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.



### LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

### Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school – because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



### WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

[For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCGi8](https://bit.ly/3PzCGi8)

[For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK](https://bit.ly/3LBD2wK)

[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK)

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*



## Tuesday 6th February



### Top Tips Parents and carers

These top tips have been written for you (parents and carers) to help you support your child to stay safe and happy online.

#### ■ Inspire change by modelling how to be safe online

Just like in their offline lives, children need role models online too. Set clear and fair expectations about how the whole family should use the internet and technology, and demonstrate these yourself. A Family Agreement is a great way to start conversations and put your ideas down on paper, to refer back to later and adapt as your child and your family's internet use changes.

#### ▲ Make a difference by having regular discussions about the online world

Having regular and open conversations with your child about their use of technology and the internet is the best way to stay up to date, not only with changes in the online world, but also with what they are doing and seeing online. Starting these conversations can sometimes feel daunting, but they can help you feel more informed and show your child that you are taking an interest in their online life. Not sure where to begin? Use the tips and conversations starters in our "Let's Talk About Life Online" resource.

#### ● Manage influence by researching the content and games your child enjoys the most

Giving young people the opportunity to talk about their life online, and enjoying online content together, can be a great way to gain an insight into the content they are viewing. Our 'Parents and Carers Resource Sheet' is a great tool that you can use to research any websites, apps and games and find out more about specific content.

#### ◆ Navigate change by knowing where to go for further support

If your child needs help, it's important you know where to go for further support. Using the report and block buttons, websites such as 'Report Harmful Content', and other safety tools is a great starting point. It can also be useful to discuss any concerns or worries with your child's school as they may be able to offer further advice and guidance. It can also help to talk to other parents and carers who may have experienced something similar.

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*