

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 1 - September 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

I would like to welcome you to a new school year as the new Headteacher of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School. It is an honour. This year, our school will strive to be a happy, caring, respectful and hard working environment where all children will be able to reach their true potential.

My vision for the school is to create an environment and culture where all are supported, encouraged and challenged. Alongside this, that all children and staff show gospel values and treat each other with respect and dignity, celebrating our own success as well as the successes of others.

I would like to say thank you for sending the children back looking so smart and ready for the next school year. All the children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and it has been lovely to see them all settle so quickly. They have also made me feel very welcome so I would like to say thank you to them.

As the children's primary learners, I recognise that parents and carers play a vital role in the development of our children and that success comes from a strong partnership between yourselves and the school. Your support is always very much appreciated. I look forward to a wonderful year.

Best wishes,

Paul Rogers



Crossing Patrol Notice



The Crossing Patrol Team have informed us that there will be no crossing patrol on the afternoon of Wednesday 10th September at the end of the day. Please can I ask that you plan ahead and take care on the busy road outside of school.

Communication

Next week, you will be requested to update your personal details on Arbor. This is important to ensure that we hold up-to-date information. If you are not signed up, or require an update of details, please contact the school office. If you are unable to access Arbor, please let us know and we will ensure you still receive this correspondence.



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School Admissions



Is your child due to start primary or secondary school in September 2026? You can now apply for their school place. The deadline for applications is

- **Friday 31st October 2025** for secondary school places. You must apply for a school place as there is no automatic transfer from primary school to secondary school.
- **Thursday 15th January 2026** for primary school places.

Apply now: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Have you got friends or family with children of school age? We have spaces available in most year groups! Please speak to Mr Rogers if you would like more information or feel free to ask them to contact school.

P.E. Days

Reception : Monday

Year 1/2: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3/4: Tuesday and Wednesday. Pupils will receive swimming tuition every Tuesday. **It is DCC policy that girls wear a one piece swimsuit, swimming caps are worn by all children and strictly no earrings.**

Year 5/6: Monday and Friday



Diary of Events for Autumn Term

We are currently finalising the calendar for events this term and this will be included in the newsletter next week. Thank you.

Head Boy, Head Girl and School Council

Next week, application forms will be sent home with pupils to apply to be on our new school council. Year 6 pupils will also have the chance to apply to be Head Boy and Head Girl. This new initiative in school will allow us to further prepare pupils for their roles as active citizens in our world – as well as increase their confidence and resilience. Please do support your child with preparing their application.



After School Clubs

After school clubs will be bookable on Arbor this afternoon. For this first half term, clubs will run for Year 1– Year 6.

Monday—Multi-Sports Tuesday—Computing Wednesday—Badminton Thursday—Choir

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Important Reminders

Attendance and punctuality



The school gates open at **8:40am** and close at **8:55am**. The children go straight into their classrooms and undertake their early morning tasks. This approach allows for extra learning time, less congestion on the yard and a smoother, quicker start to the school day. This approach worked exceptionally well last year.

We continue to take the register at 9:00am prompt but encourage children to be sat at their desks ready to learn as soon as possible. If your child was sat at their desk 10 minutes early every day, that equates to almost an extra hour in school every week. St. Patrick's is doing everything possible to maximise learning and allow all children to reach their full potential. Thank you for your support here.

The School Newsletter

This newsletter is a key way for us to share information with you, but we would love to use it to further celebrate our children—including outside of school too. Please send in photos of your child undertaking activities outside of school, share new arrivals, success of siblings, birthdays and party fun. We are a strong family community - let's all celebrate the many wonderful achievements of our children together.



Safeguarding



The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform a member of the school's Designated Safeguarding Team: **Mr Rogers and Mrs Nowell**.

In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with one of the Designated Safeguarding Leaders to seek further advice.

"Safeguarding is thinking the unthinkable and then figuring out how to reduce the probability of the unthinkable happening."

Graham Fawcet

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attendance MATTERS

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.**

Late arrivals

We understand that mornings can be hectic and that, on occasion events beyond parents' control can cause delays on the journey to school. However, we have noticed that the number of children arriving at school after the gates have closed at 8:55am has increased in recent weeks.

Class registers are taken at 9:00am prompt as we don't want to miss any learning opportunities. **All children should be in class and sat down by 9:00am.**





| Year | Attendance this week: |
|---|-----------------------|
| R | 100% |
| 1 / 2 | 97.9% |
| 3 / 4 | 91.2% |
| 5 / 6 | 93.9% |
| Weekly Overall Attendance: 92.1% | |
| Yearly Attendance to date: 92.1% | |

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 | | | | |
| Running total | | | | |

You will see your child's house points add up throughout the week via Class Dojo. Totals will begin next week. Keep looking to see how well the children are doing!

Stars of the week

| | | |
|------------|------------|---|
| All Pupils | Year R | For their fantastic start to school! |
| Abraham | Year 1 / 2 | For settling in to his new class. |
| Anne | Year 3 / 4 | For having a great first week in class. |
| Joshua | | |
| Bridget | Year 5 / 6 | For demonstrating the values of our school. |

| <u>Rainbow Rewards</u> | |
|------------------------|---|
| Red | Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind) |
| 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.

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Online Safety Tips

Article 19: The right to be protected from all forms of harm

E-Safety Tip of the Week—10 reasons to use parental controls

With everyone back at school and parents back to work after the holiday period, children and young people will have more free time to spend with friends, family and online. For many, after school spare time will be spent using the internet to keep in touch with friends, catch up with the latest apps and online trends, and playing their favourite games.

There are dozens of reasons to buy and set up parental controls on all your child's devices. Here are 10.

- Parental controls help monitor your kids' devices.
- Parental controls allow you to manage what your kids find on search engines.
- Parental controls can block certain features of games your kids can access .
- Parental controls may allow you to track your kids' location.
- Parental controls help establish good cyber safety habits.
- Parental controls can set screen time limits.
- Parental controls can help defend online reputation.
- Parental controls can help back up data.
- Parental controls can teach cyber etiquette.
- Parental controls should be customisable.

Set parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You will find a step by step guide here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

Messages

As part of our whole school commitment to wellbeing, there is no expectation for staff to read or answer emails between the hours of 5pm and 8:30am, or at anytime during weekends or holidays. Should your email not receive a reply, this is not a case of being impolite but one of choosing wellbeing ahead of workload. Your message is important to us and we will respond as soon as possible.

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St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Holiday and Term Dates: 2025—2026

| | August 2025 | September 2025 | October 2025 | November 2025 | December 2025 | January 2026 |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Monday | 4 11 18 25 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 6 13 20 27 | 3 10 17 24 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 |
| Tuesday | 5 12 19 26 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 7 14 21 28 | 4 11 18 25 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 6 13 20 27 |
| Wednesday | 6 13 20 27 | 3 10 17 24 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 | 3 10 17 24 31 | 7 14 21 28 |
| Thursday | 7 14 21 28 | 4 11 18 25 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 6 13 20 27 | 4 11 18 25 | 1 8 15 22 29 |
| Friday | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 | 3 10 17 24 31 | 7 14 21 28 | 5 12 19 26 | 2 9 16 23 30 |
| Saturday | 2 9 16 23 30 | 6 13 20 27 | 4 11 18 25 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 6 13 20 27 | 3 10 17 24 31 |
| Sunday | 3 10 17 24 31 | 7 14 21 28 | 5 12 19 26 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 7 14 21 28 | 4 11 18 25 |

| | February 2026 | March 2026 | April 2026 | May 2026 | June 2026 | July 2026 |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Monday | 2 9 16 23 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 6 13 20 27 | 4 11 18 25 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 6 13 20 27 |
| Tuesday | 3 10 17 24 | 3 10 17 24 31 | 7 14 21 28 | 5 12 19 26 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 7 14 21 28 |
| Wednesday | 4 11 18 25 | 4 11 18 25 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 6 13 20 27 | 3 10 17 24 | 1 8 15 22 29 |
| Thursday | 5 12 19 26 | 5 12 19 26 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 7 14 21 28 | 4 11 18 25 | 2 9 16 23 30 |
| Friday | 6 13 20 27 | 6 13 20 27 | 3 10 17 24 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 | 3 10 17 24 31 |
| Saturday | 7 14 21 28 | 7 14 21 28 | 4 11 18 25 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 6 13 20 27 | 4 11 18 25 |
| Sunday | 1 8 15 22 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 | 3 10 17 24 31 | 7 14 21 28 | 5 12 19 26 |

AUTUMN TERM: 74 days

SPRING TERM: 58 days

SUMMER TERM: 59 days

TOTAL: 190 days (5 days for in-service training of teachers). Additional training to be taken as twilight sessions.

The school will be open to pupils for 190 days

TRAINING DAYS: Monday 1st September 2025, Monday 5th January 2026, Monday 20th July 2026, Tuesday 21st July 2026, Final Training Day TBC

| |
|-----------------|
| School Holidays |
| Training Days |
| Bank Holidays |
| Year 6 SATs |

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