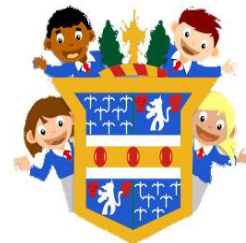


Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

(for parents, pupils, governors, staff and parishioners)

Week ending Friday 15th May

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

We have been so proud of our Year 6 class this week and their mature approach to their SATs. While SATs are important and give our children the opportunity to show what they have learned, they do not measure the many other qualities that make each of our children unique and successful — such as creativity, kindness, resilience, teamwork and determination. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and the progress they have made throughout their time at Saint Patrick's, and again have been so impressed by the positive way in which they approached the SATs. We hope they are as proud of themselves as we, and we know their families are, of them...and we hope they enjoyed their pizza treat! Well done Year 6!

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

ATTENDANCE - As a school we continue to aim for our school attendance to be 96% and **this week our whole school attendance has been 95%**. If you need advice or support on how to improve your child's attendance, please contact the School Office Team and we will be happy to discuss this matter further with you. From children having difficulty sleeping to medical concerns, please contact us and we can support your family or signpost you to the best people. **Please remember to inform the School Office if your child is not attending school and give a specific reason for their absence, (please do not say 'unwell' or 'sick') this will need to be done for each day your child/ren is absent for our records. Our School Office is open daily from 8.45am – 3.15pm** The Department for Education published revised guidance, which came into effect from August 2024. We have attached the guidance to this newsletter and the letter previously sent out to families from Wiltshire LA, which advises of all of the changes and penalties which you could incur. We would ask you to be fully aware of these changes when requesting time away from school or holidays



THE WORLD IS A CHALLENGING PLACE AT PRESENT, HOW TO TALK ABOUT THIS WITH YOUR CHILD – We know that some parents have rased with their concerns about their child/ren hearing some of the awful news stories, which have been recently reproted on the day time news. Many children will have seen or heard some of the horrific events that have been happening in our world recently, whether that's on the radio, newspapers, someone discussing it, or perhaps online and children can becom very worried by what they are seeing and hearing. This article from The Conversation discusses the issue and gives some really good advice for parents, particularly when thinkgn about the recent incident in Golders Green <https://theconversation.com/how-to-talk-to-children-when-terrorist-attacks-and-violence-dominate-the-news-281879> If you have further concerns, please do contact us for further support.

CURRICULUM

TAPESTRY AND GOOGLE CLASSROOMS – Google Classrooms is fully accesible to all families with children in Years 1 to Year 6 and Tapestry is available for our Reception families. If you encounter any difficulties, please speak to our Office Team, for further guidance. Here you will find all of our curriculum updates for your child/ren's class. This information includes:

- A curriculum update for the term
- Termly curriculum newsletter
- Weekly Home Learning
- * PE days for your child/ren
- * Termly key vocabulary
- * Notices e.g. school trip details, changes to normal timetable

SCIENCE WEEK – FROM ASKING QUESTIONS TO EXPLOSIONS, WHAT A WEEK IT WAS! – Week 3 and 4 at St. Patrick's were all about Science! This year's theme was 'Curiosity: What's your question?', which gave us an opportunity to wonder and ask questions about the world around us and search for answers! Classes investigated a wide range of questions including; How do plants take water in? How are shadows formed and changed? Do seeds need soil to grow? Why do some plants have flowers? How can we change the colour of flower petals? How are we flat on the ground when the world is round? We planned and carried out investigations and did lots of research to find answers to our questions. We were thrilled to welcome back our Governor Dr. Laura Cadman who spoke about the importance of asking questions and showed us how modern designs are answering the questions 'Can robots be farmers?' and 'Do socks feel pain?' Becky from the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution visited us and carried out two excellent, practical workshops – looking at Stone Age artefacts and flintknapping (using bars of soap) with Year 3, and discussing Mary Anning's life and her love of fossils with Year 1. Classes carried out STEM projects, designing and building pollinator plant pots, bird feeders and minibeast habitats, all in order to support our biodiversity and wildlife here at school. Finally, we were incredibly fortunate to secure a grant from the Royal Institution for a whole day of Science demonstrations and learning to finish off our



Science Week(s) learning. There were lots of amazed faces and delighted squeals from the children, teachers and families. It was such a treat to have Scientist Nerys wowing us with energy, reactions, flames, rockets and lightning bolts!

It was delightful to share our scientific learning and celebrate some stand-out scientists in each class, during our Celebration Assembly on the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough, an inspirational figure in the natural and scientific world. A very fitting end to a wonderful Science Week!

Mrs Osborne - Science Subject Leader

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

PRAYING FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD – As you will have read in the ‘Keeping Our Children safe’ part of this newsletter, the world is a challenging place at present. The recent incident at Golders Green greatly impacted our friends in the Jewish community and our thoughts and prayers have been with them all. This made us think of when Pope Leo shared with us in January 2026, his call for “*an end to all antisemitism, prejudice, oppression and persecution worldwide.*” When the Pope commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day, he shared that “*The Church rejects any discrimination or harassment based on ethnicity, language, nationality or religion*” and ended by saying “*I will just say that we must pray very much for peace.*” As we share with our children we must remember that we are a global family, who treat everyone we meet or even those we do not, with dignity and kindness. In a world where we may not know what to say or do...be kind.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – It is not long until some of our children prepare to take their First Holy Communion in June, which is a very special day for them and their families. As our children prepare to celebrate the special sacrament of First Holy Communion, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers at this joyful and important time in their faith journey. We ask our school and parish community to pray for all of the children and their families as they prepare for their special day.



ENRICHMENT

REMEMBER OUR FIRST SAINT PATRICK'S HAPPINESS FESTIVAL – Join us on the 16th May for our very first joyful and uplifting Happiness Festival – a day dedicated to well-being, positivity, and fun for all ages! Explore a variety of themed zones designed to inspire and relax, including calm spaces for unwinding, mindfulness activities to soothe the mind, and creative areas filled with art and music. Whether you're looking to recharge or try something new, there will be something for everyone. We'll also be offering bookable holistic treatments such as massage, alongside opportunities to discover ways to support and improve your physical health. Take time to browse our fantastic selection of stalls featuring sustainable gifts, jewellery, skincare products, and plenty of delicious treats to enjoy. Bring the whole family along to connect with others, discover new hobbies, and soak up the positive atmosphere. It's the perfect chance to relax, explore, chat, and most importantly—have fun!



You can find the full list of attendees so far (with more still to come!) on our Instagram page, and you can start booking for payable treatments and activities using the following link <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stpatricksschoolptfa/2123910>

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

DISCO DAY! – Today is our school disco and the children arrived looking splendid in their disco outfits! A huge thank you to Steph, Lisa, Emily and Anna who organise our PTFA events. They are a small but mighty crew, who organise so many wonderful events throughout the year. If you are ever available, or have any skills and talents which you would like to share, please do contact us and we will pass your information on to them. They will be supporting us at HappyFest, so please do have a chat with them then.



Dates for your Diary...

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| Mon. 18th May | Celebration of the Word – school only – Pentecost 12noon Rosary led by Chaplaincy Team, month of Mary |
| Tues. 19th May | Athletics Club Years 3-6 - 3.15 – 4.15pm |
| Wed. 20th May | Maths Day? Father Craig visiting Key Stage 2 @ 9.15am 12noon Rosary led by Chaplaincy Team, month of Mary |
| Thurs. 21st May | Athletics Club Years 1-2 3.15 – 4.15pm |
| Fri. 22nd May | Year 5 and 6 Visit to Stratford – Upon-Avon Rosary 12 noon led by Chaplaincy Team No Celebration Assembly Last Day of Term 5 |
| Future Dates.... <i>Thursday 4th June – Term 6 begins!</i> <i>Wednesday 17th June – Year 6 Leavers' Mass @ Clifton Cathedral</i> <i>Thursday 2nd July – Sports Day Reception, Y1 and Y2 am and Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 pm</i> <i>Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th July – Parents Evening Online (Y1-Y6)</i> <i>Wednesday 22nd July - Leavers' Assembly @ school for Year 6 families</i> | |

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| INSET DAYS FOR 2025-26 |
| Mon. 1st September 2025 |
| Mon. 5th January 2025 |
| Mon. 1st June 2026 |
| Tues. 2nd June 2026 |
| Wed. 3rd June 2026 |

As this is the last newsletter of Term 5, please do remember that we have extra days in half term, and so do not return until Thursday 4th June. Have a wonderful half term with your loved ones and we hope the sun shines!

Jennie Courtney
Headteacher