



# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 7 – 18th October 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

As week 7 of the school year comes to an end and we near the half term break, we look ahead at the excitement coming our way in November and December. It may be too early to mention Christmas in some households, but I know that many of you like to plan ahead, so I want to make sure you have as much notice as possible. We have made some changes to how some of the traditional events will take place next half term, so please do look over the diary dates to see how you can get involved. Whilst events like Parents Evening etc. will run as normal, our Christmas performance timings are a little different this year. We are also very excited that parents can accompany children for a school Christmas dinner this year. Please watch this space for further information.

Have a great weekend,

*Sam Keys*

## Next week

### Halloween Discos next Friday



**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.

### Clubs

Next half term's after school clubs will go live on Arbor next week.

Monday—Multi-sports with Craig's Coaching

Tuesday—Sewing and Crafts with Mrs Simpson

Wednesday—Dodgeball with Mr Holbrook

Thursday—Choir with Mrs Griffiths



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## Christmas Raffle Donations

We are beginning to make arrangements for our Christmas Fair and wondered if anyone had connections in the local area or beyond who would like to donate a raffle prize? If you know of anyone willing to donate , please put them in touch with Mr Keys.



## 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.**



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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	83.3%
1 / 2	86.8%
3 / 4	88.9%
5 / 6	98.7%
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance: 90.54%</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date: 96.5%</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	477	437	377	452
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

**Edwin**      **Year R**      For great work with shapes.

**Emily G**      **Year 1 / 2**      For great work in maths.

**Ava**      **Year 3 / 4**      For showing great determination in maths.

**Aidan**      **Year 5 / 6**      For spreading joy with his smile.

### Rainbow Rewards

<b>Red</b>	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Poppy S-R and Summer
<b>Green</b>	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
<b>Yellow</b>	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	Peaches
<b>Orange</b>	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	
<b>Purple</b>	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
<b>Pink</b>	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	
<b>Blue</b>	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

How was  
**SCHOOL**  
today?  
"Fine." "Okay."  
"Same." "Boring..."

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 in the traditional tale The Magic Porridge Pot?
Class 2	Find the adjective and subject in this sentence: Jim went up the tall beanstalk
Class 3	What does the word drifting mean?
Class 4	What is a relative pronoun?

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

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus and said, "Master, we want you to do us a favour." Jesus said, "What is it you want me to do for you?" They answered, "When you come into your glory, allow one of us to sit at your right hand and the other at your left." When the other ten heard this they began to feel angry with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said, "You know how some rulers want to order people around and to control them. Well, you must not be like that. Whoever wants to be truly great must follow my example and be like a servant to others. I did not come to be served - I came to serve, and to give my life for other people."



From the Gospel of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Cf. Mark 10:35-45 (29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **GREATNESS**.





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

## CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

### FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

### PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

### CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

### REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

### DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

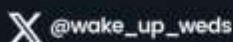
Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

### Meet Our Expert

John Inley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.10.2024

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New or changed dates in **blue**.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
<b>October</b>	Black History Month	--	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 — 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>Monday 16.12.24</b>	Christmas Party Day	All Day	No
<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	-

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