



St Patrick's Catholic Primary Academy Newsletter: Thursday 8th February 2024

Catholic Life and Mission

This week's word of the week was: **Diversity**

During half term we begin the churches season of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday. Upon our return to school our first word of the week is one of the three pillars of Lent - Prayer.

1st week of Lent - Word of the week: Prayer

Prayer is a conversation with God. It is a way of opening our hearts to him and sharing our thoughts and feelings with him. Prayer can be done in many different ways, such as through words, music, or silence.

During Lent, we can use prayer to reflect on our relationship with God and to ask for his guidance and strength. Take a moment this week to pray.

Think about what you want to say to God and what he might be saying to you.

In the season of Lent, we will be making links with our parish community in a range of ways. We will be being prayer partners, we will be inviting the parish into school and taking part in joint fundraising events.

Lent starts on Wednesday 14th February with Ash Wednesday. Please see the accompanied parish newsletter for further details.



Journey through lent

This Lent we are working as a school to raise money for CAFOD during CAFOD's Big Lent walk and also for our house charities at our St Patrick's Mini Market.

We know you will join us in working together during lent to ensure that we support those in need through the three pillars of Lent: Almsgiving, Prayer and Fasting.

Lenten Events in School

Week 1

Word of the Week: Prayer

Celebration of the word in school – Y5 chaplains supported by Y1

Friday 23rd February – CAFOD family fast day – Big Lenten Walk

Week 2

Word of the Week: Fasting

Celebration of the word in school – Y4 chaplains supported by Y1

CAFOD Catholic Social teaching workshops run Ann Neale

Tuesday 27th – Mass 9am Buddy mass F2, Y2, Y4, Y6

Week 3

Word of the Week: Almsgiving

Celebration of the word in school – Y3

Tuesday 5th March – Liturgy of the Word – 2.45am – Y4, 5,6 – Y6 Chaplains to lead

Week 4

Word of the Week: Sacrifice

Celebration of the word in school – Y2

Tuesday 12th March – Liturgy of the word – 2.45am – Y1, 2,3 – Y3 to lead

Thursday 14th March – Come and See assembly Y1, Y3 and Y5 - 2.45pm

Friday 15th March – St Patrick’s Race night – Time TBC

Week 5

Word of the Week: Journey

Monday 18th March – Whole school mass to celebrate St Patrick’s Day

St Patrick’s Day of Retreat including Children’s mini market

Week 6

Word of the Week: Passion

Celebration of the word – St Oscar Romero house to lead (St Oscar Romero Feast day)

Tuesday 26th March – Easter Presentation – EYFS – Y2 – 2.30pm

Wednesday 27th March – EYFS Easter bonnet parade – 2.45pm

Wednesday 27th March - Easter Fayre – 3.30pm

Wednesday 28th March – Easter Presentation – Y3 – Y6 – 9am



Fr Marc Bescana

Last week, we gave our assistant priest, Fr Marc Bescana, a selection of cards and all our prayers and best wishes as he returned to the Philippines. Fr Marc served our community so very beautifully; we all benefitted so much from his sharing of his ministry with us during the last few years. He taught our community how to always look for the good in all that is around us and to be thankful for all we have in our lives. We thank God for sending Fr Marc to our school community and may we will always try to live out his mission in all that we say and all that we do.

School Calendar

Please use the below link to access the school calendar.

[School Calendar](#)

Upcoming events

9th February - Inset Day

Residentials

Year 4 - The Mill - 7th - 8th May 2024

Year 5 - Hathersage - 25th - 27th March 2024

Year 6 - The Briars - 8th- 10th July 2024

You should have now received information regarding the residential for your child. If you have any questions please contact your child's class teacher.

Staffing News

As well as being one of our office administrators, Mrs Smith has also been St Patrick's Senior Midday Supervisor for 22 years. During this time, Mrs Smith has looked after and cared for many, many children, always taking the utmost time and care to ensure that the children are happy and safe. Mrs Smith has shown kindness and generosity that epitomises the very ethos of our school; how very blessed our school community has been with Mrs Smith leading the lunchtime provision. She truly has a heart of gold and is a shining example to us all on how to treat others. We are very appreciative of the kindness and care Mrs Smith has shown in this role. The children had an opportunity during an assembly this week to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication. Although after half term, Mrs Smith will no longer be a midday supervisor, we are very thankful that Mrs Smith will continue to work within her school office role.

It has been lovely to welcome back Mrs Gregory into our school community as she has taken up a teaching role covering classes PPA for two days a week. We also warmly welcome Miss Cameron, our teaching assistant apprentice who is working in a range of classes throughout school. We wish them every happiness in their roles.

We are sending our best wishes to our F1 teacher, Miss Morley, as she is leaving our school at the end of the Lenten Term. Although we are very sad to see her go, we wish her all the best in her new ventures.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week has been children's mental health week. Although it has been a focus for this week, we know that this important topic is something that we need to continue to raise awareness of and support. May your child always feel encouraged and empowered to know that their voice counts and that there are always adults at home and at school ready to listen.

Click on the link below for top tips for families.

[Children's mental health](#)

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for everyone's continued efforts with your child's attendance. We would like to remind everyone of the importance of being punctual to school everyday. The gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am. If your child arrives after this time then they need to report to reception from the Ling Forest Road site.

Here is the class attendance from 1st Sept- 2nd February 2024: Thank you for everyone's efforts!

F2: 94% Y4: 95%

Y1: 95% Y5: 94%

Y2: 95.5% Y6: 96.6%

Y3: 96%

To report your child's absence please can we ask that you email the school office on office@st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk or ring school on 01623 478090.

Please see the NHS Guidance for the latest advice regarding sending your child to school with the following medical conditions: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Below is a table of how school absence could affect your pupil's ability to access the curriculum.

Above 97%	Above 97%. Less than 6 days' absence a year: Excellent attendance! Pupils with this attendance should have access to the majority of the taught curriculum.
95% and below	95%. Less than 10 days' absence in a year: Attendance needs to improve! Pupils with this attendance are likely to access the majority curriculum but will miss out on important educational experiences.
90%	90%. 19 days' absence over the year: Pupils with this attendance are missing <u>1 month</u> of school per year and will miss key curriculum areas; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.
85%	85%. 29 days' absence in a year: These pupils are missing <u>6 weeks</u> of school per year, it will be very difficult for them to access the curriculum and achieve their best.
80% or below	80%. Pupils with this attendance are missing the equivalent of <u>1 day for every week</u> of school. It will be almost impossible to access all of the curriculum.

Reading and World Book Day

World Book Day

We are really looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 7th March**. World Book Day celebrates that children are more likely to enjoy reading when their choices are championed and we make reading fun.

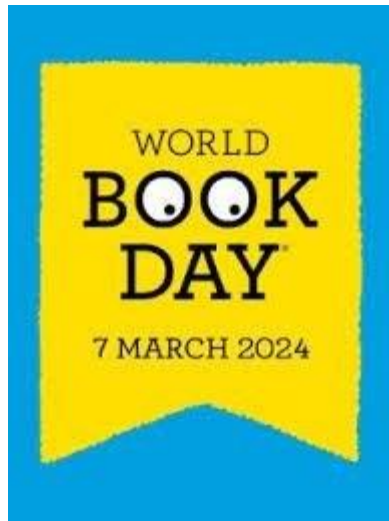
Reading for pleasure improves children's life chances across a range of social, educational and well-being measures. There are six evidence-based principles that can be implemented by families to support children in adopting a life-long habit of reading for pleasure:

1. Being read to regularly
2. Having books at home and at school
3. Having a choice in what to read
4. Finding time to read
5. Having trusted help to find a book
6. Making reading fun!

This year, our theme is '**Bedtime Stories**'. We would like to invite the children to come to school in their comfiest PJ's and dressing gowns, as well as bringing along their favourite teddy and their favourite bedtime story. Throughout the day we will be completing lots of fun activities as a whole school, in classes and in our house groups to encourage reading for pleasure!

Travelling Book Fair

To celebrate World Book Day and our love for reading, we will also be welcoming the Travelling Book Fair into school. The book fair will be open daily afterschool from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March. Each child will receive a World Book Day voucher which they can spend at the book fair or at participating retailers. After half term, we will also be running a reading competition to win up to £25 worth of World Book Day vouchers to spend at the book fair. More details to follow soon!



PTA information: Latest news!

We have two more exciting events happening in school next half term.

Firstly, The St Patrick's Gold Cup Race Night. Why not have a family night out for £10 and we will even throw in some food and drink. We will have additional drinks, crisps and sweets on sale also. Our very first race night will be held in the school hall on Friday 15th March to coincide with St Patrick's Day at the weekend and the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Get your glad rags on and come along for a small bet on 6 exciting races. All proceeds from the night are going towards our target of £1,200 for markings for the school playground. Tickets will be on sale once we return from half term.

Secondly, we shall be holding an Easter fair on Wednesday 27th March straight after school. Lots of games and items for sale. We will also be having a non uniform day that day in exchange for a chocolate egg. There will be fun Easter activities in the afternoon for the children to join in with. We also have a Easter art competition which will be voted upon at the event. More details after half term.

Have a relaxing half term and thank you for your support so far this year. We have raised a magnificent sum of £2,042 for school projects this academic year.

Sporting roundup

Celebrating Sporting Achievements at St. Patrick's School

We are thrilled to highlight the remarkable sporting achievements of our students at St. Patrick's this half-term. Their dedication, teamwork, and passion have shone brightly across various disciplines.

Interhouse Tournaments: Benchball and Handball

Our students enthusiastically participated in the inter-house tournaments, showcasing their skills in both Benchball and Handball. The friendly rivalry between the houses created a fantastic atmosphere, and it was heartwarming to witness their sportsmanship throughout. Congratulations to all participants for their spirited performances!

Cricket Taster Sessions and Basketball Workshops

This half-term, some of our Year 2 students explored new horizons through cricket taster sessions. They learned the basics of batting, bowling, and fielding, discovering the joy of this sport. Additionally, our basketball enthusiasts honed their dribbling, shooting, and defensive skills during engaging workshops. We believe that exposure to diverse sports enriches their overall development.

Mansfield Sports Hall Athletics Competition

Our Year 5 and 6 athletes sprinted, jumped and threw their way to success at the Mansfield Sports Hall Athletics Competition. Their commitment paid off as they competed against other schools, demonstrating resilience and determination.

Cross Country Triumph

St. Patrick's proudly sent a team to the cross-country championships, held in Mansfield. The students that represented our school competed with great enthusiasm and determination. Their outstanding performances earned four of them the opportunity to represent Mansfield at the County Championships last weekend at which they all demonstrated unwavering determination, resilience, and endurance as they navigated challenging course.

Looking Ahead

As we bid farewell to this half-term, we eagerly anticipate the sporting opportunities awaiting us next half-term. Our students will continue to explore, compete, and grow. Let's celebrate their achievements and embrace the promise of what lies ahead.

Thank you to our dedicated coaches, supportive parents, and, most importantly, our incredible students.

Wraparound Provision 'Limetrees'

Despite the continued efforts of school and the outsourced provision, there has unfortunately been delays with registration of this company. 'The Limetrees' wraparound provision is now estimated to begin after the Easter holidays. We are very understanding that many families are relying on this

provision and know this may now cause difficulties however, we are not able to open the breakfast and after school club until all registrations have been completed.

School breaks for the half term break on Thursday 8th February with Friday 9th February being an INSET. School reopens on Monday 19th February.

Thank you for your continued support

In partnership and prayer

Mrs J L Smedley