

17.12.21

Dear Families,

As our Advent term draws to its close, we reveal all the ways in which our school and parish community have united to 'ENCOUNTER' Jesus.

Guided by our focus Scripture for the Advent season, we have all been called to:

'Shine as beacons of light' (Philippians 2:15)

We have enjoyed a most spiritual Advent journey and it has been a joy to have shared this journey with our families through the Word of the week. Every child has shone out in their love for God in their contributions as we prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus.

Foundation Stage and Infant Nativities.

We are so very proud of the very special ways in which our children have retold the Christmas Story so beautifully. Through song, word and action, the true meaning of Advent and Christmas has been revealed.

Each Junior Class lead the community in Advent assemblies, with homage also paid to God through daily acts of worship, Mass and a Reconciliation service.



Supporting others in need

As a Catholic school, it is our Christian duty to reach out to others, as John's Gospel reminds us: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." You've all lived this mission this week by supporting your children and our community in every way and we send our great thanks for this.

Mrs. Neale, our local **CAFOD** volunteer, provided a virtual assembly on the work of CAFOD and on the World Gifts mission that classes have been working towards. These efforts have all followed on from the Peace missions launched earlier by Year 4 and the Chaplaincy Team, who have made a great effort in leading the collection of parcels going to the homeless. So thanks for all donations of socks, gloves, toiletries and instant packet foods, as these will really help those in need over Christmas.

PTA Children's Christmas Market

After a huge effort from the children over £500 has been raised for school funds. An incredible achievement! Thank you for your contributions with the raffle and school calendars. We have also enjoyed taking part in a Winter Wonderland Outdoor Concert with Mr Stanton.

'Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return and your reward will be great.' (Luke:6:35)

Christingle

This morning, the Y6 pupils led the school beautifully in their explanation of the Christingle.

Christmas Mass dates and times

With respect to the current COVID-19 situation and family's personal circumstances, a booking system is in place for Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve

St.Joseph's, Shirebrook	children's Mass	5.p.m.
St.Patrick's, Forest Town	children's Mass	5.p.m.
St.Philip Neri, Mansfield	children's Mass	5.p.m.
St.Teresa's, Warsop	Mass of Christmas	7.30p.m.
St.Philip Neri, Mansfield	Midnight Mass	11.00p.m.

Christmas Day

St.Joseph's, Shirebrook	10.00 a.m
St.Patrick's, Forest Town	10.00 a.m.
St.Philip Neri, Mansfield	10.00 a.m.

Sunday 26th December - Feast of the Holy Family

St.Teresa's, Warsop	09.00 a.m.
St.Philip Neri, Mansfield	09.00a.m.
St.Patrick's, Forest Town	11.00 a.m.
St. Philip Neri, Mansfield	11.00a.m.
St.Joseph's, Shirebrook	5.00p.m.
St.Philip Neri, Mansfield	5.00p.m.
New Year's Day - Feast of Mary, Mother of God	
St.Philip Neri, Mansfield	11.00 a.m.
St.Patrick's Forest Town	11.00 a.m.





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5 STAR

We are delighted to report that Mansfield District Council has awarded a 5 star rating to our Kitchen during their recent Environmental inspection.

Fond Farewell to our fabulous Deputy Head teacher Mrs Wilkins-Campbell

At the end of this term, we show our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs Wilkins-Campbell as she leaves our school to take up a post of Headship at St Joseph's School, Boughton. In the six years that Mrs Wilkins-Campbell has been at St Patrick's, she has made an incredible contribution to improving the school community in so many ways, always with the utmost priority of giving every child the opportunity to feel safe, nurtured and succeed. We are incredibly grateful for all her hard work and efforts, in providing the very best for children to learn both indoors and outdoors. She has shown the utmost dedication to leading the school, always with great humour and sense of calmness, working tirelessly in her vocation to Catholic education. I know the lives of many children and families have been touched so positively from their time with Mrs Wilkins-Campbell. I have loved working in partnership with this very talented and dedicated practitioner. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Wilkins-Campbell every success and happiness in her future role.

A message from Mrs Wilkins-Campbell

To my wonderful St Patrick's families,

I would like to start by saying what a wonderful pleasure it has been to be Deputy Head teacher of St Patrick's. I was a student myself of the school and started my teaching career at the school over 20 Years ago as a newly qualified teacher and have such fond memories of the staff and children then as I do now. I have been a part of the school for the past six years and there is never a day that I do not enjoy those first encounters with the children, the smiles, joy and wonder that each day brings. The children at our school, your children, have provided those moments to happen.

I'd like to say a HUGE thank you to you all and the staff of St Patrick's who are not only colleagues but friends. I have shared amazing times at the school, enabled by your children, from Sports events to Forest Schools, all wonderful memories that I will take with me to my new school.

I'd also love to share with you the plans for the new developments of the Foundation Unit which are due to commence in the New Year. The outdoor play area is due for a substantial upgrade, including new markings, a tunnel, sand pulleys, water stations and it's very own staged area. The indoor classrooms are also having a revamp. I have been promised that I can come back and cut the ribbon. So here's to a new adventure and it's not a 'goodbye' but a 'see you soon'.

Other staffing News:

Foundation Stage

We are currently advertising for a Foundation Unit Leader. During this interim time, Miss Bingley will teach F1 full time and F2 will be taught by Mrs Newton Hewlett (4 days) and Mrs Pyatt (1 day). Mrs Bointon is remaining working in the unit, working full time in a supportive role to the teachers.



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Family Support Worker

We have appointed Mrs Clare Brizzolara to work in school two days a week to work as a Family Support Worker.

After school clubs

An update regarding after school clubs will be sent out during the first week back in January.

Admission into F2- September 2022

The application process for school places for the next academic year is now open until **15th January 2021**. Any late applications cannot be considered until after **19th April 2022**.

If your child is born between 1/9/17 and 31/8/18, you will need to apply for a school place in Reception online through Notts County Council. Please also complete a supplementary form which is available on the school website or by emailing the school office on office@st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk.

If you know any other families who have children due to start school next year, then please do share this information.

Please contact school on 01623 478080 should you wish to arrange a visit which we can sort in line with our COVID safety measures.

Final Advent Term Thank you.....

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your most supportive home-school partnership, especially during a time which has brought many challenges to you all, both personally and professionally. Yet, you have continued to place your trust and support in our school and have ensured that our children have continued to work, play and pray together.

St. Patrick's community spirit has continued to shine brightly and your children have been an absolute joy. Their smiles, fun and laughter have made each day so very bright and we thank you all for your support and partnership on their journey and with all our missions and projects. We have enjoyed a most spiritual season of Advent in which we have prayed for others and ourselves. As we approach Jesus' coming, we do so in hope and love.

I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the life of the school and to all those who have supported us in any way, sharing their gifts and talents in such a special way during Advent.

We are truly blessed to have a very dedicated governing body led by Mrs Keay, hardworking PTA and our many wonderful volunteers who continue to give up their time so very generously to support our school community in a whole variety of ways.

We have also been extremely well supported by our CEO, James McGeachie and all who work in the Trust. Together, they have shared their expertise to bring improvements to all aspects of school life.

My grateful thanks to the teaching and non-teaching staff, whose efforts and commitment to nurturing the gifts and talents of every individual child is admirable. They have been absolutely marvellous in their dedicated roles, showing the utmost devotion to children and families during these uncertain times.



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy



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Finally, to yourselves, for all your support and partnership shown in a multitude of ways, each and every day - a heartfelt thank you from us all. We are so blessed to have such caring and giving pupils and families who work hand in hand with us. It is always a privilege to be part of the St Patrick's team.

Wishing you a restful, Holy and Happy Christmas.

I very much look forward to welcoming our children back on **5th January 2021**.

4th January 2021 is an INSET day.

In prayer and partnership,
Mrs J Smedley
Head teacher

'Rejoice in hope, be patient in troubles, and pray at all times.' (Romans 12:12)