

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 25- 21st March 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

We started this week celebrating our school Saint's feast day—St. Patrick's Day. The children were reminded of some of the many stories about St. Patrick—from apparently driving snakes out of Ireland to using the Shamrock to talk about the Holy Trinity. On Wednesday, our KS2 children visited the arena where the Newcastle Eagles basketball team play—they had a wonderful morning taking part in STEM activities. They even got to meet some of the basketball players and have a go at playing basketball on the actual court! They represented the school brilliantly and there were many comments about how brilliant they were. It has also been lovely to hear many positive comments about the Newcastle Eagles dance experience and the St. Patrick's Church celebrations last week. Thank you all for your support.

Best wishes,

Sam Keys

Reports and Parents Evening

Due to unforeseen circumstances, reports will be sent home digitally on Monday. Apologies for this change. These short reports should provide you with some key information that will help guide discussions at Parents Evening next week. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please contact the school office where someone will gladly assist.



Fundraise and Recycle Clothes Bank

If you are having a clear out of clothes or shoes this Spring, please consider bringing your unwanted items and putting them in the clothes bank at school. We have now had the clothes bank collected several times and we are well on the way to raising extra funds for our school! Thank you for your support.



Use well the gifts that God has given you

The Visit of the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis

You may remember that last year we shared the news that Carlo Acutis was named as the Patron of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. We are delighted to share the news that his relic will be visiting the Trust next week. You can find out more about how you can be part of the visit by going to the website shown in the picture here.



British Sign Language Awareness Week

This week is Sign Language Awareness Week. In school, many of our children have been finding out more about this brilliant language.

Did you know?

British Sign Language (BSL) is the preferred language of over 87,000 Deaf people in the UK for whom English may be a second or third language.

BSL is a rich, visual-gestural language with a distinctive grammar using handshapes, facial expressions, gestures and body language to convey meaning. It helps to build a sense of community and belonging for Deaf people and highlights Deaf culture, identity, community and history, reflecting unique characteristics found amongst the population of Deaf people.



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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	98.77%
1 / 2	98.69%
3 / 4	93.01%
5 / 6	98.77%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 97.22%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.83%	

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	399	431	460	430
Running total	10,113	9832	9503	10,552

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

Ada Year R For always trying her best.

Ruby Year 1 / 2 For being a constant role model to her friends.

Lucas Year 3 / 4 For excellent behaviour.

Aidan Year 5 /6 For being a good friend.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Thomas, Finley, Jacob and Peaches
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

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 signs of Spring will we soon begin to see?
Class 2	What does transparent mean?
Class 3	Where is Aksum?
Class 4	What makes a good basketball shoe?
General	Tell a story about St. Patrick

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 23rd March 2025

 Jesus told the people this story: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, 'Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

*Adapted from Luke 13:1-9
The 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C*

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your patient care for us. Show us where we need to **change** – to grow more in our love for you and for each other. Amen. ✨

Use well the gifts that God has given you

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMERS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Livestreaming has become a big part of the entertainment people consume, and what began as a series of gamers sharing their screens has grown into a huge industry packed with personalities – and potential risks for your children. With over 2.5 million people watching Twitch, the most popular streaming service, at any one time, it's important to remain aware of the risks associated with streamers.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



Some gaming streamers will stick to family-friendly titles, but others will play more violent games that tend to be more popular. Non-gaming streamers could, in theory, discuss just about anything, and some streamers will often stream in revealing outfits.

NEGATIVE INFLUENCES



While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in scams in the past.

FINANCIAL HARM

Streamers will often have donation buttons on their screens for users to submit money. What can start as small amounts can quickly spiral as streamers engage with paying viewers more often, potentially leading to financial issues.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Influencers often showcase how glamorous their lives are, making some users feel as though they are lesser. However, it's important to stress that, in many ways, this is an act, or at the very least, not common. Logan Paul, who has been successful as a streamer and influencer, has a Pokemon card worth \$5 million, but this is atypical of anyone working in the medium.

MISINFORMATION



Streamers are, in many ways, just like us – and they can get things wrong or reel off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can simply say awful things to get a rise out of viewers or to sway them to their side of a hot topic.

ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME

If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS



For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no small degree of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to speak freely due to sponsors, and influencers are just that – influencing young minds, for better or for worse.

CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS



While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Rumble, which have grown in popularity with moves for big-name streamers – despite many being dogged by controversy.

DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION



Streamers can reward donations with additional content, on-camera "shout outs" and more. If you're unsure about who or what your child is watching, consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.

SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS



You can set screentime limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/streamers>



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Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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

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