

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 21 - April 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

Whilst the weather is still taking some time to settle, the children have instantly settled back into school routines after the Easter break. On Monday, in our Celebration of the Word, we talked about being a good shepherd—doing a kind deed because we want to and not just because we have to. As Head of School, I have been so proud watching the children throughout the week truly living out this message—we have a wonderful school community of kind and compassionate children, parents and staff.

Wishing you a nice weekend (with hopefully some kinder weather!)

Sam



Football Shirt Friday

Thank you for your support with the 'Football Shirt Friday' initiative. Whilst we map out and plan events throughout the year—we will always consider getting involved with an event that is close to someone in our school community. If you have suggestions for events, please do contact us through the school office.

New Football Strips

With accidental but perfect timing, in line with Football Shirt Friday our new school football kit arrived this week. We are very grateful to Mark and the team at 'Curriculum Travel' who funded the entire cost of a brand new kit for our football teams. I am sure you will agree that they look great!



Diary Date Changes

Unfortunately the original Sports Day date clashed with some of our Year 6 pupils visiting their Secondary Schools. As we want our Year 6 children to enjoy their final sports day with us, we have moved the date to **Thursday 27th June**. Sports Day will be a morning event this year.

Father Gordon has also asked to move our End of Year Mass to **Thursday 18th July**, this will be led by our Year 6 Leavers.

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 |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Thursday 2 nd May | Class 2 at Mass in Church | 9:30am | Yes |
| Friday 3 rd May | FOSPA Meeting | 3:30pm | Yes |
| w/b Monday 13 th May | KS2 SATs Week | All week | No |
| Saturday 1 st June | First Holy Communion Day | - | Yes |
| Friday 7 th June | Non-Uniform Day (Toys & DVDs) | All day | -- |
| w/b Monday 10 th June | Phonics Screening Check delivery | All day | No |
| w/b Monday 10 th June | Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check | - | No |
| Thursday 13 th June | Class Photo Day | Morning | No |
| Friday 14 th June | Father's Day/Someone Special Breakfast | 8:30am - 9:00am | Yes |
| Wednesday 26 th June | Year 6 @ Youth Village Festival | All Day | No |
| Thursday 27 th June | Sports Day | AM | Yes |
| Friday 28 th June | Non-Uniform Day (Bottles) | All day | -- |
| Tuesday 2 nd July | Provisional Date for Year 6 Leavers Trip - TBC | 8:30am – 4:30pm | No |
| Thursday 4 th July | Summer Choir Concert | 4pm | Yes |
| Thursday 4 th July | 'New to Year 1' - Transition Meetings | Timings TBC | Yes |
| Tuesday 9 th July | Year R 'Graduation' Celebration of the Word | 2:45pm | Yes |
| Thursday 11 th July | Year 6 St. Leonard's transition day | All day | No |
| Thursday 11 th July | Transition Day in School | All Day | No |
| Friday 12 th July | Year 6 St. Leonard's transition day | All day | No |
| Friday 12 th July | Non-Uniform Day (Chocolates) | All day | -- |
| Monday 15 th July | Annual Reports sent out to parents | 3:25pm | -- |
| Thursday 18 th July | Whole School End of Year Mass with Year 6 Leavers Mass (in church) | 9:30am | Yes |
| Thursday 18 th July | Summer Fayre | 1:15pm | Yes |
| Friday 19 th July | Year 6 'Leavers' Celebration | 9:10am | Yes |
| Friday 19 th July | END of TERM | 3:25pm | - |

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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 | 79.17% |
| 1 / 2 | 92.42% |
| 3 / 4 | 93.01% |
| 5 / 6 | 98.15% |
| Weekly Overall Attendance: 93% | |
| Yearly Attendance to date: 94.53% | |

Late arrivals

Class registers are taken at 8:55am prompt as we don't want to miss any learning opportunities. **All children should be in class and sat down by 8:55am.**

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 | 336 | 195 | 193 | 238 |
| Running total | 3735 | 3211 | 3327 | 3266 |

Stars of the week

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| Amelie | Year R | For brilliant sentence writing. |
| Poppy | Year 1 / 2 | For great teamwork in PE lessons during hockey. |
| Oscar G | Year 3 / 4 | For great maths working with time. |
| Philip | Year 5 / 6 | For showing resilience and trying his best. |

Rainbow Rewards

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| Red | Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind) | Ava |
| Green | Is for the world he made (Be a steward) | Lily S-R. Miss H, Peaches |
| Yellow | Is for the light so bright (Be humble) | Lloyd, Roma |
| Orange | Is strong and full of might (Be courageous) | |
| 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) | Phoebe |

**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 the royal palace in London called? |
| Year 1 / 2 | How many continents do we have? |
| Year 3 / 4 | What happens when a volcano erupts? |
| Year 5 / 6 | Why do we have day and night? |
| General | What does patience mean? |

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

The Gospel in Church - Sunday 28th April

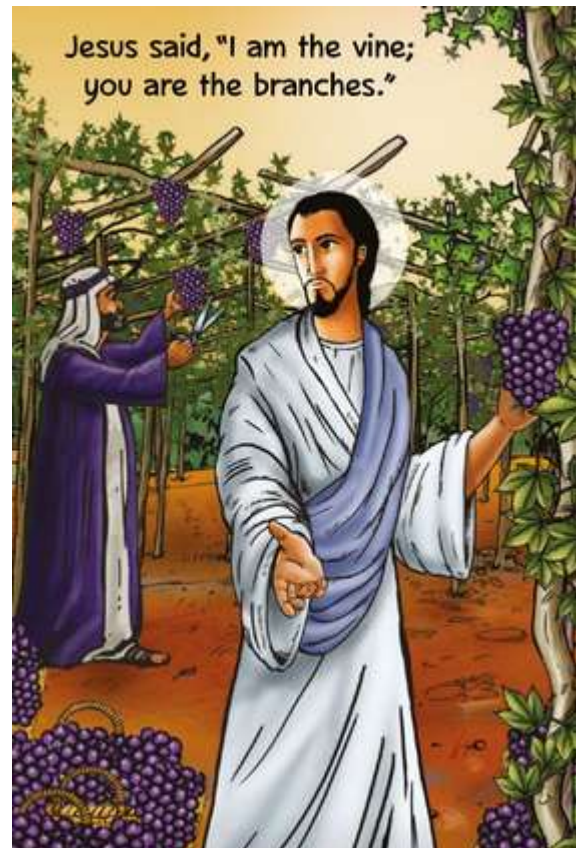
THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 28th April 2024



Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.*

Adapted from John 15:1-8
The 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the people who help us grow in your love and please help us to keep growing in goodness. Amen.

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Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary; emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



Meet Our Expert

Daniel Deacon is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the BBC, PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://pepal.app/about/privacy.html>

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.



#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.09.2023

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Recommended Reads

This week taken from 'No Shelf Control' a monthly book newsletter available here: <https://misterbodd.wordpress.com/no-shelf-control/>



Can You Find My Eid Presents?

A.M. Dassu & Junissa Bianda

Scholastic 3+

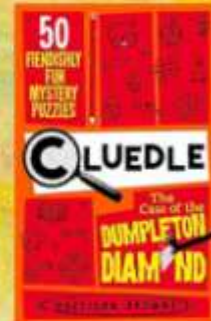
With charming illustrations and a heartwarming narrative, this picture book is a delightful Eid treat. As Hana prepares for the festivities, she embarks on a search for missing presents, engaging young readers in a captivating search-and-find adventure. A gentle story enriched with cultural traditions and vibrant artwork.

Cluedle

Hartigan Browne

Macmillan Children's 9+

Join private investigator Hartigan Browne to crack the curious case of the missing Dumpleton Diamond through 50 brain-busting challenges. With a humorous and intriguing storyline, unravel the mysteries of pup-napped Dave, The Flying Goat, and the elusive missing key. Packed with codes, clues, and maps, it's perfect for families seeking puzzling fun together.



Pop!

Matt Carr

Scholastic 3+

Join Dave and pals as they embark on a hilarious journey from kernel to popping glory. Matt Carr's vibrant illustrations and rollicking rhymes bring this explosive tale to life. But as they pop into the world, is reality as tasty as they imagined? Bursting with counting joy and endless laughter, I had to read this three times to a room of 60 children!

Moving Up

Christian Foley

Scholastic 11+

As a parent of a Year 6 child, I worry endlessly about the transition up to secondary school. Any help, advice or support that I can give to my daughter helps alleviate the anxiety slightly. I'm hoping that once she's finished this, she'll be ready to tackle anything that she come across next year!



One You Might Have Missed

The Puppets of Spelhorst - Kate DiCamillo
Walker- 8+ Nov 2023

I love Kate DiCamillo, but this completely passed me by. It wasn't until we were searching for a family audiobook for a long drive that we discovered it and took a punt on it! It is simply marvellous, you will feel a whole range of emotions as the story unfolds!