



## St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 5 – 4th October 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

This week has been very busy in school but another special one. Hearing how well our Class 4 Pupils led the Harvest celebrations and watching our brilliant Reception pupils 'perform' this morning leaves me immensely proud. It was also great to see many parents/carers attend our curriculum evenings—if you were not able to make it and would like to receive the information or catch up with the teacher, please contact the school office. I am also delighted to say that we managed to raise £198 on our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon— a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this such a lovely afternoon!

Thanks,

*Sam Keys*

### Next week

#### **World Mental Health Day**

Next Thursday is World Mental Health Day—we will be taking some time on Wednesday to mark this occasion. We speak about mental health much more freely in these times—and rightfully so. In our time together in the hall, we will talk to the children about feelings and share ideas on what we can do when we aren't feeling as good. Ask your child at home about Mental Health.



#### **Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust— Environment Day**

On Thursday 10th October our trust is having their first 'Environment Day'. On this day we are asked to do one thing for the world around us. Our Eco ambassadors have already started coming up with wonderful ideas. They will share more with you next week.

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*

## Harvest Donations

A final request for any Harvest donations. We will be packaging up anything brought in to send out on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. With the donations, we will create Harvest Hampers and deliver these to people in the local community who need them. Please donate if you can (fresh produce and longer lasting). Also, if there is someone who you feel would benefit from a Harvest Hamper, please do let us know. This could be someone who is struggling financially, having difficulties with their physical or mental health, lonely or just in need of a boost.



## St Leonard's Outreach Visit

One of the teachers from St. Leonard's will be visiting our Year 6 pupils next Friday afternoon to talk about Secondary School. They will take part in lots of different activities and have a chance to ask questions.

## 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.**



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# Attendance

## 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.**

## Holidays in term time

It is Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust policy that we as a school must refer to the local authority when a child takes holiday during term time. You can see Durham's procedures here: [Holidays in term time - Durham County Council](#)

"Where leave of absence has not been granted, but the pupil does not attend, the headteacher will refer the case to the local authority in line with the National Framework. This may lead to the local authority issuing a fixed penalty notice." - BWCET Attendance Policy





Year	Attendance this week:
R	100%
1 / 2	100%
3 / 4	94.89%
5 / 6	99.44%
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance: 98.59%</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date: 97.75%</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	465	395	449	604
Running total	2215	1988	2076	2536

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

- George Year R For super work in phonics.
- Amelie Year 1 / 2 For helping adults and others around the class.
- Jacob Year 3 / 4 For working hard in all lessons.
- Blanka Year 5 / 6 For beautiful presentation and a conscientious attitude in all she does.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Isabella and Xu
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Phoebe B
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
Orange	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Emily G
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*

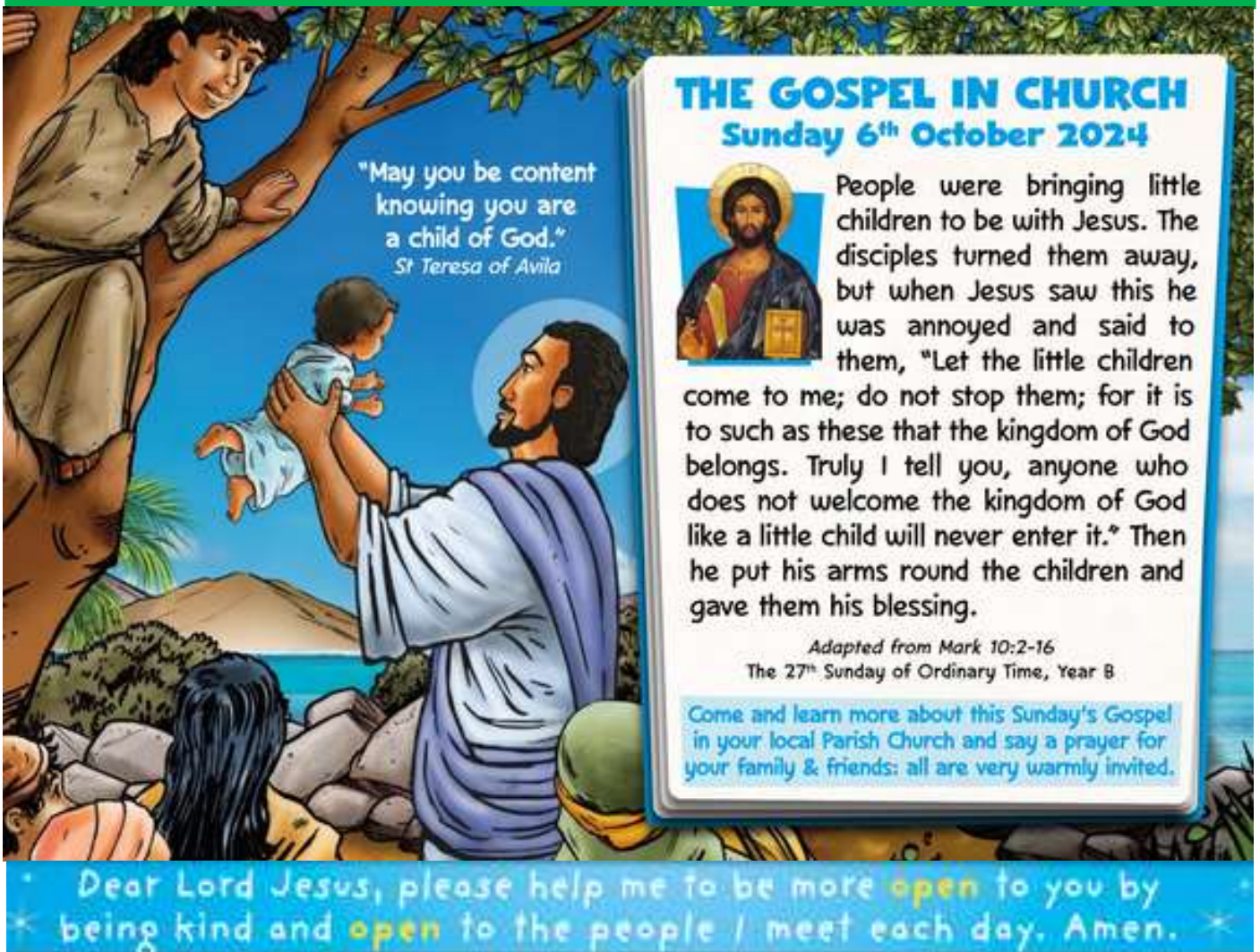
### Ask your child



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)	What happens to trees in Autumn?
Class 2	What is a pronoun?
Class 3	Finish the sentence: The Strait of Gibraltar runs between _____.
Class 4	Can you ever be a thief, a rebel, a bandit and a hero?
General	What are your goals for the future?

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



**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH**  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

*"May you be content knowing you are a child of God."  
St Teresa of Avila*

People were bringing little children to be with Jesus. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was annoyed and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round the children and gave them his blessing.

*Adapted from Mark 10:2-16  
The 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B*

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to be more **open** to you by being kind and **open** to the people I meet each day. Amen.

[Openness - Magazine - Page 2 \(paperturn-view.com\)](http://paperturn-view.com)

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

## ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

## UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

## GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

## INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

## PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

## EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

### HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

### MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

### USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

### FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

### BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*



New or changed dates in **blue**.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
<b>October</b>	Black History Month	--	No
<b>Thursday 10.10.24</b>	World Mental Health Day	All Day	No
<b>Thursday 10.10.24</b>	<b>BWCET Environment Day</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>No</b>
<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 —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	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Monday 16.12.24</b>	<b>Christmas Party Day (Date changed)</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Tuesday 17.12.24</b>	Pantomime	Morning	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	-

*Use with the gifts that God has given you*