



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 8 – 25th October 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

After a brilliant 8 weeks back at school, we close today for the half term break. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support—returning back to school routines (or even beginning them for the first time for our Reception children) can be tricky sometimes, but the children have settled in brilliantly and are making great progress. This is certainly influenced by your support. I look forward to seeing you all during the various parent/carer and parishioner events that we have planned next half term.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys



Arbor

Reminder - if you have not already done so, could you please log in to Arbor and update all of the recently added parental consent requests for your children.

Fundraise and Recycle—Clothes Bank

Many thanks for all of the donations so far, please keep up the good work! Just a reminder that all items donated should be placed in bags before being put into the clothes bank. We have a supply of bags in the school office, so please call in if you need any!



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2024

A range of poppy products will be available for pupils to 'purchase'

with a suggested donation of 50p per item, in order to raise money for serving and ex-serving personnel and their families, from after half term.



Clubs

Next half term's after school clubs are live on Arbor.

Monday—Multi-sports with Craig's Coaching

Tuesday—Sewing and Crafts with Mrs Simpson

Wednesday—Dodgeball with Mr Holbrook

Thursday—Choir with Mrs Griffiths



Use well the gifts that God has given you

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.



Pupil Fundraiser

MacKenzie in KS2 is completing a fundraiser over the coming weeks in aid of Dementia. It is a knitting/crocheting challenge where she needs to knit/crochet daily in order to raise funds. At this stage she is making little teddy bears that she hopes to sell at the end of November and donate those proceeds too. She has already raised over £100 and we are very proud of her. If you are able to help her towards reaching her target of £200 or if you want to find out more—you can see the details here— [Facebook](#)



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 of school age? We in most year groups! Keys if you would like feel free to ask them



or family with children have spaces available Please speak to Mr more information or 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	98.04%
3 / 4	93.42%
5 / 6	96.45%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 95.79%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 96.22%	

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	488	423	401	436
Running total	3053	2810	2821	3732

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

Olivia **Year R** For a super retell of Rosie's walk.

Jake **Year 1 / 2** For a great attitude and effort in lessons.

Oren **Year 3 / 4** For always participating.

Poppy **Year 5 / 6** For amazing work in French.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Finn, Lloyd, Aidan
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Mrs Hutchinson, Miss Dennis, Oliver R and Chidera
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	Isabella
Orange	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Oliver B, Oscar G, Dylan
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

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 technology can we use to talk to people?
Class 2	Why is London safer now than in 1666?
Class 3	What is a food chain?
Class 4	How does light travel?
General	What do you find fun?

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

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, there was a blind man, called Bartimaeus, sitting at the roadside begging. When Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus who was walking by, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me! Help me!" Some of the people in the crowd told him to be quiet, but he began to shout louder until Jesus heard him. Then Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they said to the blind man, "Have courage! Get up! Jesus is calling you." The man threw off his cloak, jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Master, let me see again." Then Jesus said to him, "Go! Your faith has saved you." And at once the man's sight returned and he followed Jesus along the road.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 27th October CE. Mark 10:46-52 (30th 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 **COURAGE**.



Use with the gifts that God has given you

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly in a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penstone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Use well the gifts that God has given you



New or changed dates in **blue**.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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	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