



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 20- 7th February 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

In our whole school gatherings this week we have talked about mental health. This year's theme is 'Know yourself, grow yourself'. We talked about trying to find out what makes us feel good and what makes us feel bad. By knowing how to bring ourselves happiness and comfort, we can overcome challenges. I hope that the children will continue these conversations with you at home.

Have a lovely weekend,

Sam Keys



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday next week, we will mark 'Safer Internet Day' with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. You can find out more about this including some resources here—[Safer Internet Day 2025 - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



Year 6 Parents SATs Meeting



On Tuesday 11th February at 4pm, Year 6 Parents/Carers are invited into school to find out more about the SATs assessments that will take place in May. Mrs Simpson will explain the assessments and what we are doing in school to support your child.

Year 2 Parents Phonics Meeting

Also on Tuesday 11th February, at 3:30pm, Year 2 Parents/Carers are invited into school to find out more about Phonics—including some information about the Phonics Check that takes place in June.



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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	94.44%
1 / 2	91.5%
3 / 4	95.68%
5 / 6	99.42%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 95.52%	
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	329	280	303	265
Running total	8215	8143	7812	8789

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

Julia Year R For fantastic effort and determination when writing.

Ruby Year 1 / 2 For fantastic phonics.

Cyril Year 3 / 4 For great determination learning his times tables.

Benediktas Year 5 / 6 For providing fully explained answers in all of his work.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Finley, Ruby, Lyla, Lloyd, Isabella, Oliver, Bridget, Ella, Lily S-R, Thomas
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Lucas, Phoebe P, Oliver B
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)	Amelie
Pink	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	Maddison
Blue	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	Oscar N

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

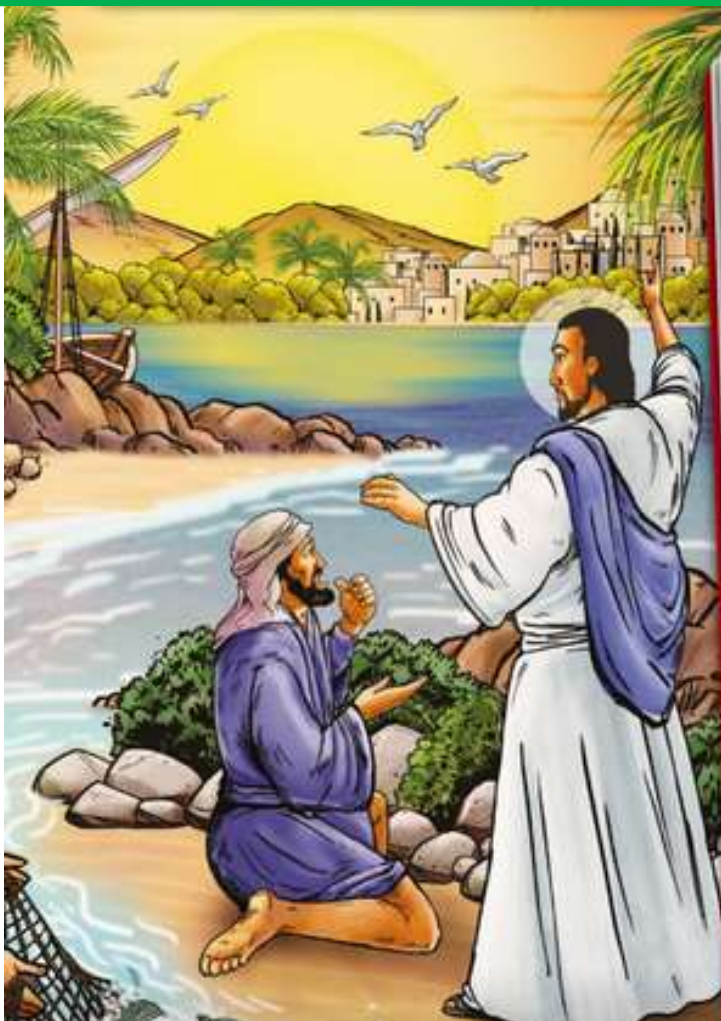
Ask your child

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)	What is a habitat?
Class 2	What poem have we been reading in class?
Class 3	What was the purpose of Hadrian's Wall?
Class 4	How do we know that Komodo dragons are lazy?
General	What makes you feel happy?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 9th February 2025

 When Jesus had finished teaching by the lakeside he said to Simon Peter, "Sail out into deep water and let down your nets." "Master," Simon Peter replied, "we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will let down the nets." And when he and his companions had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear and they filled their two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made. But Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will catch." Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Adapted from Luke 5:1-11
The 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

• Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for calling us to **follow** you. Please help us to be
* your faithful **followers** – helping our world to become a better place. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives; talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <http://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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	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