

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 12 – 2nd December 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

Choir Concert—Thursday 5th December

We are very much looking forward to welcoming as many guests as possible to the choir concert on Thursday 5th December at 4pm. The children and Mrs Griffiths have put a lot of work into their preparations and I am sure they will entertain all who attend. All welcome.



Class Representatives

Thank you to those who have either filled in the form or contacted school about the class representative roles. Class reps will be contacted by Miss Dennis this week to arrange a meeting with Mr Keys.

Christmas Performances

I am sure you will have seen the performance dates on the diary dates page—but we wanted to remind you that the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performance will take place at 9:30am this year and not at 5pm. The Year 3, 4,5 and 6 performance is a 5pm start as last year.



Use well the gifts that God has given you

Pupil Fundraiser

Well done to MacKenzie, who completed her November knitting challenge—raising almost £200 for Dementia UK. We are incredibly proud of you MacKenzie.



Pupil Achievements

We would love to share any achievements our children have made here. No matter how big or small! If there is something you would like included on the newsletter—let us know.



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>



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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	100%
1 / 2	90.59%
3 / 4	97.65%
5 / 6	100%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 96.63%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.82%	

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	595	508	633	664
Running total	4656	4334	4468	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

Ada Year R For always being polite and helpful.

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

Jackson Year 3 / 4 For creating great comparisons between characters in Matilda.

Myven Year 5 / 6 For great work converting fractions.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Louisa, Finley and Miss Holden
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




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 does hibernate mean?
Class 2	Who was Emmeline Pankhurst?
Class 3	What volcano is near Pompeii?
Class 4	How is a rainbow formed?
General	What does NSPCC mean?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 1st December 2024

 Jesus said to his disciples, "There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars and on the earth, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man approaching in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand upright, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. Watch yourselves; be careful not to let your hearts be weighed down with the cares of life. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."

*Adapted from Luke 21:25-28.34-36
The 1st Sunday of Advent, Year C*

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to get ready during **Advent** to welcome you with joy this Christmas, and when you come again in your glory. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators EDUCATING CHILDREN ON SPENDING AND SAVING

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains how to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY

Giving children money – even a small amount – can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that youngsters who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.

2 USE A PREPAID CARD

Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with some retailers not accepting cash since the pandemic. Prepaid debit cards are available for children from the age of six, allowing them to get used to spending like they will as adults with no risk of dipping into an overdraft. Learning about money is like learning to swim – you need to get in the pool and have a go!

3 PRACTISE BORROWING

Although official borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest works before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or 'buy now, pay later' schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer them extra pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.

4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION

Chattering about money and how much things cost will teach children that finance is a part of everyday life and not some "scary adult thing". Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number. Letting young ones make spending decisions in a safe space can build up their confidence regarding money.

5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND

Whether it's YouTube ads or a hint of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how clever shop design (like placing sweets at the checkout) and offers such as '2 for 1' deals entice us to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.

6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'

Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill; the difference between life's essentials and "nice to haves" is key to budgeting. If children pester you for treats while shopping, it's the perfect time to say "that's a want. We're getting our needs first." You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things.

7 ENCOURAGE SAVING

Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they set something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away, so they feel motivated to continue. For example, encouraging them to save for a friend's birthday gift can get children much more invested in what they buy.

8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST

Motivate children by telling them about interest; you can describe it as a reward for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. As an exciting example, explain that 1p doubled every day for a month would amount to approximately £10 million. Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest; parents and carers could also add a little to supplement what their child saves and show how it works.

9 PAYING FOR CHORES

This is a complex debate with no right or wrong answer; it depends on what works for each individual family. However, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more mindful spenders. If parents aren't keen on paying for everyday chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.

10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS

Scams are a terrifyingly easy way to lose money, and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. As a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common scams they could be exposed to – by text, email and phone. For instance, young people should tell a trusted adult about any unexpected message or call and never give out their personal information.

Meet Our Expert

GoHenry is a prepaid debit card and financial education app with a mission to make every young person smart with money. Co-founder and CEO Louise Hill is a passionate campaigner for better financial literacy among school children and strongly believes that money management is a crucial life skill.

goHenry

#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College



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