



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 10 – 15th November 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

Thank you for your support this week. Your attendance at our Remembrance service on Monday, presence at our coffee morning and general warmth and friendliness at pick up and drop off does not go un-noticed or unappreciated. Having been here for a year now, it is great to see how our community is working together. Next week we have our parents evenings—this will be a time to speak with your child's class teacher about how they have settled into this school year. I hope you find the experience useful and I look forward to seeing many of you before or after your appointments.

Have a great weekend,

Sam Keys

Crossing Patrol

There will be no crossing patrol on Friday 22nd November. As previously, please plan ahead and take care if you need to cross the road outside of school.



Class Representatives



We would like to start the class representative initiative again this year. You may remember that parents were invited to apply to be a representative for their child's class. This role is key in communicating messages and working with school to ensure that information is shared and that you, as parents and carers, can work more closely with school. The class reps from last year are more than welcome to re-apply if they wish. Click the link and add your application before next Friday. <https://forms.office.com/e/CVdi1WmPeA>

Macmillan Coffee Event

Thank you again for your wonderful support at our Macmillan Coffee event earlier this year. We were delighted with the almost £200 raised for this excellent cause.

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2024

This certificate is presented to
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
& friends

For your kind contribution of
£198.00

To help support those affected by cancer. Thank you.

Celine

Celine & the Coffee Morning Team

1 November 2024

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Christmas Raffle Donations

We are making 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.



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	97.22%
1 / 2	99.35%
3 / 4	92.16%
5 / 6	90.64%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 94.35%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.75%	

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	635	648	637	641
Running total	4061	3826	3835	4771

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

Julia **Year R** For neat and careful letter formation.

Natalia **Year 1 / 2** For independently writing great sentences.

Poppy **Year 3 / 4** For great effort in learning her times tables.

Spencer **Year 5 / 6** For always working to the best of his ability.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Thomas, Finley and Class 3
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Mrs Simpson
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.

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 happened to the oil in the temple?
Class 2	Can you think of two adjectives to describe Froggo?
Class 3	Who was Augustus?
Class 4	What is a periscope?
General	What was the theme of anti-bullying week?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 17th November 2024

 Jesus said to his disciples, "When the time for the end of the world is near, many things will happen. In those days they will see the Son of Man approaching in the clouds with great power and glory; then he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father."

Adapted from Mark 13:24-32
The 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being our **faithful** friend. Please help us to keep growing in **faithfulness** to you and to one another. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING

Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle road teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signaling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE

Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

3 TRY A CARGO BIKE

Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE

It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR

Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly; if you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS

For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

8 AVOID PARKED CARS

When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

9 START A 'BIKE BUS'

Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?

10 HAVE FUN!

Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

Meet Our Expert

Sophie Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.

WE ARE cycling UK

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



New or changed dates in **blue**.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
w/c Monday 18.11.24	Parents Evenings—various days	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