



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 3 – 19th September 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

It has been an excellent week at school; the children have impressed us with resilience to solve problems in maths, wonderful writing in our English lessons, ideas and excitement in our science exploration and imagination and innovation in the Reception creative areas. They also displayed impeccable behaviour and fantastic singing in our school mass yesterday. As always, we are incredibly proud of them all.

I was also overwhelmed with the amount of and quality of Head Pupil and School Council applications—the successful applicants were given their badges today. Those pupils who applied but were not successful will have the chance to join one of our other new pupil groups over the coming weeks—including Mini Vinnies, Eco-Club (Laudato Si) and equalities ambassadors. We hope that these groups can help our school to be even better. Please read on to see some important reminders and information about upcoming events.

Have a great weekend,

Sam Keys

Macmillan Coffee Event

Next Friday we will host our Macmillan coffee event—with all funds raised supporting the work of the wonderful charity. We welcome donations of cakes from anyone who is able to contribute. So that the pupils can be supervised, we will split the event into 2 sessions. Class 1 and Class 2 will be in the hall between 2:30 and 2:50pm and Class 3 and Class 4 will be in the hall between 2:55 and 3:15pm. Parents/carers and parishioners are welcome to stay for some or all of the event. Cakes will be priced at 50p each. If you can't attend, but would like to contribute, please send any money into school in an envelope with your child's name on it.



No Crossing Patrol on Tuesday 24th (All Day) and Friday 27th (Morning)

As previously, please plan ahead and cross in as safe a place as possible. Our apologies for this inconvenience.

Craft Club Cancelled on Tuesday 24th September—Due to staff training, we are unable to run crafts club on Tuesday. Mrs Dennis will be in touch to discuss options.



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School Admissions Reminder



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 2024** 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.

We are hosting open events on the 1st and 2nd October.

SEND Support Plan Reviews

For those parents/carers with children who are on our school Special Educational Needs/Disabilities register (SEND), our SEND Support Plan Reviews will take place over the next 2 weeks—Mrs Dennis will be in touch to book a convenient time for you. We greatly value your time in these meetings as working together is the best way to achieve the best for your child. If you have any concerns around SEND, Mr Keys is more than happy to have a conversation with you.



Pantomime 2024



We are exploring preferences around the Christmas pantomime this year (Oh yes we are!). Historically we have travelled to Consett to watch the performance, but we are conscious that this comes at quite a cost to parents. We want to make sure the children have special experiences, but also want to make sure that financial pressure is not placed on parents/carers. Please can you let us know your preferences via the survey below and do feel free to give additional views.

<https://forms.office.com/e/F89YVwGZ1i>

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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	98.61%
1 / 2	98.69%
3 / 4	96.73%
5 / 6	98.77%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 98.15%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 97.72%	

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	521	489	540	615
Running total	1317	1125	1156	1401

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

Ada	Year R	For blending the sounds in words to read them.
Emily M	Year 1 / 2	For fantastic work in phonics.
Lyla	Year 3 / 4	For showing great determination and bravery
Maddison		For being a fantastic role model.
Jai and Oscar	Year 5 / 6	For amazing writing.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Ruby
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	Lloyd and James
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)	

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)	Find some objects that begin with the sound n.
Class 2	What was London like before the Great Fire of London?
Class 3	Can you turn a liquid into a solid?
Class 4	What are the components of blood?
General	Can you remember what a compliment is?

Article 14: The right of freedom of



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 22nd September 2024



After leaving the mountain, Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was teaching his disciples about what was going to happen to him; he said, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again." But the disciples did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. Later, Jesus said to them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" They said nothing because they had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest. So Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples to him and said, "If anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all."

Adapted from Mark 9:30-37
The 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Dear Lord Jesus, you **served** others. Please help me to follow your example, so that my home, my school and my community may be filled with your love. Amen.

[Serving - Magazine - Page 1 \(paperturn-view.com\)](http://paperturn-view.com)

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Let's get it write!

In School this year, we are aiming high with writing. We want the children to focus on the quality of their writing and not just quantity. We have launched the St. Patrick's Standard and are placing a real focus on handwriting.

You can access our handwriting scheme at home to play games and activities here:

Pupil Log-in:

Tablet log-in

User name: vt4764

Swipe code: A capital 'L' shape starting at top left.

PC log-in

User name: vt4764

Account Password: home



A screenshot of the Letter-join website interface. The page features a search bar at the top right with the text "Search Letter-join...". On the left, there is a vertical navigation menu with icons and labels for "Patterns", "Easy letters", "Easy words", "Harder letters", "Harder words", "More...", "Phonics", "Fun", "Resources", and "Info". The main content area is titled "Choose a level to practise" and contains three large, colorful buttons: a red button for "Patterns" with a pencil icon, a blue button for "Easy Letters" with a pencil icon, and a green button for "Harder Letters" with a pencil icon. Below these buttons is a yellow box labeled "Class:" with a "Change class >" link. On the right side of the main content area, there is a white box with a small image of a book titled "Handwriting at home for parents and pupils" and a "DOWNLOAD Handwriting Guide >" link.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover Wi-Fi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble-wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Black Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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School Open Morning



**Is your child due to start Reception
in September 2025?
Come and see how our school will
help your child flourish!**

2nd October 2024 10am - 11:30am

Call us on 0191 3780552 or email stpl@stpl.bwcet.com to
find out more

Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham, DH7 8JJ



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust

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Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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	-

Use well the gifts that God has given you