



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 11 – 22nd November 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

'Winter' seems to have arrived this week—with snow falling, ice hanging around and Christmas lights starting to appear in the local area. We have had another good week in school and it has been great to see many of you coming into school for parents evening appointments. Whilst the diary dates look quite quiet over the next week or so, rest assured, school is bubbling with excitement in preparation for Advent and our Christmas celebrations. I predict that, if you have not already, you will hear the children humming or singing their favourite songs from the Christmas performances in the coming days!

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

Christmas Dinner

On December 12th, parents/carers are invited into school to have Christmas Dinner with their child. The day will be split into 2 sittings. 11:30am for Class 1 and Class 2 and 12:30pm for Class 3 and Class 4. If you have children in multiple classes, we will coordinate so you can all eat together. The cost for any adult who wishes to join us is £3.60. You can add this in the 'shop' on Arbor. **The deadline for booking your place is Thursday 28th November**—so that catering can order enough food.



It would also be useful to know how many children will be having a Christmas Dinner on the same day—whether they are accompanied by an adult or not. **Could you please complete this form (<https://forms.office.com/e/UjFu7Zy6Lw>) to let us know before Thursday 28th November.** Pupil dinners will be charged on Arbor in the same way as normal school meal days.

Class Representatives



Thank you to those who have either filled in the form or contacted school about the class representative roles. As the link did not work for the first few days, we are keeping the response form open until Monday 25th November.

So far, we have only had applicants in Class 2 and Class 4.

The class reps from last year are more than welcome to re-apply if they wish. Click the link and add your application <https://forms.office.com/e/CVdi1WmPeA>

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Food Bank Thank You!

Last week I started the newsletter with a thank you for contributing to our school community. This week we received another reminder about how powerful our working together is!

St Patrick's Primary School

On behalf of everyone involved with County Durham Foodbank thank you for the recent harvest collection.

We really couldn't help & support all the people in crisis that we do, without your donations.

Total Weight – 39.8 kg

Number of Meals – 50 meals

Thank You!!!

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>



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	100%
1 / 2	96.47%
3 / 4	95.29%
5 / 6	99.47%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 97.54%	
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.



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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	572	681	528	664
Running total	4633	4507	4363	5435

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 being a kind and caring friend

Ella Year 1 / 2 For great effort and determination in Maths

Oliver BB Year 3 / 4 For showing great perseverance

Lloyd Year 5 / 6 For amazing work on long division

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Lucas H
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.

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)	Why do we get shadows?
Class 2	Who was Emmeline Pankhurst?
Class 3	What does multi-ethnic mean?
Class 4	What is a Jesse tree?
General	How can we stay safe near roads?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 24th November 2024

At Jesus' trial, Pilate called Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?" Jesus replied, "Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my followers would have fought to prevent my being handed over. But my kingdom is not of this kind." "So you are a king then?" said Pilate. "It is you who say it," answered Jesus. "Yes, I am a king. I was born for this; I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice."

*Adapted from John 18:33-37
Christ the King, Year B*

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for **leading** us in the way of truth – to help God's kingdom of love to grow in our hearts, in our homes and in our schools. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

We're taking part in
Road Safety Week
to learn about road safety
and celebrate all the road safety
heroes who make roads safer
and support after a road crash.

17-23
November
2024

BE A
ROAD SAFETY
HERO



After the
crash • Road Safety Week
Every road starts with safety.

powered by
Brake
the road safety charity

powered by
AUTOGLASS

Brake is a road safety charity that supports people after road crashes and campaigns to stop crashes on our roads.

www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week

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New or changed dates in **blue**.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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