

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Issue 24 – 27th March 2026

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

It is unbelievable that we are almost at the end of another term. As we move towards Holy Week, let us continue to prepare ourselves for the truly amazing events of Easter. We start on Palm Sunday with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the crowds singing, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" It is wonderful that the children are in school next week as we journey through the events of Holy Week. Next Thursday, we will conclude with the children sharing the Easter Story in church through songs, readings and prayers. I hope you are able to come and share in some of the events.

Have a lovely weekend,

Paul Rogers

SEND Support Plans

A huge thank you to parents that attended the termly review meetings on Thursday with Miss Hughes (SENDCO) and the class teacher. St Patrick's recognises the importance of supporting all the children in our school and ensuring that the needs of every child are met. We are grateful for the support we receive from parents and are appreciative of the strong relationship that exists between the school and parents and carers. Thank you.

Defibrillator Competition

Today, following a fantastic competition to design a cover for a defibrillator, the winner was announced. Matilda was chosen from some amazing entries and was presented with a miniature plaque of her winning design. Tom and Priscilla from the council presented Matilda with her plaque. They also spoke to the children about how important defibrillators are in helping save lives. Please ask the children about what they learned. The winning design can be seen on the defibrillator that is situated outside the Lord Boyne Hotel in Langley Moor.



Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to Matilda.

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Arbor Payments

A gentle reminder that if your child has a paid for school lunch or uses Breakfast Club, please can we ask that there are sufficient funds on their account to cover the cost. Accounts are not intended to run into a debit balance. If you have any problems, please contact the school office.



CAFOD Big Walk

On Wednesday the 1st April, St Patrick's will be holding a Big Walk to raise funds to support the work of CAFOD. The children can come to school in non-uniform in return for a donation. The Big Walk around the school grounds will take place at 2pm. Please come along if you can to support the children and help us raise money for CAFOD.

Next Week's Calendar

Monday 30th March - Class 3 Stations of the Cross - 3pm

Wednesday 1st April - CAFOD Big Walk - 2pm / Non-uniform day

Thursday 2nd April - Easter Service in Church - 2pm / End of spring term

St Cuthbert Crosses at Ushaw

St Cuthbert's Crosses that have been decorated by pupils will be on display over the Easter holidays. Families are welcome to arrange a visit. The opening times are available on the website using the link [Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels & Gardens - Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels & Gardens](#)

The contact number is 0191 373 8500.



The Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is based on the Gospel in church that week. It is for families to share the Word of God together at home.

Please use the link [The Wednesday Word | The Sunday Gospel | Catholic Church](#)



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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, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Nowell and Mr Holbrook.**

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	95.56%
1 / 2	96.67%
3 / 4	93%
5 / 6	94.21%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 94.7%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 94.36%	

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	402	361	327	391
Running total	9033	9340	9163	9287

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

Ella	Year R	For super quick maths thinking.
Jake	Year 1 / 2	For being kind and thoughtful to others and sharing in class.
Ava	Year 3 / 4	For determination in all lessons.
Oscar N	Year 5 / 6	For good concentration in class and maintaining a high standard of work.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Phoebe, Finley, Oscar N
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Mihilu, Summer, Ada, Kaylee, Georgie, Max
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)	Georgia
Blue	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	Lucas H

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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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable in smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back - or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipcombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Use well the gifts that God has given you



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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	August 2026	September 2026	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026	January 2027
Monday	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
Tuesday	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
Wednesday	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
Thursday	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
Friday	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
Saturday	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
Sunday	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

	February 2027	March 2027	April 2027	May 2027	June 2027	July 2027
Monday	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
Tuesday	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
Wednesday	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
Thursday	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
Friday	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
Saturday	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
Sunday	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

AUTUMN TERM: 73 days

SPRING TERM: 53 days

SUMMER TERM: 64 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: Tuesday 2nd September 2026, Monday 4th January 2027, Monday 19th July 2027, Tuesday 20th July 2027, Wednesday 21st July 2027

School Holidays
Training Days
Bank Holidays
Year 6 SATs

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