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

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

Week ending Friday 20th November

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

We had the most joyous evening on Friday as we started our 60th anniversary celebrations! Read on to learn more about what else we have been up to…

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

ATTENDANCE – This week our attendance has been **92%.** 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

UNWRAPPING TECHNOLOGY SAFELY TEAMS MEETING FOR PARENTS – As we approach the Christmas season, many children may receive new devices such as tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles or other internet-enabled technology. While these gifts can provide opportunities for learning, creativity and communication, they can also present new challenges for families navigating the online world. To support parents and carers, we will be hosting a Parent Online Safety Workshop- 'Unwrapping Technology Safely'. Please be assured that this workshop is not intended to encourage the purchase of devices or technology for children. Rather, we recognise that many families may already be planning to give such gifts this Christmas, and we want to ensure that parents feel informed, confident and equipped to keep their children safe online. We are holding this Workshop via 'Teams' in order to allow for parents to join from home if necessary. Please follow the link to join: Unwrapping Technology Safely | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams ***Mrs. Minty Computing Subject Leader***

OUR SMARTPHONE FREE PARENT GROUP UPDATE – Christmas 'Good Tech Gift Guide'. In time for the Christmas gift purchasing rush, Smartphone Free Childhood have released an updated Good Tech Gift Guide for parents, grandparents and carers looking for well-designed technology that allows children to explore, create & connect – without an addictive algorithm or app in sight. The guide features the best and safest new products on the market designed specifically for children – everything from music players, alarm clocks, home phones, digital cameras and so much more! Enjoy exploring this great list of goodies – the market for child safe non-addictive technology is really opening up. To view, please follow the link https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/good-tech-guide?utm_source=Smartphonefreechildhood&utm_campaign=d1e8ee5ef6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_01_19_11_13_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-c3fdf1b509-292797839&mc_cid=d1e8ee5ef6&mc_eid=29f65810fd

With very best wishes for a great festive season, The St. Patrick's Smartphone Free Childhood Parents' Group

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

CLASS CATCH UP DATES – It has been so lovely to see so many of our families at our Class Catch Up afternoons. Next week we will welcome Year 3,Year 2 and Reception. We hope to see you there!

Mon. 23rd Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 3	**Tues. 24th Nov @ 2.30pm – Year 2**
Thur. 26th Nov @ 2.30pm - Reception	

BRITISH VALUES WEEK - Last week we celebrated British Values Week across the school. The children learnt about the five fundamental British Values: Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs. Each class explored what these values mean and how we can put them into practice in our everyday lives. It was wonderful week in which the children showed such enthusiasm to show off how many of the values they could demonstrate and explain!

Mrs. Solomon PSHE Subject Leader

YEAR 6 CLASS ASSEMBLY – We had a treat to end our week today, when Year 6 led us in our Friday assembly. They shared their learning on Bath and Corsham during the Bath Blitz, what life was like for evacuees including reading letters written in character as an evacuee and taught us about rationing, the land army and propaganda posters. They also sang songs from the era, which definitely lifted all our spirits! Thank you, Year 6.

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION



CHAPLAINCY COMISSIONING MASS – A huge well done to our wonderful Chaplaincy Team representatives who attended the Diocesan Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass last week. Although a small group, they certainly made a big impression! They carried our school banner with pride in the procession, sang beautifully and were fantastic ambassadors for Saint Patrick's. We were also delighted to receive a special St Francis puppet to bring back and share with everyone as part of our Year of St Francis celebrations. A heartfelt thank you to the parents who kindly gave up their time to drive the children. We are incredibly proud of you all!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027 - Applications are now open for next year's First Communion programme. For those in Year 3 or above, please collect an application form from Father Michael or the Parish Administrator after attending Saturday/Sunday Mass. To enrol, please ensure that you are attending Mass regularly with your child each week. Closing date for applications is Sunday 6th December.

ENRICHMENT



OUR FIRST MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT AND THE START OF OUR 60TH CELEBRATIONS – A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Music by Candlelight event on Friday 13th November. It was the very first event to launch our 60th anniversary celebrations, and it certainly did not disappoint! From Thomas in Year 6, whose brilliant drumming opened the evening, to our Year 2 choir, who closed with such passion, enthusiasm and joy, we were treated to an evening full of incredible talent. A special thank you to Amy, Harry, Emily, Clover, Willow and Josh, who dazzled us with their individual performances, representing our wonderful community of past pupils, parents, governors and staff. The Corsham Wind Band had us all joining in with their lively sea shanty, adding to the wonderful atmosphere! It was such a joyous evening, bringing together so many people who are part of the Saint Patrick's family, past and present. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who performed, supported, organised and came along to celebrate with us. This is just the beginning! We have lots more events planned as we celebrate 60 years of faith, learning and community. We would love you to be part of the celebrations!



*AND FINALLY….*Dates for your Diary…

Mon. 23rd Nov	Celebration of the Word – Christ the King - School only 2.30pm Year 3 Class Catch Up 3.15 – 4.15pm Gardening Club KS1 – last of the term
Tues. 24th Nov	2.30pm Year 2 Class Catch Up Dance Club – Years 1/2 – 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wed. 25th Nov	Year 4 Swimming 4/6
Thurs. 26th Nov	Bikeability – families to be contacted 2.30pm Reception Class Catch Up Dance Club – Years 3/4/5/6 – 3.15 - 4.15pm
Fri. 27th Nov	Bikeability – families to be contacted Celebration Assembly

Future and 'Christmas' Dates….

Sat. 28th Nov – Corsham Town Council Wishing Tree 10am – 1pm
Mon. 30th Nov and Tues. 1st Dec - Bikeability – families to be contacted
Mon. 30th Nov. – Unwrapping Technology Safely – Parents Meeting Online 5-5.45pm
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

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

Wed. 16th Dec - KS2 Christmas Lunch – book online
Fri. 18th Dec – Christingle for whole school – please bring an orange
Last Day of term

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

J Courtney **(Headteacher)**

Corsham StoryTown

Writing competition

It's time to get pen to paper and enter this inaugural competition!

What is it all about?

This autumn, there is a new competition in town. Corsham StoryTown and Corsham Town Council is launching its first writing competition for all adults in the Corsham area aged 18+.

Who can enter?	Anyone who is 18+ and lives/works in the Corsham area.
What to submit	Your story needs to have a connection to Corsham or, at least, to Wiltshire. Maybe it takes places in the chalk downlands or perhaps it features a moonraker. It's up to you! Maximum 500 words excluding the title (typed, please, in Times New Roman or Arial, font size 12 or 14).
Closing date	**Friday 4 December 2026 at 12.00noon.**
Winners announced	**Monday 11 January 2027** via email. There will be a celebration evening for all winners on **Thursday 4 February 2027** at Corsham Town Hall. There will be First, Second and Third prizes as well as up to five runner-up prizes.

HOW TO ENTER

1. **Create:** A story with a Corsham/Wiltshire focus of up to 500 words, excluding the title
2. **Submit:** Email as a Word or PDF document to corshamstoryprize@gmail.com. You can submit a hard copy, if you prefer, to Corsham Town Council for the attention of Sarah Leigh
3. **Include:** Please do not write any personal details on the entry but do include your name and contact details in the body of the email.

ENTER BY Friday 4 December at 12.00noon

STORY TOWN CORSHAM
IMAGINATION · CELEBRATION · INSPIRATION

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026



Contact corshamstoryprize@gmail.com for further information or if you have any questions. Competition guidelines are on the other side. Good luck!



Corsham Story Prize 2026

Entry guidelines

- You must be aged 18+ on 4 December 2026
- Only one entry per person will be accepted
- Stories need to be a maximum of **500 words**, excluding the title
- Stories must be **typed** and should be (ideally) emailed to CorshamStoryPrize@gmail.com OR handed in to the Town Hall by the deadline of 4 December 2026 at 12.00noon
- Stories need to have a link to Corsham or, at least, Wiltshire
- StoryTown is not responsible for late, lost, damaged, incomplete or illegible entries
- Invented spelling is accepted, but your intended words should be clear
- All fictional story characters should be **original**. Copyrighted names and images are not allowed.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) support is not permitted and should not be used. Any stories that are created using AI will be disqualified
- Short stories will not be returned so you should keep a copy of what you submit

Key information:

- Local writer CJ Carver (www.cjcarver.com) will judge the stories anonymously
- Prize-winners will be announced in **January 2027**
- There will be a celebratory event on **4 February 2027** at the Town Hall