



Academic Year 2026-2027

A very warm welcome back to all our families as we begin the Advent Term at St Patrick's. We hope you have enjoyed a restful and happy summer break and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

School will reopen on Thursday 3rd September

We would especially like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all the new pupils and families joining our St Patrick's community this term. We are delighted that you are now part of our school family and look forward to getting to know you.

Our Word of the Week is **Welcome**. As a Catholic school, we are all called to welcome others into our communities, to open our doors and bring people in, particularly those on the margins and those who may feel left out. Being welcoming helps those who are new to our community feel loved, supported and included. We are all one body in Christ; everyone is welcome, and everyone has a part to play. As we begin this new school year, let us all embrace this message and continue to build the caring, loving and inclusive community that makes St Patrick's such a special place.

We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone and hearing about your summer adventures.

If any families need to speak to us before Thursday, please contact the school office email office@st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk¹ and we will be happy to help.

We wish all our pupils and families God's blessing as we begin the new school year together.

Staffing

Before we broke up for the summer holidays, we shared some important information and updates to help families prepare for the start of the new academic year in September.

¹<mailto:office@st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk>

Please find this information below.

Staffing Updates

We have recently appointed a new Deputy Headteacher. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, they will be unable to begin their role in September. Therefore, Mrs Lowe has been appointed as **Acting Deputy Headteacher** for Advent Term 1 to ensure continuity of leadership across the school. She will also continue in her role as EYFS lead and Nursery teacher.

Miss Jones, an experienced teacher, will be teaching **Year 5 from Monday to Wednesday each week during Advent Term 1.**

We are also pleased to welcome back **Mrs Wightman**, who will be returning to St Patrick's in Advent Term 1 and will be working as our **SENCO on Mondays from 9.00am to 3.00pm**. Mrs Wightman will provide SENCO support and leadership until a substantive appointment is made. We would like to thank **Mrs Stimpson** for all of her hard work and commitment whilst serving as our Interim SENCO during Pentecost Term and for supporting a smooth transition during this period.

In addition, **Mrs Gregory** will be teaching in **Year 3 on Thursdays and Fridays** to provide maternity leave cover.

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of **Mrs Rebecca Carr** as our new **School Office Manager**, starting in September. Mrs Carr has been a valued member of our school community for many years through her involvement with the PTA and has also worked as one of our Midday Supervisors over the past year. Her commitment to St Patrick's, together with her knowledge of our school and families, makes her an excellent addition to the office team. We are looking forward to seeing her thrive in this new role.

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority. Attached to this letter is a **Safeguarding Team poster** for the **2026-2027 academic year**. This identifies the members of staff who form our safeguarding team and who are responsible for supporting children and families where there are any welfare or safeguarding concerns. We encourage all parents and carers to familiarise themselves with the poster and the key safeguarding contacts within school.

Meet our safeguarding team





Mrs Pyatt
DSL



Mrs Lowe
DDSL



Mrs Brizzolara
DDSL



Mrs Pugh
DDSL



Mr Kitchinson
DDSL



Mrs Wightman
DDSL

If you have a safeguarding concern, our team are here to listen to you and help you with any situations you may be facing. They will listen to you no matter what issues you may have, so do come and speak with us.

If you are concerned about a child and would prefer to remain anonymous you can contact the MASH team directly via the following website, <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/safeguarding/childrens-mash>.

PE uniform and PE days

Thank you to all parents and carers who responded to our recent consultation regarding pupils wearing PE kits to school on PE days. We greatly appreciate your feedback and the time taken to share your views.

The overwhelming majority of responses were in favour of this proposal and, as a result, from September, pupils in **Years 1 to 6** will be able to wear their PE kits for the entire day on their designated PE days. **Reception pupils will continue to bring their PE kits to school and change into them in school on Tuesdays.**

The correct PE kit must be worn and should consist of:

- Plain black or navy joggers, leggings or shorts
- A green polo shirt
- A plain black or navy jumper or hooded top

Items may have a small logo; however, plain clothing is preferred.

Where pupils are not wearing the correct PE kit, parents will receive a message from the class teacher in the first instance.

PE Days

- **Reception:** Tuesday (*PE kit should be brought to school and pupils will change at school*)
- **Year 1:** Wednesday and Friday
- **Year 2:** Monday and Tuesday
- **Year 3:** Monday and Tuesday
- **Year 4:** Tuesday and Thursday
- **Year 5:** Wednesday and Friday
- **Year 6:** Thursday and Friday

School uniform

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of maintaining high standards of school uniform. Our uniform helps to promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school community and supports pupils in being ready to learn.

Please note that **polo shirts are not part of the standard school uniform and should only be worn for PE**. On non-PE days, pupils should wear the correct uniform, including a **white school shirt and school tie**, in line with our uniform expectations. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring that all children return to school in September wearing the correct uniform.

Jewellery

To ensure the safety of pupils, all jewellery must be removed for PE lessons. For all other sessions, one pair of studded earrings and a normal (non smart) watch may be worn.

Hair Styles

It is expected that all hair styles are neat, tidy and not obstructing children's eyes. Hair should be cut no shorter than a grade number 2 with no patterns or tram lines (including eye brows). Coloured hair or coloured hair extensions which are not the pupils' natural hair colour and fashion styles are not allowed.

Make up and Nail varnish

Pupils are not permitted to wear make-up in school. This includes nail varnish, gel or acrylic nails and temporary tattoos.

Calendar of Events - 2026-2027

Below is our **School Calendar**, which contains the key events planned for this half term. Please note that this does not currently include school Masses, as we are awaiting confirmation from the parish regarding dates and times. As soon as these have been finalised, we will communicate them with families.

We understand how important it is for families to have advance notice of events and, therefore, we will endeavour to keep any additional events throughout the year to a minimum and avoid changing published dates and times unless it is absolutely necessary.

You will also notice a new event taking place in September which replaces our previous **Meet the Teacher** event. We are excited to introduce our **Open Event**, which will begin with a presentation in the hall from a range of staff covering key aspects of school life, including our mission, behaviour expectations, attendance and curriculum. Following the presentation, parents and carers will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and speak with their class teacher.

The event is scheduled to begin at **4.30pm**, and we hope that as many parents and carers as possible will be able to attend. We appreciate that this may not be possible for every family; however, please note that this event is intended for **parents and carers rather than children**.

Advent 1

Week Beginning 31 August 2026

Word of the Week: Welcome

- **Tuesday 1 September** – Inset Day
- **Wednesday 2 September** – Inset Day
- **Thursday 3 September** – First Day Back Following the Summer Holidays

Week Beginning 7 September 2026

Word of the Week: Encounter

- **Thursday 10 September** – Whole School Open Event, 4:30pm(*Further information to follow*)

Week Beginning 14 September 2026

Word of the Week: Outreach

No scheduled events.

Week Beginning 21 September 2026

Word of the Week: Dialogue

No scheduled events.

Week Beginning 28 September 2026

Word of the Week: Listen

- **Wednesday 30 September** – Book Bus Visit
- **Friday 2 October** – CAFOD Family Fast Day
- **Friday 2 October** – Harvest Assembly, 9:00am

Week Beginning 5 October 2026

Word of the Week: Rosary

No scheduled events.

Week Beginning 12 October 2026

Word of the Week: Respect

- **Wednesday 14 October** – Parents' Evening, 3:30pm to 6:00pm

End of Half Term



School closes for October Half Term: Friday 16 October 2026



Return to School: Monday 2nd November 2026

Important Reminder: Please Check Your Arbor Information

As we prepare to welcome all pupils back to school on **Thursday 3rd September**, we kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that all information held on **Arbor** is accurate and up to date.

Please take a few moments to review and update:

- Contact details for parents and carers
- Emergency contact information
- Home addresses
- Medical information, including any new diagnoses, allergies or health needs

Having the correct information helps us to keep children safe and enables us to contact families quickly if needed.

Medical Needs

If your child requires medication in school, please ensure that any **inhalers, EpiPens or other essential prescribed medication** are brought into school **on the first day back, Thursday 3rd September**.

Please check that all medication:

- Is clearly labelled with your child's name
- Is in date
- Is handed to the appropriate member of staff if required

Thank you for your support in helping us provide a safe and well-prepared start to the new school year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday 3rd September

Ordering Meals

By the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd September, Thursday's and Friday's meals should be available via Arbor to ordered.

After school club and Extra Curricula

This year, we will continue to offer the Mansfield Town After school club on a Monday from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. This will cost £4 per session and is available for Y2 - Y6. Please book and pay for this via Arbor.

In addition, during school time, free of charge, Mansfield Town will be offering sports activities. Each class from Y1 to Y6 will have an opportunity to take part in an allocated slot on a Thursday or Friday during lunchtime.

We will continue to run the highly successful choir in the school day and throughout the year, we will look to increase our extra curricula opportunities including visits and visitors for each class.

Changes to First Aid Communication

From the start of this academic year, we will no longer be sending home paper first aid forms.

This change will help us to reduce paper usage, improve efficiency, and ensure that first aid information is communicated more securely through our school communication systems. It will also reduce the risk of forms being lost or not reaching home in school bags.

For first aid incidents, any important information that parents need to know immediately will continue to be shared verbally by a member of staff at collection time where appropriate.

Following the end of the school day, details of first aid incidents will be sent electronically via **Arbor**, allowing parents and carers to access the information directly and keep a record of it if needed.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that notifications are enabled on the Arbor app so that first aid communications and other important school messages can be received promptly.

Thank you for your support as we move to a more environmentally friendly and efficient way of sharing information with families.

Important

There will be no PE this week, therefore school uniform should be worn on Thursday and Friday.

With prayers and appreciation,

Mrs C L Pyatt