



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 22- 21st February 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

School closes today for half-term break. January and February have been brilliant in school; the Spring Term is often when we see huge leaps in progress, with Reception class becoming much more confident around school, class 2 making great gains with their phonics, Class 3 flying with their times tables and Class 4 becoming more and more mature in their answers to challenging questions about life in modern Britain. All of the children very much deserve some time to rest next week. Thank you, once again, for your support this half term—especially to those of you who have reached out to ask questions or offer suggestions—we really do appreciate it. We look forward to seeing you all after half term, especially at our learn with me events in the week beginning 10th March.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

INSET Day Reminder

An additional reminder that school will be closed for a staff INSET day on Monday 3rd March. Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 4th March.

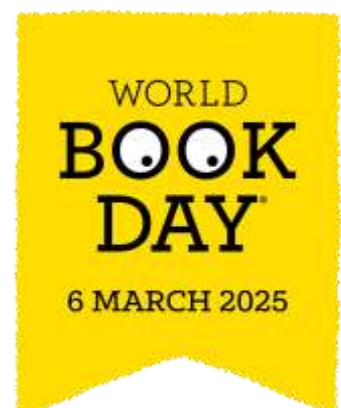
Church

All pupils will be attending the Ash Wednesday Mass at church on Wednesday 5th March.

We are also arranging some new dates for the children to visit church next half term. Please look out for new dates on the dates page after half term.

World Book Day

We will be joining in with many schools across the country as we celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. Children are welcome to come into school dressed as characters from books or simply in non-uniform. There is no expectation to spend money on an outfit if you do not wish to do so. Parents/Carers are also more than welcome to join us in school for 'Breakfast with a Book'. If you wish to come into school and have a pastry, some juice and share a story with your child, come through the main reception entrance from 8:30am and head to your child's class.



Use well the gifts that God has given you

Clubs

Our clubs for next half term are now live on Arbor. Just to remind you, there will be no clubs in the final week of the term before Easter. Due to some staff training, the Wednesday club will not take place on Wednesday 19th March. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Monday—Multi Sports with Craig’s Coaches

Tuesday—Film club with Mrs Bartley

Tuesday—Year 6 Booster

Wednesday—Animation Club with Mr Holbrook

Thursday—Choir with Mrs Griffiths.

As previously, clubs will run until 4:30pm.



School Sports

Thank you to one of our class representatives for contacting school about school sports and competitions. As you will be aware, we are now part of a cluster of small schools in Durham. We have some exciting plans for inter-school sports competitions as we move into the second half of Spring Term and the Summer Term. We will also be introducing some competitions within school too. Look out for some further information.



School Trips

Thanks also to another representative who enquired about school trips. Whilst there are no trips currently booked this year, there have been some information requests sent and we hope to share some positive news here in the near future.



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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	99.35%
3 / 4	93.83%
5 / 6	89.47%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 94.8%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.69%	

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	391	340	256	367
Running total	8790	8633	8313	9286

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 remembering lots o facts about the Arctic.
- Phoebe Year 1 / 2 For working hard with her handwriting and letter formation.
- Ava Year 3 / 4 For being thoughtful and kind to others.
- Isobel Year 5 /6 For amazing effort across all areas of the curriculum.

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.

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 are homes like in the Arctic?
Class 2	Who was the poem Lady Winter's Rap by?
Class 3	What was life like for Victorian children?
Class 4	What happened to the Highwayman?
General	How can you stay safe online?

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies and pray for those who are unkind to you and say bad things about you. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks and don't ask people to return what they have taken from you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you only love those who love you, why should you be rewarded? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you only do good to those who are good to you, why should you be rewarded? For even those who do not know God do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be rewarded? Even those who do not know God lend to each other, to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of God.



From the Gospel of Sunday 23rd February 2025 Cf. Luke 6:27-38 (the 7th Sunday in Ord Time, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **KINDNESS**.



Dear Lord Jesus, please give us the strength to be kind to everyone we meet, even those who we find difficult. Amen.

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.

1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraging children and young people to join extracurricular activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these pastimes offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.

2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we've made and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships looks like and how to navigate them.

3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES

Healthy friendships aren't just about dynamics with other people. They're about our relationship with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a notable influence on the friendships they form throughout life.

4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.

5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.

6 EMPOWER THE CHILD

When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.

7 TEACH EMPATHY

'Healthy friendships' doesn't always mean 'perfect'. Sometimes, disagreements can happen. When we teach children and young people to have empathy, we help them to see both sides of a relationship; to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.

8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS

Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Initially, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they are more worried.

9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES

One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honouring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belongings to acceptable language and behaviour. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding those set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.

10 SPOT THE SIGNS

We can't always supervise young people; sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider any indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly irritable? Does their behaviour alter when they've been with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

IG @wake.up.wednesday

Music @wake.up.weds

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GARDEN KITCHEN

6TH MARCH WORLD BOOK DAY

EXPLORE THE CRAZY WORLD OF DAVID WALLIAMS

RAT BURGER

(BEEF BURGER IN A BUN, SPRINKLE OF CHEESE & KETCHUP)

BURTS VEGGIE BURGER

(VEGETARIAN BURGER IN A BUN WITH SPRINKLE OF CHEESE & KETCHUP)

GANGSTA GRANNY GREEN SALAD

(MIXED GREEN SALAD)

MR STINK'S JACKET WEDGES

(POTATO WEDGES)

BILLIONAIRE BOY SHORTBREAD

(CHOCOLATE CHIP SHORTBREAD COOKIES)

ORANG U TAN POTS

(ORANGE JELLY & MANDARINS)

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL KSI PUPILS

*SPEAK TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN ALLERGY OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENT. YOUR CATERING TEAM WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN PROVIDE TAILORED MENUS TO CATER FOR YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS.



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust



GARDEN KITCHEN

4TH MARCH PANCAKE DAY

OUR USUAL MAIN MENU WITH THE ADDITION OF...

AMERICAN-STYLE FLUFFY PANCAKES WITH SWEET TOPPINGS



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Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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	-
Wednesday 5.3.25	Ash Wednesday Mass in Church	10am	Yes
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 Come 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