Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School
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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 6th November

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

Our first week back and we have been busy already! We are also heading towards *'the most wonderful time of the year…'* Whether you are ready for it or not, read on for more details…

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

ATTENDANCE – This week our attendance has been 93%. As a school we continue to aim for our **school attendance to be 96%.** 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

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE ON THE LACOCK ROAD - As we begin a new term, we would like to ask all families to help us prioritize the safety of our children and wider school community during drop-off and collection times. ***We are very grateful to Wiltshire Council for providing parking permits to encourage families to use the public car parks. Please do make use of these wherever possible, as this will help to ease congestion around the school and make the roads safer for everyone.*** We also ask that all drivers:

- Drive slowly and carefully along Lacock Road.
- Do not park on the yellow hatchings or double yellow lines.
- Keep the corners of our school driveway clear.
- Avoid blocking access for our neighbours.

For families walking to and from school, please keep children close by and within 'grabbing' distance, particularly when crossing roads or walking alongside traffic. Please also be mindful of the uneven roads and pavements – we live in a beautiful historic town, but historic does mean the roads and pavements have been here a lot longer than we have!

We appreciate that parking can be challenging, and this is certainly not a moan as we start the new term. However, we have had some worrying near misses where children have come very close to being hit by vehicles. This is something we take extremely seriously.

We want to work positively with our families and the wider community to make sure that every child can arrive at and leave school safely. Thank you for your understanding, consideration and continued support. Our children's safety must always come first.

CURRICULUM

TAPESTRY AND GOOGLE CLASSROOMS – Google Classrooms and Tapestry will be accesible to parents by week 3. 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

RECEPTION PARENTS EVENING– Parents evening will be on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th November, from 3.25 – 6.15pm. ***Bookings are now open via School Cloud and closed today, Friday 6th November.*** Please contact the School Office Team, if you have any difficulties.

CLASS CATCH UP DATES – Come in to visit us in class, see what we have been learning and even have a sneak peek at the new library!

Mon. 16th Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 5	**Thurs. 19th Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 6**
Tues. 17th Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 4	**Mon. 23rd Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 3**
Wed. 18th Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 1	**Tues. 24th Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 2**

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

CELEBRATING RE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK – What a wonderful few days we had celebrating our RE and Cultural Diversity Week! One of the real highlights was our special dressing-up day, when the children arrived wearing clothing inspired by their own cultures or cultures from around the world that they admire. It was such a joy to see the colour, variety and individuality across our school, and a lovely opportunity for the children to share something of themselves with others. Throughout the week, the children learnt so much about different world religions, their beliefs, traditions and celebrations. We were particularly grateful to our visitors, Iris and Mr Singh, who generously shared their knowledge and experiences with us. As well as the staff and pupils of St Gregory's Catholic College, who shared an assembly with us, helping to bring learning to life.



We hope the children have enjoyed sharing some of their new knowledge and discoveries with you at home. Learning about one another, understanding our differences, respecting different beliefs and celebrating the richness of our world are so important. At a time when our world can sometimes feel divided and separated, these opportunities help us to build bridges, develop compassion and recognise all that we share as human beings. At Saint Patrick's, we celebrate the uniqueness of every individual and believe that understanding one another brings us all closer together. What a wonderful lesson for us all!



REMEMBRANCE 2026 – It is with great pride that we will be joining our community in the Corsham Remembrance Events again this year. On Sunday 8th November, Tyler and Matylda will represent our school community at the laying of wreaths. This will be at the War Memorial at 10.45am. All are welcome to attend this poignant and important gathering. A Requiem Mass with Acts of Remembrance for the Fallen will be celebrated on Sunday 8th November, at 9am in St. Patrick's Church. We have been selling poppies, bands, reflectors etc every morning before school in support of the Royal British Legion. We thank you on their behalf, for your support.

ENRICHMENT/ PARTNERS AS PARTNERS



A LIBRARY TO LOVE, OUR OFFICIAL OPENING! – What a wonderful day we have had officially opening our newly refurbished school library! This has been an ongoing project, led by us as a school, working alongside our brilliant PTFA team and our children. It was a real joy to celebrate its opening with all of our children, staff and some very special guests. Our vision was to create a welcoming, inspiring space for everyone — somewhere children would love to learn, research, explore new worlds and simply cosy up with a good book.



We are incredibly lucky to have the artistic talents of our local artist, Caroline Rudge, who has beautifully brought a little piece of Corsham Court into our school building, with wonderful illustrations of birds, stags, squirrels and, of course, a peacock! These beautiful touches make our library truly unique. There are so many people to thank for helping us bring this vision to life. Our heartfelt thanks go to The Late Lord Methuen's Trust, who have kindly donated money towards new books for our children, Steph Laver from our PTFA, for organising and coordinating the project and Miss Wilkinson (English Subject Leader), whose own love of reading has inspired us all to create a space where children can develop their love of learning, research and reading. A special thank you must also go to our wonderful Year 5 children and team, who rolled up their sleeves and became part of the great 'book sort'! Finally, thank you to you, our families, whose generosity and many donations to PTFA events make projects like this possible.

In our Year of Reading, and as we celebrate 60 years of Saint Patrick's, we hope this special space will inspire a lifelong love of reading and become a treasured part of school life for many years to come. It truly is a library to love!

If you would like to see more of Carolines' work, please follow this link to her website https://www.carolinerudge.com/

*AND FINALLY….*Dates for your Diary…

Mon. 9th Nov	Celebration of the Word – British Values School only 3.15 – 4.15pm Gardening Club KS1
Tues. 10th Nov	Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass –Families contacted in Term 1 Dance Club – Years 1/2 - 3.15 – 4.15pm Reception Parents Evening– School Cloud
Wed. 11th Nov	11am Remembrance 2 minutes silence – whole school Year 4 Swimming 1/6
Thurs. 12th Nov	Dance Club – Years 3/4/5/6 – 3.15 - 4.15pm Reception Parents Evening– School Cloud
Fri. 13th Nov	Celebration Assembly 6.30pm Music by Candlelight Concert – invited guests
Future and 'Christmas' Dates…. **Fri. 13th Nov –** Order deadline for ordering PTFA Christmas Trees	

INSET DAYS FOR 2026-27
Tues. 1st September 2026
Wed. 2nd September 2026
Mon. 4th January 2027
Thurs. 22nd July 2027
Fri. 23rd July 2027

Thurs. 19th Nov – Flu vaccinations
Fri. 20th Nov – Year 6 Class Assembly
Sat. 21st Nov – 21st PTFA Wreath Making 7-9.30pm
Thurs. 26th and Fri. 27th Nov – Bikeability – families will be contacted
Mon. 30th Nov and Tues 1st Dec – Bikeability – families will be contacted
Fri. 4th Dec – School Bazaar (afternoon) and Corsham Light Switch On (evening)
Wed. 9th Dec – Reception and KS1 Nativity @ 9.30am and 2pm – ticketed
Thurs. 10th Dec – KS2 Christmas performance @ 1.45 and 5.30pm – ticketed
Tues. 15th Dec - Reception & KS1 Christmas Lunch – book online
Wed. 16th Dec - KS2 Christmas Lunch – book online
Fri. 18th Dec – Christingle for whole school – please bring an orange

J Courtney **(Headteacher)**





