



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 6 – 11th October 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

In school this week we have marked World Mental Health Day by encouraging the children to think about what makes them feel good. We also marked our Environment day—inspired by our trust patron saint, Carlo Acutis, by asking the children do one thing for the environment. Yesterday we had a school 'switch off' in an attempt to save energy and play a small part in helping our world. It has been great to see how the children engage with these 'big' messages.

Thanks,

Sam Keys

Use well the gifts that God has given you

You will have seen this phrase on school communications and signs in school, you may have heard your child use it at home—but what does it mean?

The statement is central to what we do here at St. Patrick's. All Catholic schools have a mission statement that is inspired by scripture and 'Use well the gifts that God has given you' is ours. Having gifts given by God appears regularly in scripture. One of these places is Ephesians (4:1-11) and another is Peter (1. 4:10). Here in school we see and celebrate the uniqueness of all in our community—by joining together and using our gifts, our school is a special place to be. How will you use your gift this coming week?



Use well the gifts that God has given you

Halloween Disco

Our Halloween disco events will take place on Friday 25th October (the last day before half term break).



Class 1 and 2 - 3:25pm—4:25pm

Class 3 and Class 4 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Children in Class 1 and 2 can bring costumes or party outfits to school and will be given time to change at the end of the day. If your child will not be attending the disco, they can be collected as usual at 3:25pm.

Children in Class 3 and Class 4 should be picked up as normal and can return for their disco at 4:30pm

There will be a range of refreshments to purchase.

St Leonard's Outreach Visit

Unfortunately our St. Leonard's outreach visit that was due to take place today had to be postponed. We will update you as to when this is rescheduled.

School Admissions Reminder—Deadline for secondary school applications 31st October

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.



Use well the gifts that God has given you

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	94.4%
1 / 2	98.69%
3 / 4	88.24%
5 / 6	100%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 95.56%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 97.4%	

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.



Use well the gifts that God has given you

HOUSE POINTS				
Feast Days:	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
25th May				
20th March				
17th November				
31st August				
Weekly total	350	399	344	324
Running total	2565	2387	2420	2860

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

Mihilu Year R For great counting.

Lucas Year 1 / 2 For answering in full sentences.

Oliver R Year 3 / 4 For always trying his best.

William Year 5 / 6 For always being positive and working his hardest

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Phoebe P and Edwin
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Anya, Oliver B and Isobel
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)	Chidera
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 is 1 more than 3?
Class 2	What should you do if you get a worry?
Class 3	What is a preposition?
Class 4	Where is the Suez Canal?
General	Who was Carlo Acutis?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 13th October 2024

 A man ran up to Jesus, knelt before him and asked, "Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life - to live forever with God?" Jesus answered, "You know the ten commandments." And the man said, "Yes Master, and I have kept all these from my earliest days." Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him and said, "There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." The young man went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God." "In that case," they said, "who can be saved?" Jesus gazed at them. "For people," Jesus said, "it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God."

Adapted from Mark 10:17-30
The 28th 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, may our family be rich in love and filled with the happiness which comes from serving you and others. Amen.

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

Use well the gifts that God has given you

TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames, teach them that only adults should handle fireworks, and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children at a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000°C – not only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arms' length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave unattended, and always extinguish them fully.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference in our guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/19-2024/>



Diary Dates

New or changed dates in **blue**.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
October	Black History Month	--	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 — 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
Monday 16.12.24	Christmas Party Day (Date changed)	All Day	No
Tuesday 17.12.24	Pantomime	Morning	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