

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 24- 14th March 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

We hope the many of you that visited school this week enjoyed your experiences. The 'learn with me' events are created with the intention of letting you see the 'magic' that takes place in school and judging by the many comments you have left in our comment book, 'magic' was certainly on display. Thank you for your involvement! A public thank you also to the staff who planned the activities and led them so well. We also wish our pupils who will be performing at the Newcastle Eagles Basketball event the best of luck. Thank you to Mr Holbrook for arranging this wonderful experience.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

St. Patrick's Day

On Monday, we celebrate our school Saint's feast day—St. Patrick's Day. As in previous years, we will mark this in school with a special gathering. Children are more than welcome to come to school in non-uniform. If they have something green to wear—that would be great.



Dear God,

On this St. Patrick's Day, we thank You for the gift of faith and the example of St. Patrick. Help us to be brave like him, spreading kindness, love, and Your word wherever we go.

Bless our school, our teachers, our families, and our friends. May we always walk in Your light, with hearts full of gratitude and joy.

St. Patrick, pray for us.

Amen.

Parents Evening—Week beginning 24th March

During the week beginning 24th March we will hold parents evenings in school. You will be able to book appointments from next week.

Class 1—Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th

Class 2— Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th

Class 3— Tuesday 25th

Class 4—Tuesday 25th (after booster) and Wednesday 26th



Use well the gifts that God has given you

School Reports—Friday 21st March

As with last year, we will be sending home ‘interim reports’ this year. The reports will come to you on Friday 21st March. These reports will give you a snapshot of how your child is doing in school and should allow discussions during parents evening to be even more beneficial.

Comic Relief—Non-Uniform—Friday 21st March

Children can come to school in non-uniform on Friday 21st March



Social Media

A few parents have queried whether school is on Social Media. We are still in the process of setting up our Facebook account. We have an Instagram account (@stpatslm) but there are presently some limitations with what we can post—this is being worked on. Our Twitter/X account is now closed.



Goodbye and Good Luck Spencer

Spencer, one of our wonderful Year 6 pupils, leaves us today as his family move to the Philippines. During his short time with us he has made a huge impact on our school community—bringing his smile and his enthusiasm to all that he does. We will miss him very much and wish him and his family the best of luck!



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	99.35%
3 / 4	94.44%
5 / 6	97.08%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 97.35%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.82%	

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	413	383	399	416
Running total	9714	9401	9043	10122

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

Edwin **Year R** For listening carefully to the sounds in words.

Emily G **Year 1 / 2** For great teamwork in PE.

Lyla **Year 3 / 4** For being a kind and respectful student.

Spencer **Year 5 / 6** For always working hard and being a good friend

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Isobel
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Finn, Chidera
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

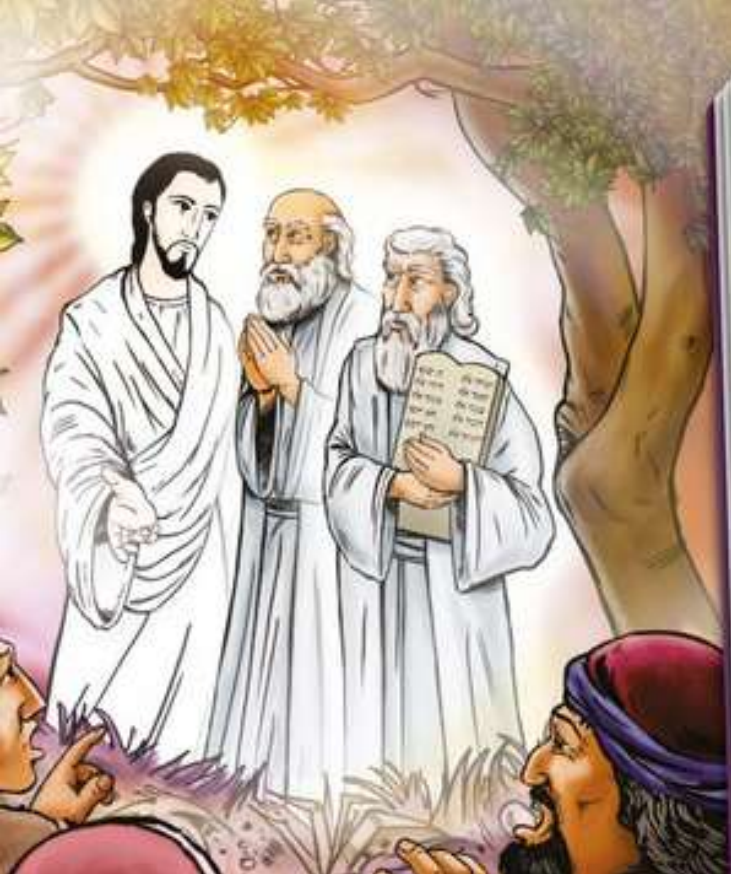
Ask your child




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)	How have you changed since you were a baby?
Class 2	What happened on Palm Sunday?
Class 3	What are invertebrates?
Class 4	What is synaesthesia?
General	What does adapted clothing mean? Why is it important?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 16th March 2025

 Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the appearance of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing over (his death, his resurrection and his ascension) which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." As he spoke, a cloud overshadowed them; and the disciples were afraid. Then a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him".

*Adapted from Luke 9:28-36
The 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C*

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for **encouraging** us. Please help us to be more like you – to be an **encouragement** to those around us. Amen.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday

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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: 12.03.2025

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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	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