



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 20 20th February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Parishioners,

The start of Lent encourages us all to prepare for the Easter Season through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During Lent we are reminded that all acts of kindness, no matter how small, make a difference. As we journey through the season of Lent, we live in the hope that we are ready for Easter and the resurrection of Jesus.

Thank you and well done to all our children who have continued to show kindness, love, compassion and togetherness that make St Patrick's a wonderful place. I would also like to pass on my appreciation to parents and carers who are always unwavering in their support of the school.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break with family and friends.

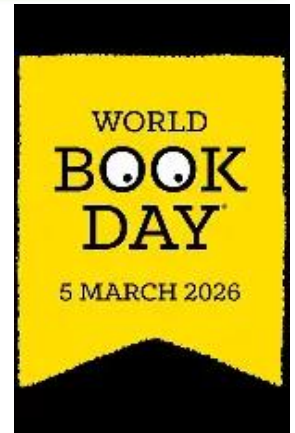
Paul Rogers

World Book Day

World book Day will be held this year on Thursday 5th March. The day represents an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the amazing abilities of books; to learn, to captivate, to inspire, to take us to places in our imagination. The children will be carrying out several different activities throughout the day.

To celebrate the day, we would love parents and carers to join us for breakfast from 8.30am. Shortly after the start of school, we will also have a parade where the children will show off their World Book Day characters.

We look forward to welcoming you to join in our celebration and mark what is always a fantastic day.



After School Clubs

St Patrick's recognises the importance of providing a range of after school clubs. Clubs are open to all our children.

Next half term the clubs are:

Monday – Multi Sports Club

Tuesday – Arts and Crafts

Wednesday – Sports Club

Thursday – Choir

Any queries regarding the clubs can be made to the school office.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher: Mr. P. Rogers
Telephone: 0191 378 0552
E-mail: stpl@stpl.bwcet.com

World Book Day

See poster below with details.

World Book Day
5th March 2026

Garden Kitchen

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF SUE HENDRA'S SUPERTATO
INTRODUCING OUR VERY OWN RANGE OF GARDEN KITCHEN
SUPERHEROES!

INTRODUCING... CHICKEN CHAMP!
A BRAVE NEW HERO IN THE SUPERHERO UNIVERSE
(CHICKEN BURGER IN A BUN, SPRINKLE OF CHEESE & KETCHUP)

INTRODUCING... VEGGIE VICTOR!
THE GREEN-POWERED HERO OF THE BURGER WORLD!
(VEGETARIAN BURGER IN A BUN WITH SPRINKLE OF CHEESE & KETCHUP)

THE GREEN SALAD SQUAD
A BOWL FULL OF BRAVERY!
(MIXED GREEN SALAD)

THE WEDGE WARRIORS
CRISPY, CRUNCHY, AND READY FOR ACTION!
(POTATO WEDGES)

SHORTBREAD SHIELD
CRUMBS TO THE RESCUE
(SHORTBREAD)

JELLY JOLT
WIBBLE, WOBBLE... AND WONDER!
(ORANGE JELLY)

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN ALLERGY OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENT. YOUR CATERING TEAM WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN PROVIDE TAILORED MENUS TO CATER FOR YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS.

Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Primary School

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	97.22%
1 / 2	98.69%
3 / 4	93.33%
5 / 6	94.74%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 95.66%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 95.3%	

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

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	494	587	498	523
Running total	7404	7864	7649	7713

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

- Albert** **Year R** For listening carefully and sharing great answers in RE.
- Ada** **Year 1 / 2** For working extremely hard to improve her reading and phonics.
- Aurora** **Year 3 / 4** For great work with fractions.
- Matilda** **Year 5 / 6** For supporting others in learning new concepts in maths and being a positive role model.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Thomas, Ruby, Mackenzie, Ella C, Oscar N
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Findley, Cyril, Lily
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
Orange	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Jacob
Purple	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	Dylan
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

Wednesday
18th February

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME 

1

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into loaves." But Jesus replied with God's word saying, "Scripture says: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" The tempter then took him to the top of the Temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down; for scripture says: 'He will put you in his angels' charge and they will come to save you.'" Jesus said to him, "Scripture also says: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Next, the tempter showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "I will give you all these," he said, "if you fall at my feet and worship me." Then Jesus replied, "Be off, Satan! For scripture says: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'" Then the tempter left him, and angels appeared and looked after Jesus.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 22nd February 2026. Matthew 4:1-11 (the 1st Sunday of Lent, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **LENT**.



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 9.2.26	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 13.2.26	Year 3/ 4 Class Mass	9.30am	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.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](https://www.thenationalcollege.com)

#WakeUpWednesday®

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