



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership

ST. PATRICK'S



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Issue 2 - 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,

Friday is here again and we reflect on a great week in school—routines are well established and the children have continued with the same effort and enthusiasm as we came to expect last year. Reflecting is something we have been doing quite a bit so far this year. As you may know, we are currently in the 'Year of Prayer' as we lead up to the 'Jubilee Year—2025' and each month we are given a different prayer focus. This month the focus is 'The Examen', where we look back on our day or our week. It is a simple and powerful prayer—you may like to give it a go using the guide below.

As for looking forward, next week we host mass in the school hall on Thursday 19th September at 10am—all are welcome. We will also be selecting our 'Head Boy' and 'Head Girl' and voting for our school council members. If your child wants to apply, they must submit their application form on Monday.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Sam Keys



THE EXAMEN



Do you follow our school account on Instagram and X (formerly Twitter)? We will be providing regular snapshots into life in our school on the account over the coming weeks and months. You can follow us @StPatsLM

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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.

Home/School Agreement



Thanks to those who have returned their copy of the Home School Agreement sent home last week. If you have not yet returned your copy, please can you read it with your children, complete the signed section and return to school next week. Thanks

Reading and Spellings

Several people have been in touch to ask about 'Homework'. We know how busy life at home can be so we try to make sure that school work stays in school. Any help at home is of course greatly appreciated! We do encourage you to read with your child as often as possible at home and sign their reading record. If you require any support with this, please do get in touch. Mrs Simpson has worked hard on a new spelling scheme for school—factoring in lessons to thoroughly teach the spellings throughout the week. We know that many parents/carers do like to help with spellings at home—so these will of course be shared in the coming weeks.



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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	98.6%
1 / 2	97.4%
3 / 4	96.7%
5 / 6	96.3%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 97%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 97.5%	

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	676	531	546	665
Running total	796	636	616	786

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

Georgie	Year R	For fantastic work in Phonics.
Kaylee	Year 1 / 2	For great sentence work in English.
Aria	Year 3 / 4	For having an amazing attitude towards her learning.
Finn	Year 5 / 6	For his positive and can do attitude.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Finley, Isabella, Lloyd
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Mr Snow, Jackson
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
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)	Chidera

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

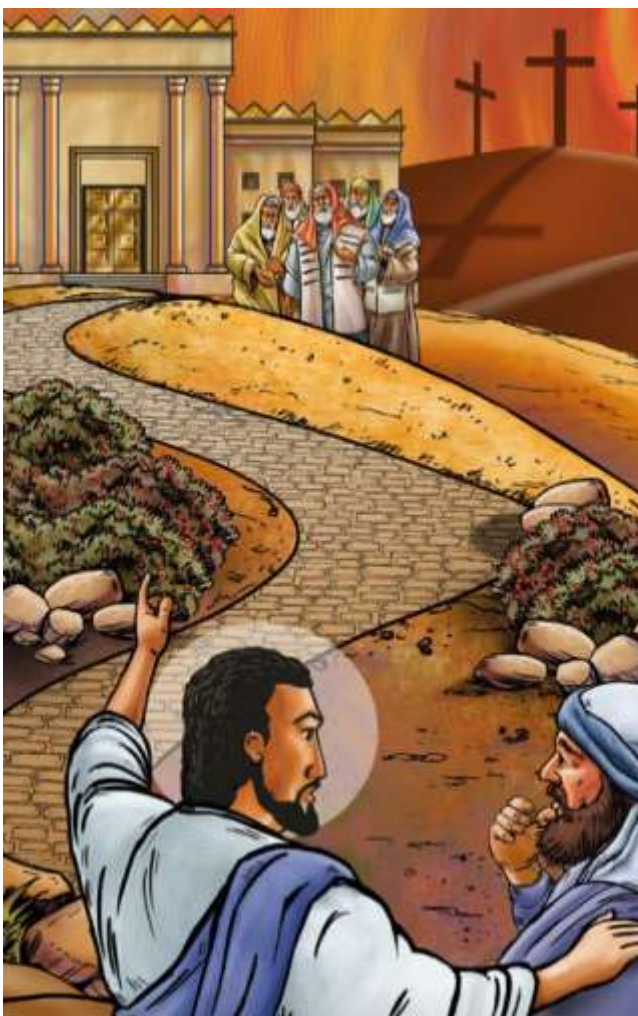
Ask your child



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 (Class 1)	How did Mrs Large leave the kitchen?
Class 2	What is a mountain?
Class 3	What was the name of the last king of Rome?
Class 4	What is an abstract noun?
General	Can you tell someone at home what a Rainbow Award is?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 15th September 2024



Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way Jesus put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" And they told him. "John the Baptist," they said; "others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets." "But you," he asked, "who do you say I am?" Peter spoke up and said to him, "You are the Christ." And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again.

Adapted from Mark 8:27-35
The 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

Dear Lord **Jesus**, please help us to understand and to know you - to listen to your words and to follow your way. Amen.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AUTUMN TERM 2024 COME AND SEE AT HOME

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This term we will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church [Family], Baptism and Confirmation [Belonging] and Advent and Christmas [Loving]. Each class will approach the themes through different topics. The children will also spend a week studying Judaism.

DOMESTIC CHURCH - FAMILY

(September - October)

Early Years	MYSELF - God knows and loves each one
Class 2	FAMILIES - God's love and care for every family
Class 3	HOMES - God's vision for every family
Class 4	OURSELVES - Created in the image and likeness of God

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God's love. Write underneath it "We show God's love to one another." Include those who have died.

JUDAISM (October)

Pupils will study various aspects of Judaism for one week. Ask them what they have been learning about.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION - BELONGING

(October - November)

Early Years	WELCOME - Baptism: a welcome to God's family
Class 2	BELONGING - Baptism: an invitation to belong to God's family
Class 3	PROMISES - Promises made at Baptism
Class 4	LIFE CHOICES - Marriage, commitment, and service

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk to someone who has been to a Baptism and/or Confirmation about their memories of this celebration.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

(November - December)

Early Years	BIRTHDAY - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Class 2	WAITING - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Class 3	VISITORS - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Class 4	HOPE - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home. Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree. Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.

2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.

3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.

4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.

5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.

6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.

7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.

8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.

9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.

10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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

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

Use well the gifts that God has given you