



# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 27- 4th April 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

April has arrived and we have had another great week in school. It has been wonderful to step into classrooms and also be presented with lots of pieces of work from the children. A real focus this year has been on handwriting and I have been overwhelmed with the progress that has been made. A special mention must also go to Mrs Griffiths and the brilliant choir who brought joy to all as they entertained in song and dance on Thursday night—well done and thank you. Finally, there is a survey currently open with the chance to provide some feedback to school—I would very much welcome your responses—  
<https://participate.schoolsurveys.com/rMoFiGHpa97FOSDH>

Best wishes,

*Sam Keys*



### After School Clubs

There are no clubs next week or in the first week back after the Easter break (apart from Year 6 SATs booster which will run a normal). Breakfast club will also continue as normal.

**Whilst we organise clubs for the Summer Term, we wondered if there was anything your child would love to try? Please do offer your suggestions as we try to bring as many experiences as possible to the children. Please contact the school office if you would like to make a suggestion.**



### Summer Fair

We are starting to make arrangements for our Summer Fair. If you, or anyone you know is able to donate a prize for our raffle, it would be greatly appreciated! Our raffles play a huge part in raising funds for school that enable us to purchase extra resources and run trips and events. Please contact Mr Keys.



### Arbor Updates

Thank you to all parents/carers who responded to last week's messages about Arbor—many consents have been updated and we are very appreciative of that. If you require any support with Arbor, please do get in touch.



*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	96.73%
3 / 4	91.93%
5 / 6	100%
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance: 96.77%</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date: 95.92%</b>	

## 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	478	457	396	518
Running total	10,818	10,435	10,014	11,237

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

**Anya**      **Year R**      For showing more confidence and having a 'can do' attitude.

**Isabella**      **Year 1 / 2**      For brilliant confidence and singing in the choir concert.

**Louisa**      **Year 3 / 4**      For great effort in maths this week.

**Lloyd**      **Year 5 / 6**      For a positive attitude and excellent listening in class.

Rainbow Rewards

<b>Red</b>	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Jake
<b>Green</b>	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Peaches
<b>Yellow</b>	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
<b>Orange</b>	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	
<b>Purple</b>	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
<b>Pink</b>	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	Oliver B
<b>Blue</b>	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.

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### 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)	Where is Durham?
Class 2	What does a tadpole turn into?
Class 3	What does sustainable tourism mean?
Class 4	How can we use colour and images to represent music?
General	On Monday Mr Keys said forgiveness is a gift, but who is it a gift for?

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

Jesus was teaching in the Temple when the teachers of the Law brought a woman to him who had broken the Law. They said to Jesus, "Master, this woman has broken the Law and should be stoned to death. What have you to say?" Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." When they heard this they went away quietly, one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman. Then Jesus asked the woman, "Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she replied. "Neither do I. Go, but do not sin any more," said Jesus.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be more understanding and always ready to make a **new start** with you and with each other. Amen.

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

### AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

### RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

### THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

### SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

### EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

### OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

### SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

### BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake\_up\_weds

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Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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

# Summer



On the next page!

# Summer

# Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
Monday 28.4.25	Return to school for Summer Term 1	8:55am	-
Monday 5.5.25	Bank Holiday Monday	All Day	No
Wednesday 7.5.25	Coffee Afternoon—Time to talk	1:30pm—2:30pm	Yes
w/c Monday 12.5.25	KS2 SATs Week	All week	No
Friday 16.5.25	<b>Non-Uniform Day (Toys and Books)</b>	<b>All day</b>	--
Wednesday 21.5.25	World Day for Cultural Diversity	All Day	No
Friday 23.5.25	Break up for half-term holiday	3:25pm	-
Monday 2.6.25	Return to school for Summer Term 2	8:55am	-
w/c Monday 2.6.25	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	-	No
w/c Monday 9.6.25	Phonics Screening Check delivery	All day	No
Friday 6.6.25	<b>Non-Uniform Day (Chocolates)</b>	<b>All day</b>	--
Friday 13.6.25	Someone Special Breakfast	8:30am - 9:00am	Yes
w/c Monday 16.6.25	Sports Week: Sports Clothes All Week	All Week	No
Friday 20.6.25	Sports Day	AM	Yes
Friday 27.6.25	<b>Non-Uniform Day (Bottles)</b>	<b>All day</b>	--
w/c Monday 30.6.25	Art Week	All Week	No
Wednesday 2.7.25	Provisional Date for Year 6 Leavers Trip - <b>TBC</b>	8:30am – 4:30pm	No
Thursday 3.7.25	Summer Choir Concert	4pm	Yes
Friday 4.7.25	St. Leonard's and Durham Johnston Year 6 Intake Day	All Day	-
Monday 7.7.25	Art Gallery Display	3:30pm	Yes
Wednesday 9.7.25	Reception 'Graduation' Celebration	2:45pm	Yes
Thursday 10.7.25	Transition Day in School	All Day	No
Monday 14.7.25	Annual Reports sent out to parents	3:25pm	--
Tuesday 15.7.25	Summer Fair	1:30pm	Yes
Wednesday 16.7.25	End of Year Mass <b>TBC</b>	9:30am	Yes
Thursday 17.7.25	Year 6 'Leavers' Celebration'	9:10am	Yes
Thursday 17.7.25	END of TERM	3:25pm	-

Use with the gifts that God has given you