

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 17 – 17th January 2025

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Miller

Cluster Headteacher: Mr S Keys

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Simpson

Chair of Governors: Mrs C Bainbridge

Telephone: 0191 378 0552

E-mail: stpl@stpl.bwcet.com

Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

As I said last week, the children quickly settled back into routines and are working hard. It has been lovely to go into classrooms and see happy, smiling faces. The children seem to be particularly enjoying our new English curriculum. This half term they are looking at a range of books across school—One Snowy Night in Class 1, The Great Explorer in Class 2, The Firework Maker's Daughter in Class 3 and Kick in Class 4. These books give the children a glimpse into other worlds and cultures as well as challenging them with ambitious vocabulary and grammar. We are delighted with the impact so far. Our new crossing patrol will begin on Tuesday. We thank Richard for his support and wish him well as he moves back to his previous school.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

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.



Special Educational Needs at School Feedback



As you know, we place great importance on creating an inclusive environment where all of our children can thrive. If you have a few moments, we would welcome your feedback through the following survey. Whilst it is mainly for parents/carers of children on the SEND register—all feedback is welcome. <https://forms.office.com/e/AuUD0fJjdQ>

Roblox

It has been brought to our attention that there are some children accessing messaging features on the game Roblox. Please pay special attention to the Safeguarding poster this week. If you have any further concerns about this and want to speak to someone, please contact school and ask to speak to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mr Keys, Mrs Simpson or Mrs Nowell).



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	97.39%
3 / 4	97.78%
5 / 6	97.08%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 97.74%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.7%	

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	562	597	569	532
Running total	7190	7002	6964	7934

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

Olivia Year R For very careful letter formation.

Peaches Year 1 / 2 For contributing well in all lessons.

Oliver R Year 3 / 4 For being kind and caring to everyone in school.

Dylan Year 5 / 6 For always supporting and helping others.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Amelie
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 cosy mean?
Class 2	What is the equator and what is the climate like there?
Class 3	What does deposition mean?
Class 4	What is a Celtic knot?
General	Tell someone about the Jubilee Year.

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 19th January 2025

 There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there with Jesus and his disciples. When they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said, "Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." There were six stone water jars standing there; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. "Draw some out now," he told them, "and take it to the steward." They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into the best wine. This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Adapted from John 2:1-11
The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to experience the joy that you bring, and to share that joy with all those that we meet. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

PEGI
7+

With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, grievers and online predators.

In-App Purchases

Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.

Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.

Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.

Disable Messages

It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.

Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices), identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.

Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNLAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.04.2021

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Date	Event	Time	Parents In- vited
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