



# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 1 – September 2024

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Miller

Trust Headteacher: Mr S Keys

Head of School: Mrs K Simpson

Chair of Governors: Mrs C Bainbridge

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to a new school year at St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School—although it only seems like 5 minutes since the end of the Summer Term in July.

As Mr Miller communicated at the end of the Summer Term, his role now consists of strategically leading 5 schools in the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, including ours. He also confirmed that myself and Mrs Simpson will work together to continue to deliver the vision that was shared last year—to ensure that the needs of all our children are met in all areas of school life and that each child is given a wealth of experience and opportunities. This in turn, will guarantee they leave St. Patrick's at the end of Year 6, feeling extremely confident, responsible and competent members of society, ready for their Secondary School journey.



I firmly share the belief that working in partnership with parents and carers is essential to achieve the best possible outcomes for all of our pupils and so I continue to extend the welcome for your involvement and feedback.

You can be assured that we will continue to strive to create the best education for your child/children whilst they are members of our school family. We are excited to see how they grow this year.

Best wishes,

*Sam Keys*

## Crossing Patrol Notice



The Crossing Patrol Team have informed us that there will be no crossing patrol on the afternoon of Monday 9th and Thursday 12th September at the end of the day. School staff will be around to assist where they can, but please can I ask that you plan ahead and take care on the busy road outside of school.

## Communication

Over the coming weeks, our school to home digital communication (for parents/carers) will move to mainly come through Arbor. If you are not signed up, or require an update of details, please contact the school office. If you are unable to access Arbor, please let us know and we will ensure you still receive this correspondence.



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## School Admissions



Is your child due to start primary or secondary school in September 2025? You can now apply for their school place. The deadline for applications is

- **Thursday 31st October 2023** for secondary school places. You must apply for a school place as there is no automatic transfer from primary school to secondary school.
- **Wednesday 15th January 2025** for primary school places.

Apply now: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

**Have you got friends or family with children of school age? We have spaces available in most year groups! Please speak to Mr Keys if you would like more information or feel free to ask them to contact school.**

## P.E. Days

**Year 1/2:** Thursday and Friday

**Year 3/4:** Monday. Pupils will receive swimming tuition every Thursday. **It is DCC policy that girls wear a one piece swimsuit, swimming caps are worn by all children and strictly NO earrings.**

**Year 5/6:** Monday and Wednesday



## Home/School Agreement

Today the children will bring home a copy of the Home School Agreement shared in the Behaviour policy last year. This is a way of communicating how we can all work together. Please can you read it with your children, complete the signed section and return to school next week. Thanks

## Head Boy, Head Girl and School Council

Next week, application forms will be sent home with pupils to apply to be on our new school council. Year 6 pupils will also have the chance to apply to be Head Boy and Head Girl. This new initiative in school will allow us to further prepare pupils for their roles as active citizens in our world– as well as increase their confidence and resilience. Please do support your child with preparing their application.



## After School Clubs



After school clubs will be bookable on Arbor this afternoon. For this first half term, clubs will run for Year 1– Year 6. If any Reception parents are in urgent need for after school provision, please contact Mr Keys and we will try to support.

**Monday—Dance Tuesday—Crafts Wednesday—Musical Theatre Thursday—Choir**

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## Important Reminders

### Attendance and punctuality



The school gates open at **8:40am** and close at **8:55am**. The children go straight into their classrooms and undertake their early morning tasks, e.g. handwriting, maths problems, SPAG tasks etc. This approach allows for extra learning time, less congestion on the yard and a smoother, quicker start to the school day. This approach worked exceptionally well last year.

**We continue to take the register at 9:00am prompt** but encourage children to be sat at their desks ready to learn as soon as possible. If your child was sat at their desk 10 minutes early every day, that equates to almost an extra hour in school every week. St. Patrick's is doing everything possible to maximise learning and allow all children to reach their full potential. Thank you for your support here.

### The School Newsletter

This newsletter is a key way for us to share information with you, but we would love to use it to further celebrate our children—including outside of school too. Please send in photos of your child undertaking activities outside of school, share new arrivals, success of siblings, birthdays and party fun. We are a strong family community - let's all celebrate the many wonderful achievements of our children together.



### Safeguarding



The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform a member of the school's Designated Safeguarding Team: **Mr Keys, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Nowell.**

In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with one of the Designated Safeguarding Leaders to seek further advice.

***"Safeguarding is thinking the unthinkable and then figuring out how to reduce the probability of the unthinkable happening."***

**Graham Fawcet**

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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.**

## Late arrivals

We understand that mornings can be hectic and that, on occasion events beyond parents' control can cause delays on the journey to school. However, we have noticed that the number of children arriving at school after the gates have closed at 8:55am has increased in recent weeks.

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.**





Year	Attendance this week:
R	
1 / 2	
3 / 4	
5 / 6	
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance:</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date:</b>	

## 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	120	105	70	111
Running total	120	105	70	111

You will see your child's house points add up throughout the week via Class Dojo. This will only be used for house points this year and not school to home communication.

### Stars of the week

All Pupils	Year R	For their fantastic start to school!
Ruby	Year 1 / 2	For being kind and caring.
Louisa	Year 3 / 4	For always giving 100%.
Oliver	Year 5 / 6	For giving 100% all week.

<u>Rainbow Rewards</u>		
Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Helen and Lisa from our kitchen Miss Dennis Jai and Ruby
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
Orange	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Xu and Kaylee
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)	

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

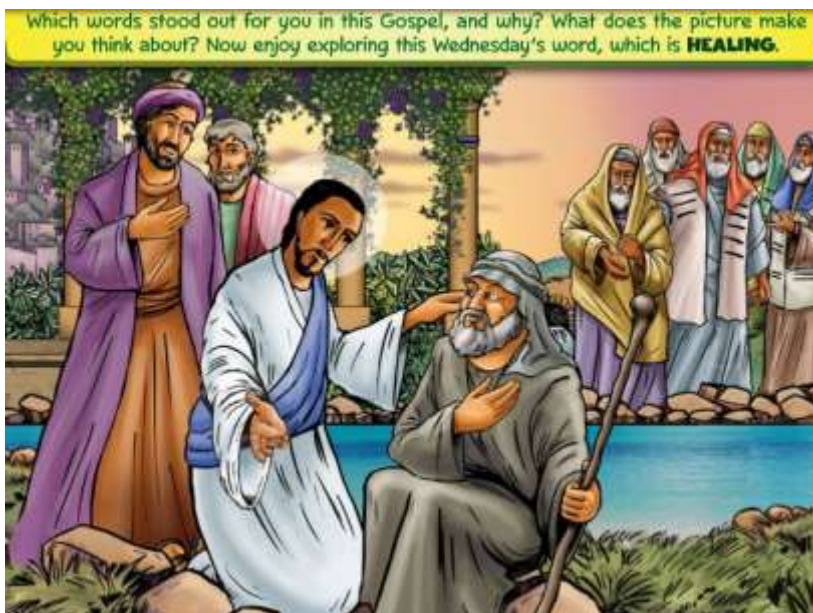
Reception (Class 1)	What did Mrs Large want?
Class 2	What happens in the story—Ruby's Worry?
Class 3	Who was Romulus?
Class 4	Describe the journey of a blood cell
General	What is The Examen?

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

While Jesus was travelling towards the Sea of Galilee, they brought him a deaf man who could hardly talk; and they asked Jesus to lay his hand on him. Jesus took the man away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then, looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, "Be opened." At once the man could hear and he could speak clearly too. And Jesus ordered the people to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they told everyone about it. "He has done all things well," they said. "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Mark 7:31-37 (the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)



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# Online Safety Tips

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

## E-Safety Tip of the Week—10 reasons to use parental controls

With everyone back at school and parents back to work after the holiday period, children and young people will have more free time to spend with friends, family and online. For many, after school spare time will be spent using the internet to keep in touch with friends, catch up with the latest apps and online trends, and playing their favourite games.

There are dozens of reasons to buy and set up parental controls on all your child's devices. Here are 10.

- Parental controls help monitor your kids' devices.
- Parental controls allow you to manage what your kids find on search engines.
- Parental controls can block certain features of games your kids can access .
- Parental controls may allow you to track your kids' location.
- Parental controls help establish good cyber safety habits.
- Parental controls can set screen time limits.
- Parental controls can help defend online reputation.
- Parental controls can help back up data.
- Parental controls can teach cyber etiquette.
- Parental controls should be customisable.

Set parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You will find a step by step guide here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

## Messages

**As part of our whole school commitment to wellbeing, there is no expectation for staff to read or answer emails between the hours of 5pm and 8:30am, or at anytime during weekends or holidays. Should your email not receive a reply, this is not a case of being impolite but one of choosing wellbeing ahead of workload. Your message is important to us and we will respond as soon as possible.**

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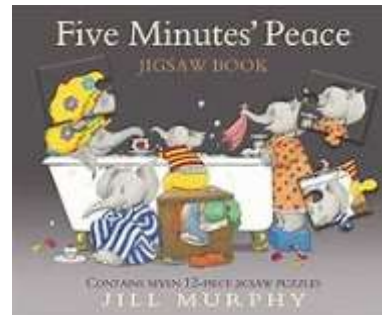
# What are we reading?

We have an exciting new English Curriculum in school this year which is full of excellent books. Here is what we are reading right now!

## Class 1

Five Minutes Peace

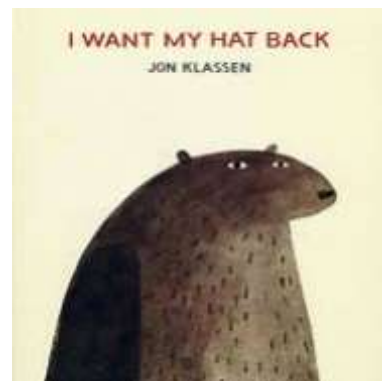
by Jill Murphy



## Class 2

I want my hat back

by Jon Klassen



## Class 3

The Wind in the Willows

by Kenneth Grahame



## Class 4

Holes

by Louis Sachar



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Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
<b>Tuesday 3.9.24</b>	Pupils start school	8:55am	-
<b>Thursday 19.9.24</b>	Start of New Year School Mass—In School	10am	Yes
<b>w/c Monday 23.9.24</b>	SEND Support Plan Reviews	-	Yes
<b>Thursday 26.9.24</b>	European Day of Languages	All Day	No
<b>Friday 27.9.24</b>	MacMillan Coffee Event	2:30pm	Yes
<b>October</b>	Black History Month	--	No
<b>Tuesday 1.10.24</b>	Prospective Parents Open Evening	4:30pm—6pm	Yes
<b>Wednesday 2.10.24</b>	Prospective Parents Open Morning	10:00-11:30am	Yes
<b>Wednesday 2.10.24</b>	Curriculum Evening	Class 1—3:30pm Class 2—4pm Class 3—3:30pm Class 4—4pm	Yes
<b>Thursday 3.10.24</b>	Harvest Festival Liturgy—Class 4	9:15am	Yes
<b>Friday 4.10.24</b>	Reception Welcome Liturgy	9:15am	Yes
<b>Thursday 10.10.24</b>	World Mental Health Day	All Day	No
<b>Friday 25.10.24</b>	Halloween Disco	Class 1 and 2— 3:25pm—4:25pm Class 3 and Class 4— 4:30pm - 5:30pm	No
<b>Friday 25.10.24</b>	School ends for half term	3:25pm	-
<b>Monday 4.11.24</b>	Pupils return after half term break	8:55am	-
<b>Monday 11.11.24</b>	Remembrance Liturgy—Class 3	9:15am	Yes
<b>w/c Monday 11.11.24</b>	Anti-Bullying Week	--	No
<b>Wednesday 13.11.25</b>	Coffee Morning—Time to talk	9:15am	Yes
<b>Thursday 14.11.24</b>	World Diabetes Day	All Day	No
<b>w/c Monday 18.11.24</b>	Parents Evenings	3:40pm—6pm	Yes
<b>Thursday 5.12.24</b>	Choir Concert	4pm	Yes
<b>Tuesday 10.12.24</b>	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Production	9:30am	Yes
<b>Wednesday 11.12.24</b>	KS2 Christmas Production	5pm	Yes
<b>Thursday 12.12.24</b>	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day	No
<b>Thursday 12.12.24</b>	Christmas Dinner Day	11:30am & 12:30pm	Yes
<b>December</b>	<b>Pantomime—TBC</b>	-	Yes
<b>Tuesday 17.12.24</b>	Christmas Party Day	All Day	No
<b>Wednesday 18.12.24</b>	Christmas Fair	2pm	Yes
<b>Thursday 19.12.24</b>	Mass and Carols—In Church	9:30am	Yes
<b>Friday 20.12.24</b>	End of Term	3:25pm	-

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## St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Holiday and Term Dates: 2024—2025

	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26

	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025
Monday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Tuesday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Wednesday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Thursday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Friday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Saturday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Sunday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27

<b>AUTUMN TERM:</b> 73 days	<b>SPRING TERM:</b> 65 days	<b>SUMMER TERM:</b> 53 days	<b>School Holidays</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b> 190 days (4 days for in-service training of teachers). Additional training to be taken as twilight sessions.			<b>Training Days</b>
<b>TRAINING DAYS:</b> Monday 2nd September 2024, Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025, Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025, Final Training Day TBC			<b>Bank Holidays</b>
<i>The school will be open to pupils for 190 days</i>			<b>Year 6 SATs</b>

Use well the gifts that God has given you