



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 23- 7th March 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,

Welcome back to school following the half term break. We hope you had some positive time with your families. It has been a great week in school—we particularly enjoyed our World Book Day Celebrations. Thank you to those parents/carers who joined us for 'Breakfast with a Book', it was a lovely start to the day for us. We are looking forward to welcoming many of you back into school next week too—please see further information below. Thank you, also, to those parents/carers who joined us at Church for Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten journey, your company and your prayers are warmly welcomed.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

'Learn with Me'

Next week, each class will be hosting an event where parents/carers can come and join in with the classroom excitement. Please see the details below:

- **Reception Class**—Monday 10th March—2pm—3:25pm. Parents/Carers should arrive at the school office from 1:45pm to sign in.
- **Class 2**— Wednesday 12th March—1:15pm—3:25pm. Parents/Carers should arrive at the school office from 1pm to sign in.
- **Class 3**— Tuesday 11th March—1:15pm—3:25pm. Parents/Carers should arrive at the school office from 1pm to sign in.
- **Class 4**— Thursday 13th March—1:15pm—3:25pm. Parents/Carers should arrive at the school office from 1pm to sign in.

Science Week

Next week we will be marking Science week in school—ask your child how they have been exploring science in their class.

British
Science
Week



BRITISH
SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION

CAFOD Family Fast Day—Friday 14th March



Parishioners are welcome to join us in school on Friday morning next week for CAFOD Family Fast Day. Our Year 6 pupils will be serving soup and bread and having a friendly chat with any parishioner who wishes to attend. Please book your place by contacting the school office.

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	95.24%
1 / 2	98.32%
3 / 4	95.24%
5 / 6	99.25%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 97.28%	
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.



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	511	385	331	420
Running total	9301	9018	8644	9706

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

Jed **Year R** For settling into class really well and making new friends.

Thomas **Year 1 / 2** For being a good role model to his friends.

Lily **Year 3 / 4** For pushing herself in all lessons this week.

Phoebe **Year 5 / 6** For beautiful presentation in all of her work.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Isobel
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)	Aria
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

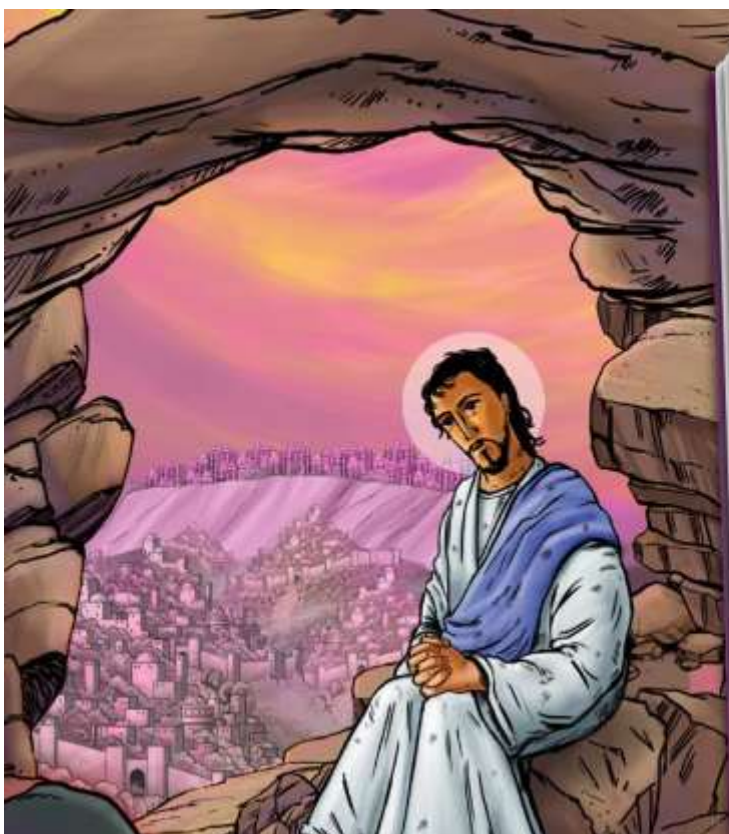
Ask your child



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)	Why is Farmer Duck fed up?
Class 2	What is the name of the character in the Owl who was Afraid of the Dark?
Class 3	What are vertebrates?
Class 4	What does deportment mean?
General	What are the Ashes on Ash Wednesday made from?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 9th March 2025



Following his baptism, Jesus went out into the desert for forty days. He was all alone and he ate nothing because he was fasting. Knowing that Jesus would be hungry, the Tempter told him to turn a stone into bread. But Jesus refused and said, "Scripture says, 'No one lives on bread alone.'" Then the Tempter showed him all the kingdoms of the world, promising Jesus all their power and glory if Jesus would worship him rather than God. But Jesus said, "It is written, 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only!'" Finally, the Tempter took Jesus to the top of the temple and told him to prove he was the Son of God by jumping off, and have God's angels come to save him. But Jesus said, "You must not put the Lord your God to the test." After Jesus had resisted three times, the Tempter left him.

*Adapted from Luke 4:1-13
The 1st Sunday of Lent, Year C*

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me and my family to grow in love and strength during **Lent** through keeping our **Lenten** promises. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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