



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 16 **23rd January 2026**

Dear Parents, Carers and Parishioners,

This week we looked at different faiths from around the world as we celebrated World Faith Day. We shared an assembly looking at some of the beliefs and customs in Judaism, Buddhism and Islam. On Friday, Year 5 and 6 then celebrated mass at church thinking about our journey as Christians. This week, let us think about our global community and the differences that exist between society and pray that faith leaders and world leaders can come together in peace and unity.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paul Rogers

SATs Booster Sessions

Booster sessions for Year 6 children will start from the week beginning Monday 2nd February. The sessions are open to all Year 6 children and are free of charge. Booster sessions will run on a Monday from 3.30pm – 4.25pm and on a Thursday from 8.10am – 8.40am. Sessions will be a combination of Maths and Reading. A letter will be forwarded to all Year 6 parents next week.

SVP Holy Island Summer Camp

As a participant over forty years ago, I know what a great opportunity the SVP Summer Camp is. I have included a poster in the Newsletter that gives details. Anyone interested can get further information or apply using the website or email at the bottom of the poster.

St Patrick's Food Bank

St Patrick's School is an important part of the community. In school, we have set up a small Food Bank that will be stocked with essentials to support anyone in our community who may need a little support. Please take something if you know someone who would benefit from a bit of kindness. Alternatively, if you would like to donate an item to the Food Bank, donations will be gratefully received. Thank you for the support you give school and the wider community.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
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SVP HOLY ISLAND *Summer* CAMP

**7 days
accomodation, food &
activities:**

COST

£175

**Applications open now
Dates:**

- Week 1 Sat 18th July -25th July
- Week 2 Sat 25th July-1st August
- Week 3 Sat 1st August- 8th August
- Week 5 Sat 15th August-22nd August
- Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th August



**fun &
creative
outdoor
activities**

**Open to children in
year 5, 6 & 7.**

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.**

| Year | Attendance this week: |
|--|-----------------------|
| R | 100% |
| 1 / 2 | 100% |
| 3 / 4 | 87.78% |
| 5 / 6 | 100% |
| Weekly Overall Attendance: 96.18% | |
| Yearly Attendance to date: 95.21% | |

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." - BW CET Attendance Policy

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.



Use well the gifts that God has given you

| HOUSE POINTS | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|
| Feast Days: | St. Bede | St. Cuthbert | St. Hilda | St. Aidan |
| 25th May |  |  |  |  |
| 20th March | | | | |
| 17th November | | | | |
| 31st August | | | | |
| Weekly total | 293 | 289 | 257 | 257 |
| Running total | 4522 | 4638 | 4677 | 4710 |

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

Gaja Year R For trying hard to form letters correctly.

Mihilu Year 1 / 2 For working independently.

Aurora Year 3 / 4 For excellent effort and resilience in maths.

Chidera Year 5 / 6 For increasing enthusiasm in reading.

Rainbow Rewards

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Red | Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind) | Lily, |
| Green | Is for the world he made (Be a steward) | Jedidah, Aurora, Grace, Thomas, Ruby, Ella C, |
| Yellow | Is for the light so bright (Be humble) | Mrs Hutchinson |
| Orange | Is strong and full of might (Be courageous) | Olivia |
| Purple | Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry) | |
| Pink | Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair) | Jacob |
| Blue | Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option) | Summer, Georgie |

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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Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community.

Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect - even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community.

Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness.

Wednesday 21st January 2026

People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school - together.

Enjoy a special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COMMUNITY**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community." St Baldwin of Canterbury

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 25th January 2026



Hearing that John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." As he was walking beside the

Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there, he saw another pair of brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Adapted from Matt. 4:12-23

The 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

Good News for Everyone

When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus gathers round him a community which receives his word, follows it, shares in his journey and becomes his family. Jesus came for everyone and with him we, and our children, will never be on our own.

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Spring Term Dates

| Date | Event | Time | Parents Invited |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday 6.1.26 | Return to school for Spring Term | 8.50am | |
| Wednesday 14.1.26 | Year 6 Parent SATs Meeting | 5.00pm | Yes |
| Thursday 29.1.26 | Year 4 Parent Tables Check Meeting | 3.30pm | Yes |
| w/b Monday 2.2.26 | Children's Mental Health Week | All week | No |
| Tuesday 10.2.26 | Safer Internet Day | All Day | No |
| Tuesday 10.2.26 | Year 1 Parent Phonics Meeting | 3.30pm | Yes |
| Friday 20.2.25 | Break up for half-term holiday | | |
| Monday 2.3.26 | Return to school for Spring 2 nd Half Term | | |
| Thursday 5.3.26 | World Book Day: Book Character and 'Breakfast with a book' / Assembly | All Day | Yes 8.30am/ 9am |
| w/c Monday 9.3.26 | Science Week | All Week | |
| Monday 9.3.26 | Reception Stay and Discover (Parent and Pupil sessions) | 2.00pm – 3.25pm | Yes |
| Tuesday 10.3.26 | Class 4 Learn with me (Parent and Pupil sessions) | 2.00pm – 3.25pm | Yes |
| Wednesday 11.3.26 | Class 3 Learn with me (Parent and Pupil sessions) | 2.00pm – 3.25pm | Yes |
| Thursday 12.3.26 | Class 2 Learn with me (Parent and Pupil sessions) | 2.00pm – 3.25pm | Yes |
| Friday 13.3.26 | Someone Special Celebration | 2.45pm | Yes |
| Tuesday 17.3.26 | St Patrick's Day Celebrations: Non – uniform – wear something green | All Day | No |
| Tuesday 24.3.26 | Parents Evening | 3.30pm – 6.00pm | Yes |
| Wednesday 25.3.26 | Parents Evening | 3.30pm – 6.00pm | Yes |
| Monday 30.3.26 | Stations of the Cross – Led by Year 3/4 | 3pm | Yes |
| Thursday 2.4.26 | Easter Service | 2pm | Yes |
| Thursday 2.4.26 | Break up for Easter Holidays | | |
| Monday 20.4.26 | Return to school for Summer Term | | |

Future events will be added when confirmed.

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

NOT RECOMMENDED
13+
(Content features are restricted to over-13s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £3.99 to an eye-watering £99, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 16-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app, that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth looking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College