



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 9 – 8th November 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. The children have returned to school brilliantly—as they always do. Classrooms are alive with discussions around the new class texts in English, the next Science, History and Geography topics and the sound of Class 3 answering their times table rock star questions at lightning speed. This half term is a wonderful time to be in school and we can't wait to see many of you as the weeks go on towards Christmas.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

Coffee Morning—Time to Talk—Wednesday 13th November at 9:15am

We know that life can be busy and sometimes taking a moment to stop, sit down and talk can be brilliant for mental health and wellbeing. On Wednesday morning, for an hour, our hall will be open for parents and parishioners to come and have a hot drink and a biscuit or two. Our Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls and some of our school council will also be around helping conversation flow.

World Diabetes Day—Thursday 14th November

You might remember that last year we celebrated World Diabetes Day in school—it is an occasion close to us here at St. Patrick's. We will mark it again by encouraging the children to wear a blue accessory (wrist band, bow etc.) or paint their finger nails blue for the occasion. If this is not possible, the children can wear blue t shirts etc. In classes, the teachers will be talking about how we are all different but we are all valued.



Children in Need—Friday 15th November

At the request of some of the children, we will be having a non-uniform day to mark Children in Need next Friday. Children may come in their own clothes for the day (including football tops if wanted). If you would like to send an optional donation of £1, please do.



Parents Evening Appointments—Week beginning 18th November

Teachers will hold parents evening on the below dates. Please call the office next week to book a convenient time.

Class 1 - Tuesday 19th November

Class 2 - Year 2 - Tuesday 19th November and Year 1 - Wednesday 20th November

Class 3 - Tuesday 19th November

Class 4 - Tuesday 19th November and Wednesday 20th November



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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.



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

Is your child due to start Primary School in September 2025? You can now apply for their school place. The deadline for applications is

- **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	76.39%
1 / 2	92.81%
3 / 4	94.77%
5 / 6	95.32%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 91.99%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.65%	

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	373	368	377	398
Running total	3426	3178	3198	4130

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

Anya **Year R** For blending words when reading with confidence.

Isabella **Year 1 / 2** For lighting up the classroom with her smile.

Ella **Year 3 / 4** For being a great role model.

Isobel **Year 5 / 6** For fantastic reasoning and problem solving in maths.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Mr Holbrook, Georgia, Oscar G and Dylan
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
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)	
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.

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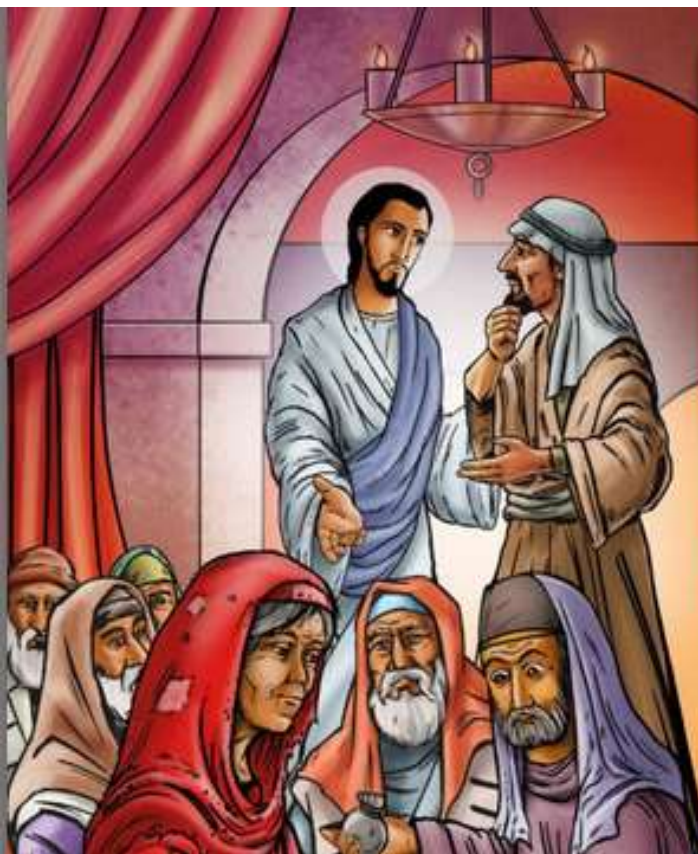
Ask your child



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 happened in the story of Rama and Sita?
Class 2	What do odd numbers end in? What do even numbers end in?
Class 3	Who was Julius Caesar?
Class 4	What is a Mezuzah?
General	What is All Saint's Day all about?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 10th November 2024**



Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted with respect in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive." He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over but she, from the little she had, has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on."

Adapted from Mark 12:38-44
The 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the many gifts you have given us. Please help us to be generous and cheerful in all we do for you and for each other. Amen.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page 67

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Diary Dates

New or changed dates in **blue**.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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
Friday 15.11.24	Children in Need—Non Uniform	All Day	No
w/c Monday 18.11.24	Parents Evenings—See Page 1 for Dates	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	Carols—In Church	9:30am	Yes
Friday 20.12.24	End of Term	3:25pm	-

Use well the gifts that God has given you