



Ling Forest Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 3NJ

Telephone: 01623 478090 Fax: 01623 478099

Email: office@st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk

Website: www.st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk

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St Patrick's School Newsletter: Friday 27th January 2023

Next week's Word of the Week is: Care

On Thursday, we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This commemorates when Mary and Joseph would have present Jesus to God at the temple and made an offering for him. It reminds us that Mary and Joseph looking out for Jesus and took care of him, just as many people look after and take care of us too. Think this week about who takes care of you and who you take care of. What does it mean to be cared for and what difference can it make to your life?

First Holy Communion

Please see the following information regarding the organisation of the First Holy Communion

Enrolment Mass at St Patrick's - Sunday 5th Feb - 11am

First Confession preparation sessions in school 3.20-4.20pm:

- Monday 6th Feb
- Monday 20th Feb
- **First Confessions - Monday 27th February 3.20-4.30pm (TBC in school/church)**

First Holy Communion preparation sessions:

- Monday 6th March
- Monday 13th March
- Monday 20th March
- Monday 27th March
- Monday 17th April
- **Sunday 23rd April - Preparation Mass 11am St. Patrick's Church**
- Monday 24th April
- **Sunday 14th May - Preparation Mass 11am St. Patrick's Church**
- Monday 15th May
- Monday 22nd May

Communion Practice - in Church - Monday 5th June Time TBC

First Communion Mass at St. Patrick's Church - Saturday 10th June - 10am

Communion Celebration Mass in school - Tue 13th June - 2.15pm



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Every student. Every day.

Communication for Attendance

All absences need to be communicated in one of the following ways:

- a phone call to the school office (01623 478090)
- an email to the office email address
- via parent mail

Please do not email class email addresses for absences

Attendance

Reception	83.7%
Year 1	97.0%
Year 2	94.3%
Year 3	92.6%
Year 4	96.4%
Year 5	94.6%
Year 6	98.5%

Mansfield Children's Choir

Christopher Davis, the Choral Director for the Diocese of Nottingham, is looking for new members to join the Mansfield Children's Choir.

The Christmas Carol Concert which the choir performed at was such a huge success and it would be wonderful to see more of St Patrick's pupils join and perform in further concerts.

World Thinking Day- 22nd February

We have been made aware by one of the Mansfield Brownie groups that on the **22nd February**, the Brownie and Scout movements celebrate World Thinking Day. It is a day when they think of each other and give thanks and appreciation for the international friendships. 22nd February was the date chosen for Thinking Day because it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout movement and his wife Olave Baden-Powell, who served as World Chief Guide.

On this day, we would therefore like to encourage any children who are part of Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers or Cubs to wear their uniform to school. We would also like them to share with their classes the reasons why they are wearing their uniforms on this special day.



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Toys in school

We have noticed an increasing number of children bringing toys into school. These are either being brought into school in their bags or pencil cases. These can cause a distraction to children's learning and also at times have been lost to the distress of children. We would therefore appreciate your support in making sure your children do not bring toys into school.

Staffing

Teacher Industrial Action

Industrial Action by Teachers: proposals for strike days

My proposal for the strike days are as follows:

1. **Wednesday 1st February:** School will be fully open to all year groups on this date
2. **Wednesday 1st March:** Further correspondence nearer the date
3. **Wednesday 15th March:** Further correspondence nearer the date
4. **Thursday 16th March:** Further correspondence nearer the date

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children

Due to the uncertainty of the further strike dates: 1st March, 15th March and 16th March, we would like to gather information regarding children of critical workers, which is in line with government guidance, to prioritise children of critical workers and vulnerable children, if we are not able to fully open the school to all classes. The full list of critical workers can be found in Annex B at the end of the Government's guidance for schools on emergency planning link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1114577/Emergency_planning_and_response_for_education_childcare_and_children_s_social_care_settings.pdf

If you believe that you are a critical worker and would like to ensure a place in school on strike days for your child(ren), please complete the online form via this link [Critical worker form](#).

All children who are on our 'vulnerable' groups list will be offered a place in school on these days. Parents will be contacted separately to confirm arrangements.

Details regarding the future strike dates will be sent out nearer the time. Please do not hesitate to contact me via the School Office on 01623 478090 if you have any queries.



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SAFETY ONLINE

We have been made aware of an increasing number of children using social media including apps such as WhatsApp. We are focusing upon Esafety in school which will include taking part in the National Safer Internet Day. Throughout the next two terms, we are going to provide you with information regarding different social media Apps. This is to support you as parents to know how they work and how you can support your child to keep safe online.



What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number.

Age restrictions

WhatsApp requires a minimum age of 16 but relies on the honesty of the child and family to adhere to the age restrictions. If you have decided together with your child that they can begin to use it, then it is important that you support them to do so safely.

Talk about sharing

Talk to your child regularly about what they should and shouldn't share with others on WhatsApp.

Remind your child that, even if they think what they are sending will stay private, others might save, forward or screenshot it. Talk to them about making sure others are comfortable with what they are sending and let them know they can come to you if they are worried about something they have shared on the app.

Like with any social media app, it isn't possible to control what other people choose to share online. What is funny to one person, may cause upset to another, and content may be misinterpreted. If your child is being bullied, sees bullying within a group, or inappropriate content is being shared, then this is not acceptable and needs to be reported. Taking screenshots can be a useful way of saving the evidence.

Group Chat

The group chat function allows up to 512 people to chat in one conversation stream. Each group is set up by one person, known as the group admin, who is the only person who can add or remove participants and change or add further group administrators.

Anybody in the group, even if they're not one of your phone contacts, will be able to see messages that you post, and you will be able to see theirs. If you are added to a group with someone you have blocked, that person will still be able to contact you in the group chat.



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You can't always control if you're added to a group chat; but remind children that they can always control their own participation within it - they can leave whenever they want to.

To do this, when on the group's page, tap the three dots in the top right (or the name of the group at the top of the screen on an iPhone), then tap Group info, then EXIT GROUP in the red box at the bottom of the screen (or scroll down to Exit Group on an iPhone).

Blocking and reporting

Other users can be reported and also blocked within the app. To do so, simply click their name to bring up their information and choose either 'Block contact,' or 'Report contact.'

Be available to help

Let your child know that they can always come to you for help and support if they see anything that concerns, upsets, or confuses them online, without worrying about judgement. Open dialogue is key. Encouraging your child to discuss what they enjoy about a specific app can be a helpful bridge to talking about safety messages and more difficult issues in the future.

What are the risks of WhatsApp?

Unwanted Contact

To contact somebody on WhatsApp, all you need is their phone number. This means that your child could be at risk of receiving unwanted messages or calls from others.

Pressure to respond

Features that allow other users to see when your child is online, if they have read a message or when they were last active on the app could make your child feel pressured to respond even when they don't want to.

Location Sharing

The live location feature means that your child could reveal their current location to others. This feature can be used in groups as well as individual chats so your child could reveal this information to people that they don't know if they are in the same group.

Inappropriate Content

WhatsApp messages are end-to-end encrypted which means that the content cannot be monitored. This means that your child could see or hear harmful or upsetting content.



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Cyberbullying

WhatsApp groups can be controlled by an 'admin', who can change settings, such as the name of the group, who is allowed to send messages, as well as being able to invite and remove people from the chat. This could lead to children feeling left out or being deliberately excluded or removed from groups.

Oversharing

Privacy features, such as disappearing and 'view once' messages, might mean that your child feels safe to reveal private information or images. However, there is always a risk that an unintended person might see what they have sent, for example if they are with the recipient.

Tips to help keep your child safe on WhatsApp

Get to know privacy settings

There are four main settings that you can use to help your child control who can see their information:

- Everyone - allows all users to see your profile photo, about or status.
- My contacts - only allows people from your phone contacts to see your profile photo, about, status, last seen and online.
- My contacts except... - allows you to exclude certain people in your phone contacts from seeing your information.
- Nobody - doesn't allow anyone to see your information.

The default setting on WhatsApp is 'everyone' but you can help your child to set their privacy controls by clicking the 'settings' cog and selecting 'privacy'. Here you can select each type of information and change it to the setting that you want.

To prevent children being added to groups by people they don't know, we recommend changing the group settings to 'My contacts except' and using the tick icon to select all contacts. This option means only your child's phone contacts, except those you exclude, can add your child to groups. But by selecting all contacts, it means that nobody can add your child to a group chat without first sending them an invitation.

In the same section, you can also switch off 'read receipts', which means other people cannot see when you have read their message. This might help if your child is feeling under pressure to respond to messages.



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Upcoming events in school

Stay and Play – EYFS

Friday 3rd February

PTA Feedback:

Due to the school community's fantastic fundraising efforts, the PTA are delighted to be able to support the school in purchasing and developing the following areas:

- Visible signs of Catholic life in and around the school
- Class altar cloths
- Reading sheds and stools for Foundation unit and the main playground
- Playground markings
- Forest School garden

Thank you so much to everyone's contributions and we look forward to these new developments.

Parents voice group – 31st January 9am – The focus for this session will be **internet safety and social media**.

This group meets in school as a great opportunity for parental voice.

Class masses

Tuesday 30th January- Y4

Tuesday 7th February – Y5

Celebration of Learning

Parents evening

If you haven't already done so, please book your parents evening appointments via parent mail.

Parents evening for F1 – Y5 is Thursday 9th February from 3.30pm – 6pm

Y1/2 celebration of Learning is 8th February at 2.30pm – Only the Ling Forest Road entrance gate will be opened.

Y3/4 Celebration of Learning is 1st February at 2.30pm – Only the Ling Forest Road gate will be opened

Y5 Celebration of learning is 3rd February at 2.30pm – Only the Ling forest Road entrance gate will be opened

Y6 pupils will be invited along to their parents evening to share their learning. This is to prepare the children for when they go to secondary school.

If you are not able to attend the Celebration of Learning but would like to your child to share their learning with you, please contact your child's class teacher.

Outside awards: We would like to encourage children in bring in outside awards on Friday to share their success with their class.

INSET DAY

There is an INSET day on **Friday 10th February**. School will be closed for all pupils.

Please find below the link for the parent school calendar

[Parent Calendar](#)