



## St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 15 – 20th December 2024

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

I would like to take this chance to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas—I hope you are able to spend some quality time together. Thank you, also, for all of your support throughout this term, we have loved seeing you all in school. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. We return to school on **Tuesday 7th January 2025**, after a staff training day.

Our Year 6 booster sessions will start each Tuesday after Christmas. They are free to attend for Year 6 and run until 4:30pm.

Please also note that our last remaining training day has now been confirmed as **Monday 3rd March 2025**.

Best wishes,

*Sam Keys*



*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	100%
3 / 4	97.37%
5 / 6	98.83%
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance: 98.91%</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date: 95.62%</b>	

## 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	806	757	755	837
Running total	6003	5765	5817	6807

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

**Georgie**      **Year R**      For a great retell of the Stick Man story.

**Finley**      **Year 1 / 2**      For writing brilliant instructions for a Santa trap.

**Lucas**      **Year 3 / 4**      For his enthusiasm towards the carol service.

**Poppy**      **Year 5 / 6**      For being very helpful during the school fair.

### Rainbow Rewards

<b>Red</b>	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Mrs Nowell, Oscar G
<b>Green</b>	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
<b>Yellow</b>	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
<b>Orange</b>	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Isobel, Thomas, Ava, MacKenzie, Chidera
<b>Purple</b>	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
<b>Pink</b>	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	
<b>Blue</b>	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 the word dangerous mean?
Class 2	Can you describe the surfaces of a cylinder?
Class 3	What was the tin soldiers wish in "One Christmas Wish" by Katherine Rundell?
Class 4	How is Christmas celebrated in France?
General	How do we 'prepare' during advent?

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

## 1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Mary had been told by an angel that she was to give birth to a son named Jesus. When she heard that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also going to have a baby, she went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Mary went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a loud cry and said to Mary, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For as soon as your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed are you for believing the promise made to you by the Lord."



From the Gospel of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 - Luke 1:39-44 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C)

Access the other Gospel Readings here:

[Christmas Holiday Special - Magazine - Page 1](#)

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Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
Tuesday 7.1.25	Return to school for Spring 1st Half Term	8:55am	-
Thursday 23.1.25	Coffee Morning - Focus on SEND	9:15am	Yes
Thursday 30.1.25	Year 4 Parent Tables Check Meeting	4pm	Yes
w/b Monday 3.2.25	Children's Mental Health Week	All Week	No
Tuesday 11.2.25	Safer Internet Day	All Day	No
Tuesday 11.2.25	Year 6 Parent SATS Meeting	4pm	Yes
Tuesday 11.2.25	Year 1 Parent Phonics Meeting	3:30pm	Yes
Wednesday 19.2.25	Class 2 RE Topic Liturgy	9:15am	Yes
Friday 21.2.25	Break up for half-term holiday	3:25pm	-
Monday 3.3.25	<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>No</b>
Tuesday 4.3.25	Return to school for Spring 2nd Half Term	8:55am	-
Thursday 6.3.25	World Book Day: - Non-Uniform and 'Breakfast with a book'	All Day	Yes (8:30—8:55)
w/c Monday 10.3.25	Science Week	All Week	-
Monday 10.3.25	Reception Stay and Discover (Parent and Pupil sessions)	8:55am—10:30am	Yes
Tuesday 11.3.25	Class 4—Learn with me (Parent and Pupil sessions)	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Wednesday 12.3.25	Class 2—Learn with me (Parent and Pupil sessions)	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Thursday 13.3.25	Class 3—Learn with me (Parent and Pupil sessions)	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Friday 14.3.25	CAFOD Family Fast Day	TBC	TBC
Monday 17.3.25	St. Patrick's Day Celebrations: Non-uniform—wear something green	All Day	No
Friday 21.3.25	Interim Reports go out	3:30pm	-
Friday 21.3.25	Comic Relief: non-uniform day	All Day	No
w/c Monday 24.3.25	Parents Evenings	3:40pm - 6:00pm	Yes
Friday 28.3.25	Someone Special Celebration	2:30pm	Yes
Thursday 3.4.25	Easter Choir Concert TBC	4pm	Yes
Friday 11.4.25	Break up for Easter holiday	3:25pm	Yes
Monday 28.4.25	Return to school for Summer Term	8:55am	Yes