

# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 36- 27th June 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

Throughout this week we have been visited by people from many different jobs—from playwright to police and data analyst to a member of the armed forces and a young carers manager. I hope the children have been inspired to dream big and know that they can do anything. Today we also managed to squeeze in a re-arranged Sports Day. Thank you for your support and a special thanks to Mr Holbrook, the staff and the volunteers who helped make it possible. Of course, a huge well done to the children too! Next week is very busy—Year 6 will have their end of year trip, Reception will visit the Botanic Gardens and Year 5 will take part in the Trust Celebration of Sport. We will also be attending mass in Church, where all are welcome to attend. The choir will wow us once more on Thursday night at their concert and Year 6 pupils will also visit their new schools next Friday. Today we say goodbye to one of our pupils, Xu. Xu and his family will return home to China this weekend. He has been a joy to have in school and we will miss him very much. Good luck Xu!

Have a great weekend,

*Sam Keys*



## Art Week

Our themed weeks continue next week with the children having the opportunity to get creative. There will be a variety of opportunities to explore different artworks - with the final products being shared with you online on Monday 7th July. Unfortunately we will no longer be able to host the 'Gallery Night' but we will share the creativity online instead.

## Headteacher Award (Last Week)

Monday — Phoebe P  
Tuesday — Emily G  
Wednesday— Jake  
Thursday— James  
Friday— Isabella



## Sports Day Award

Jake — for a great attitude towards Sports Day.

## Headteacher Award (This Week)

Monday — Mihilu  
Tuesday — Jackson  
Wednesday— Ella  
Thursday— Blanka  
Friday— Xu

*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


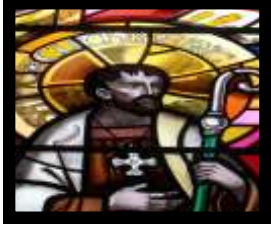


Year	Attendance this week:
R	89.53%
1 / 2	100%
3 / 4	88.27%
5 / 6	92.09%
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance: 92.67%</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date: 95.41%</b>	

## 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	255	321	178	300
Running total	13,809	13,849	13,072	14,465

### Stars of the week

**Jed**      **Year R**      For sharing well with his friends.

**Peaches**      **Year 1 / 2**      For confidently sharing her ideas in class discussions.

**Ava**      **Year 3 / 4**      For being kind and caring towards others.

**Dylan**      **Year 5 / 6**      For producing a well thought out piece of narrative writing.

### Rainbow Rewards

<b>Red</b>	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Xu
<b>Green</b>	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Xu
<b>Yellow</b>	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	Xu
<b>Orange</b>	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Xu
<b>Purple</b>	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	Xu
<b>Pink</b>	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	Xu
<b>Blue</b>	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	Xu

**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*

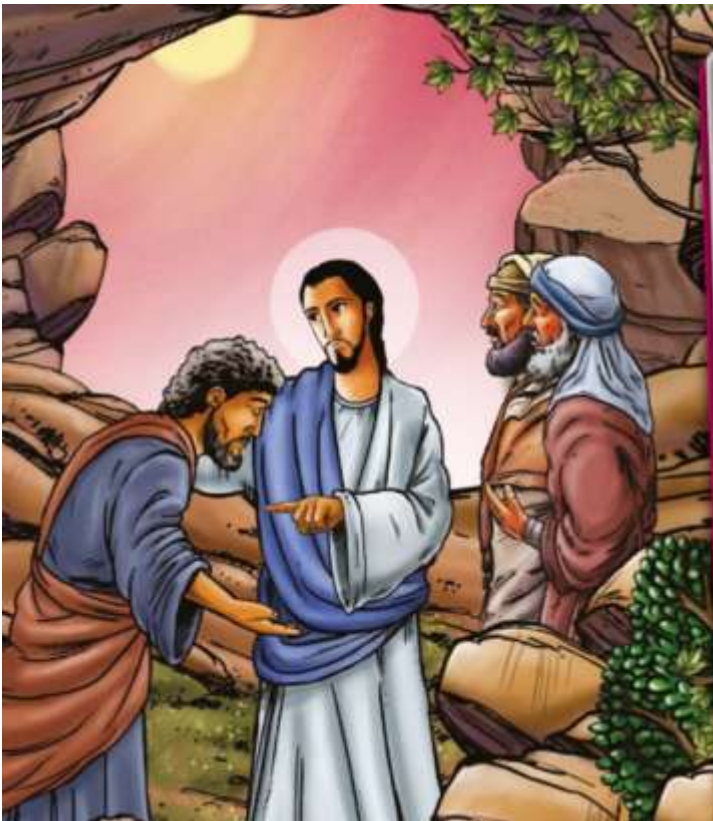
### Ask your child

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 did Grace Darling do?
Class 2	Why are rainforests so important?
Class 3	Can you say your 9 times tables?
Class 4	Who is the oldest Baudelaire orphan, and what does she like to do best?

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



### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025



When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."

*Adapted from Matthew 16:13-19  
The Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, Year C*

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for establishing the Church to support, strengthen and guide us as we journey through life together. Amen.

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of *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 understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

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# Summer

# Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
w/c Monday 30.6.25	Art Week	All Week	No
Wednesday 2.7.25	Year 6 Leavers Trip	8:30am – 4:30pm	No
Thursday 3.7.25	School Mass in Church	9:30am	Yes
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	-
Friday 4.7.25	Reception Class Trip	All Day	No
Monday 7.7.25	Art Gallery Display—This will now be videos and pictures online.	PM	No
Wednesday 9.7.25	Reception 'Graduation' Celebration	2:45pm	Yes
Thursday 10.7.25	Transition Day in School	All Day	No
Friday 11.7.25	Non-Uniform Day (Bottles)	All day	--
Friday 11.7.25	School Talent Show	1:30pm	Yes
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	9:30am	Yes
Thursday 17.7.25	Year 6 'Leavers' Celebration'	9:10am	Yes
Thursday 17.7.25	END of TERM	3:25pm	-

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