

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 16 – 10th January 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

Happy New Year!

I hope that the Christmas break was a chance to spend some wonderful time together as families. As a parent myself, I also hope that you have managed to hide away all of the chocolates and managed to get the recycling bin emptied! We have jumped straight back into routines here at school and the children have been brilliant. The Spring Term is often the term where we see huge strides in progress and confidence and we can't wait for parents to witness that in reality when you join us in a few months time at our parent events. Please do note that some of the dates and times of these events have had to change—they are highlighted on the dates page. Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

Clubs—Next Week

Our after school clubs will begin next week and are available to book on Arbor. Craig's Coaches will continue to run the multi-sports club on Monday, Mrs Nowell will lead a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club on Tuesday, there will be a hockey club on Wednesday and Mrs Griffiths will lead choir on Thursday.

Clubs will run all the way to the February half term break.

Year 6 parents can also book the Year 6 Booster Club on Tuesdays (this is free).

Coffee Morning—Focus on SEND—Thursday 23rd January 9:15am



We are continuing to host a coffee morning each term. These events are a chance for parents to come together and have a space to chat about everything and anything. This time, Mr Keys (our Special Educational Needs Coordinator) will be on hand to answer any Special Educational Needs or Disabilities questions you may have. We want to make sure anyone who is interested can attend, so please do let us know if the times are not convenient and we can re-arrange where possible.

SEND Support Plan Reviews—throughout January

This month we will be reviewing SEND Support Plans for those children who have them. As previously, Parents/Carers will be invited into school at a convenient time as your views are essential to supporting the progress of our children.

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	87.5%
1 / 2	95.8%
3 / 4	94.96%
5 / 6	96.99%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 94.85%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.58%	

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	625	640	578	595
Running total	6628	6405	6395	7402

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

Mihilu Year R For great maths work - counting and subitising.

Phoebe Year 1 / 2 For using her phonics when writing sentences.

Summer Year 3 / 4 For great work with multiples of 10.

Phoebe Year 5 / 6 For excellent work adding and subtracting fractions.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	
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 are the signs of winter?
Class 2	What does treacherous mean?
Class 3	Who invaded Britannia?
Class 4	How are coastlines formed?
General	Next week we return to Ordinary Time. What colour cloth will we have at school?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 12th January 2025



A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire". Now when all the people had been baptised, and as Jesus was being baptised, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

*Adapted from Luke 3:15-16.21-22
 The Baptism of the Lord, Year C*

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
 Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of **Baptism**. Please help us to live like you and to spread God's love throughout this new year. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine a week before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education easier possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at:

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/www.thenationalcollege

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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 Celebration	9:15am	Yes
Friday 21.2.25	Break up for half-term holiday	3:25pm	-
Monday 3.3.25	INSET DAY	All Day	No
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)	2pm—3:25pm	Yes
Tuesday 11.3.25	Class 3—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 4—Learn with me (Parent and Pupil sessions)	1:15pm – 3:25pm	Yes
Friday 14.3.25	CAFOD Family Fast Day	TBC	Parishioners
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