



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 37- 4th July 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

We have had a very busy week this week—with lots of learning and lots of fun too. Our Year 6 children had a brilliant time on their end of year trip, our Year 5 children represented the school impeccably at the Celebration of Sport, all of our classes have produced some wonderful artwork, Mrs Griffiths and our amazing choir wowed us once again at their concert and our Reception children are currently exploring the botanic gardens. Our end of year activities continue next week with Reception's 'graduation' on Wednesday and our whole school transition day on Thursday.

Have a great weekend,

Sam Keys

Friday 11th July



Next Friday is an exciting day in school. Not only do we have our next non-uniform day (where the optional 'donation' is a bottle for the Summer fair), but we also have our Talent Show. Our excited performers are fine-tuning their acts in preparation to amaze us all. We hope you can join us! The show will start at 1:30pm

Transition Day

We ensure there are lots of informal opportunities for this transition work in school—but on Thursday the children will spend the day in their new classes with their teacher for the next school year. This is a relaxed opportunity to look ahead to next year and for some children, to get used to new surroundings and new faces.



Headteacher Award

- Monday — Lloyd
- Tuesday — Summer
- Wednesday— Aidan
- Thursday— Aurora
- Friday— Matilda



Reception 'Graduation'

Reception parents/carers are invited to come and celebrate the end of their child's first year in school. We can't wait for you to come and watch their proud faces as they 'graduate' from Reception class.



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


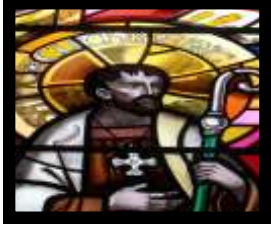


Year	Attendance this week:
R	98.77%
1 / 2	100%
3 / 4	88.27%
5 / 6	97.53%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 95.63%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.39%	

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				
	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
Feast Days: 25th May 20th March 17th November 31st August				
Weekly total	405	415	378	421
Running total	14,154	14,114	13,420	14,736

Stars of the week

Anya **Year R** For being kind and caring towards Class 1's visitors.

Ruby **Year 1 / 2** For always participating in all school activities enthusiastically.

Maddison **Year 3 / 4** For a great attitude towards school.

Oscar **Year 5 / 6** For excellent reading and a positive week in school.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Amelie
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 happens in The Rainbow Fish?
Class 2	What type of art was Andy Warhol famous for?
Class 3	How can Antarctica be a desert?
Class 4	Why do you think the commandment 'Honour your father and your mother' is important, and how can you show respect to your parents in your daily life?

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



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 6th July 2025



The Lord appointed another seventy-two and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if people of peace live there, your peace will go and rest on them; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The Kingdom of God is very near to you.'"

Adapted from Luke 10:1-12.17-20
14th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

* Dear Lord Jesus, Please help us to build your **kingdom** in our hearts and in the world – to do your work on earth with love and care for all. Amen. *

Use well the gifts that God has given you

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Summer



Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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	-

Use well the gifts that God has given you