St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Issue 28 – 15th May 2026

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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

This week has been all about our Year 6 pupils. Having to carry out SAT tests can be very demanding and incredibly stressful. However, the children have taken the tests in their stride and have been amazing this week. They never cease to amaze me at how focused, determined and resilient they can be. We would like to say well done. On Friday, the week was celebrated with a visit to the park and then the excitement of getting their St Patrick's hoodie. I hope they wear them with pride. Enjoy the weekend. Best Wishes,

Paul Rogers

Statement to Live By

Next week, our Statement to Live By is **'I try to accept forgiveness from others.'**

Please spend a little time talking to the children about how they can 'live out' the statement in their own lives to support a positive and caring ethos in school, at home and in the community.

School Photographs

We will have the photographer in school on Thursday June 11th. Any parents that would like non-attending children to have their photo taken with siblings will need to do so at the beginning of the school day. Individual photos and a class photo will be taken throughout the morning. Details on how to purchase photos will be sent to you afterwards.

School Mass

The children will celebrate a May mass in church on Friday 22nd May at 9.30am. Please try and join us.

Summer Fayre

Thank you for the donations to support our Summer Fayre. Your support is always appreciated. Reminders of future events will appear in upcoming newsletters.

Year 5/6 Swimming

After half-term, Class 4 (Year 5/6) will be swimming on a Tuesday afternoon. Please can the children remember to bring trunks/ costume, a hat, towel and goggles. Thank you.

Use well the gifts that God has given you

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.**

Year	Attendance this week:
R	88.89%
1 / 2	100%
3 / 4	93.85%
5 / 6	99.47%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 96.56%	
Yearly Attendance to date: 94.69%	

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.**

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: 25th May 20th March 17th November 31st August	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
Weekly total	379	389	362	389
Running total	10615	10970	10740	10812

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

Grace	**Year R**	For amazing independent writing.
Finley	**Year 1 / 2**	For thoughtful responses in RE.
Anne	**Year 3 / 4**	For trying her best in all lessons.
Year 6	**Year 5 /6**	For a fantastic attitude all week.

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Lucas H, Jackson, Anne, Amelie, Peaches
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Blanka, Matilda, Mackenzie, Albert, Ella N
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
Orange	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Mihilu
Purple	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
Pink	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	Bridget, Aurora, Oscar G, Dylan
Blue	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	Max

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

Summer Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Parents
Monday 4.5.26	Bank Holiday Monday	All Day	
Friday 8.5.26	VE Day	All Day	No
w/c Monday 11.5.26	KS2 SATs Week	All Week	
Friday 15.5.26	Non-uniform Day (Toys and Books)	All Day	No
Thursday 21.5.26	World Day for Cultural Diversity	All Day	No
Friday 22.5.26	Whole School Mass	9.30am	Yes
Friday 22.5.26	Break up for half-term holiday	3.25pm	
Monday 1.6.26	Return to school for Summer Term 2	8.55am	
w/c Monday 1.6.26	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check		
Friday 5.6.26	Non-uniform Day (Chocolates)	All Day	No
Saturday 6.6.26	First Holy Communion (Church)	5.30pm	Yes
w/c Monday 8.6.26	Phonics Screening Check delivery	All Week	No
Thursday 11.6.26	New Intake Meeting (Reception)	4.30pm	Yes
Wednesday 17.6.26	Y6 Cluster Event (St Thomas More)	10am – 2.30pm	No
Friday 19.6.26	Non-uniform Day (Bottles)	All Day	No
Friday 19.6.26	Whole School Mass (First Holy Communion celebration)	9.30am	Yes
Friday 19.6.26	Someone Special Assembly	3.00pm	Yes
w/c 22.6.26	Health Week: Sports clothes	All Week	
Tuesday 23.6.26	Sports Day	AM	Yes
Wednesday 24.6.26	Hall Hill Form Trip – Reception/ Year 3/4		
Thursday 25.6.26	Year 6 YMT Festival	All Day	No
Friday 26.6.26	INSET DAY – School closed	All Day	
Wednesday 1.7.26	Year 6 Ford Castle Residential	Wed – Fri	
Monday 6.7.26	Durham Johnson Year 6 Intake	11.30am – 2.45pm	
Tuesday 7.7.26	Reception 'Graduation' Celebration	2.45pm	Yes
Thursday 9.7.26	Transition Day in School	All Day	No
Friday 10.7.26	St Leonards Year 5 and 6 Taster session	All Day	
Monday 13.7.26	Annual Reports sent out to parents	3.25pm	
Tuesday 14.7.26	Summer Fair	1.30pm	Yes
Thursday 16.7.26	Eny of Year mass	9.30am	Yes
Friday 17.7.26	Year 6 'Leavers' Celebration'	9.10am	Yes
Friday 17.7.26	End of Term	3.25pm	

THE WORD Wednesday

SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

A Gift to You & Your Family from Your Catholic School

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is telling his Father in heaven that he has now completed what was asked of him. Then, Jesus prays for his friends. This reminds us that Jesus prays for all his friends, which includes you and me too.

This takes place after the last supper and, very soon, Jesus will be arrested. So before leaving his friends he is preparing them for the difficult time to come. Jesus wants his friends to stay united with one another and with God - forever.

Friendship is one of life's great blessings and Jesus' friendship is also offered to each one of us. When we have good friendships, we can support each other, have fun together, and share our joys and challenges. We can also learn from each other and grow in our faith.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough

A Word from the Saints

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." St Thomas Aquinas

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 17th May 2026

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. I have made your name known to those you gave me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted it. They know that I came from you and believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

Adapted from John 17:1-11
The 7th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful. Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf

Good News for Everyone

When we have good friendships, we feel happy and fulfilled because we know that we're loved and supported. Growing in friendship with Jesus helps us to know how much he loves us. This makes us happy and helps us to be kind and loving to others too.

SPREAD THE WORD and bring **GOOD NEWS** to your friends by sharing ***THE WEDNESDAY WORD***

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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year - an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

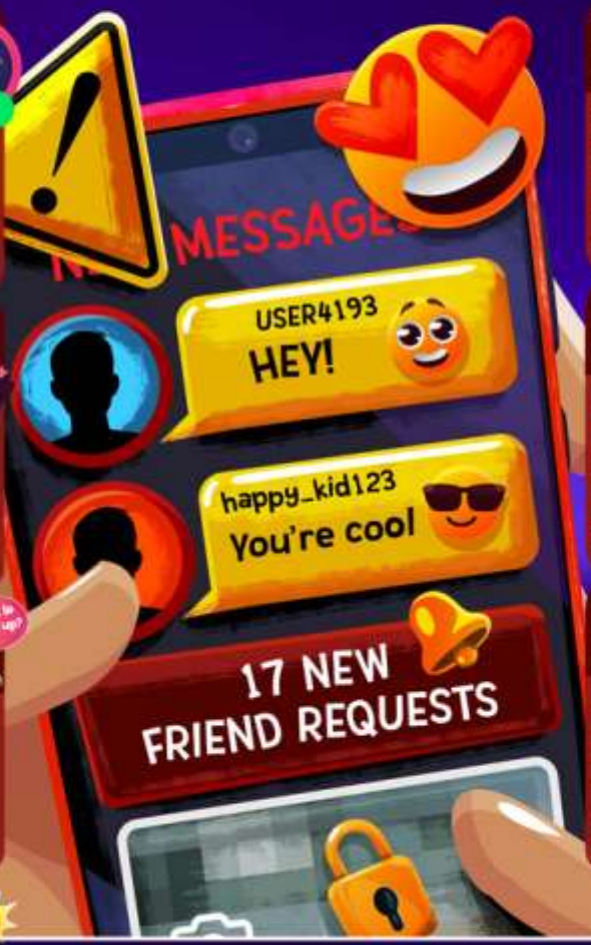
Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.



THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

Staffordshire Police

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.03.2026

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

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Use well the gifts that God has given you

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Holiday and Term Dates: 2026—2027

	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

Use well the gifts that God has given you

Use well the gifts that God has given you