

Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 22nd November

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

It has been such a busy start to term 2! We are well and truly into the Christmas preparations, with the corridors and hall full of various songs and carols, and a sense of Christmas joy brewing throughout the building! We cannot wait to see you at some of our many events, the first being our PTFA Wreath Making Workshop, which is on tomorrow (23rd Nov) at 7pm.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

ATTENDANCE - As a school we continue to aim for our school attendance to be **96%**, and this week our whole school attendance has been 93%. If you need advice or support on how to improve your child's attendance, please contact the school office 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 to give a reason for their absence, for our records. Our School Office is open daily from 8.45am – 3.15pm.** We are required to monitor the amount of time missed due to medical appointments carefully. We acknowledge that hospital and specialist clinic appointments, including orthodontic and on-going dental treatment may require a student having time out of school. Our expectation is that the minimum amount of learning is lost. We must seek an explanation from parents where a whole day is missed for this reason. Proof of unavoidable medical appointments in school time must be provided for the school. Routine, non-urgent appointments must be made after school time and during the 13-week school holidays.



PARENT AWARENESS OF AGE SUITABILITY OF GAMES – It has been brought to my attention that some of our children are playing online games and bought games, which have an age recommendation of 13 years. An example of one of these games is Fortnite. Although we know that Fortnite is a popular game, we would ask parents to carefully consider why they believe a child under the recommended age range, would be playing games such as these. There are quite a few features within Fortnite which may appear overwhelming and are inappropriate for children. Internet Matters have put together a fantastic web page to guide parents through all the controls/settings, and suitability of the game for anyone under 13 years. It is very important that parents know the content of all games being played by their child/ren and we would advise extreme precaution, before allowing any child access to games, films, tv programs which are for an age category above their age.

PARKING ON THE LACOCK ROAD – We received an email last week, on behalf of a local resident, asking us to please encourage our parents to park more sensibly (and legally) when dropping and collecting their children. The resident is elderly and had a **difficult and dangerous experience**, when leaving her property. **Although we appreciate parking is a long term issue, we hope you would ensure that all families are considerate, safe and legal, when dropping and collecting their children.** The resident took photographs and has reported the vehicles to the police, as advised.

CURRICULUM

TAPESTRY AND GOOGLE CLASSROOMS – Google Classrooms is fully accessible to all families with children in Years 1 to Year 6 and Tapestry is available for our Reception families. 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

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION



REMEMBRANCE – We were exceptionally proud of all of our children, who took part in the Corsham Remembrance Events this year. Our Youth Councillors Phoebe and Liam, laying our wreaths, on behalf of our school community and it was so lovely to see so many of our children with their families and other groups such as Rainbows and Cubs. Our collection box for the Royal British Legion felt very full when it was collected and we thank you again for your support, for this important charity.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025 – If you would like your child (school year 3 and above) to join the programme, please collect an application in person from Fr Michael or the Parish Administrator, after Mass at either church on Saturday/Sunday and have a chat. A vital part of the preparation for this sacrament is the weekly attendance at Mass. **The closing date for applications is 15th December 2024.**

NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION – You will have received an email with the dates and times of our Christmas Nativity and KS2 production this year. **The EYFS and KS1 Nativity ‘Born in a Barn’, will take place on Wednesday 11th December @ 9.30am and 2pm. The KS2 Nativity A ‘Corsham Christmas Carol’, will take place on Thursday 12th December @ 9.30am and 6pm. Due to fire regulations each family will be allocated 2 seats for the am performance and 2 seats for the pm performance.** Please note that you cannot combine your allocation of two seats per performance. To ensure the spirit of fairness to all families at St. Patrick’s, tickets that are not used, cannot be gifted or given away, as we are not able to offer this to all. We thank you in advance for your cooperation to adhering to the 2 persons only per family at each performance.

ENRICHMENT



PGL RESIDENTIAL FOR YEAR 6 – We had a fantastic stay at PGL with Year 6 last week. The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities from Laser Tag to the Giant Swing, and worked together well as a group, supporting and looking after each other. We were very, very proud of them and received many compliments about their great behaviour. A huge thank you to Mrs Wood, Mrs Minty, Mrs Lynch and Mrs Claremont, who accompanied them on the residential.

YEAR 5 PERFORMANCE ‘SONGS FOR LIFE’ – I was very lucky to accompany some of our Year 5 children to the Wiltshire Music Centre last Wednesday, for their first performance of ‘The Elements’. They performed alongside other Wiltshire schools and lit up the stage with their skill, passion and enthusiasm. A big thank you to Kate Courage, who worked with the children and led them in their performance, as well as Miss Wilkinson and Mrs Cawthorne who accompanied them to Friday’s performance. As you can see the theatre was at full capacity, and we were so impressed with the maturity of the children who performed, and how animated they were in their captivating performance! We definitely have future stars in the making!



PARENTS AS PARTNERS

A YEAR 1 FUNDRAISING SUPERSTAR! – Fletcher has been incredibly busy in recent months, taking on a number of fundraising activities for the charity **ERIC**. **ERIC** is The Children’s Bowel & Bladder Charity, who have supported Fletcher and his family, and who run a helpline for families experiencing bladder and bowel issues. They aim to get everyone talking openly about good bladder and bowel health, to empower children’s carers and schools with support, information and resources. Like many charities, they have seen an increase in calls to the helpline as families struggle to access essential services, and Fletcher decided he wanted to help! Through selling poo emoji keyrings, and doing a litter pick of **all** the local parks in his area, Fletcher has raised an amazing £932! We always say our young children are Agents of Change and can do great things, and this is exactly what Fletcher has done! We are very proud to say that Fletcher was chosen to be the face of this year’s **ERIC Christmas Appeal**, including starring in their Christmas campaign video. If you would like to donate, please follow the link to <https://eric.org.uk/> Fletcher we are all very proud of you sharing your story and helping others. Well done!



REPAIR CAFÉ – On Tuesday 26th November we are delighted to welcome Corsham Share and Repair to our school. They will be working with Year 6, delivering a range of workshops, all designed to test their problem-solving skills. Vacuum cleaners are one of the most commonly wasted household items in the UK. Can our Year 6 find out what is wrong with a Henry vacuum and suggest ways to save it? Can they apply their learnt skills to repair a torch whilst considering ways to reduce energy consumption and maintain electrical items? We look forward to finding out what they have learnt and the resulting impact it may have in school and at home!

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR 2024 - If you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, then now is the time to apply for a place at our school. You must complete an application form that is available from the school’s admission team at Wiltshire County Council. **Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15th January 2025 via Wiltshire Admissions.** If your child is Catholic, you must provide a copy of the Baptism Certificate to the school by this date.

PTFA WREATH MAKING AND CHRISTMAS TREES – We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our Wreath Making evening tomorrow, on Saturday 23rd November @ 7pm in the school hall. **Please remember that if you have ordered one of the gorgeous Christmas Trees from the PTFA online shop, these will be ready to collect on 30th November or 7th December.** More events are listed in the future events section of the calendar.

Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 25 th Nov	Celebration of the Word 'Feast of Christ the King'
Tues. 26 th Nov	3.15 – 4.15pm Tag Rugby Club – Years 4/5/6 Year 6 Repair Café workshop
Wed. 27 th Nov	No Pen Day – all learning to be pen free today! Year 4 swimming 4/6
Thurs. 28 th Nov	3.15-4.15pm Multi-Sports - Reception
Fri. 29 th Nov	Father Michael visiting Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 2.30pm Celebration Assembly 'Feast of St. Andrew' – invited parents
Mon. 2 nd Dec	Celebration of the Word 'First Sunday of Advent'
Tues. 3 rd Dec	3.15 – 4.15pm Tag Rugby Club – Years 4/5/6
Wed. 4 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Lunch – pre-order online by Thursday 28 November KS2 packed lunches in classrooms Year 4 swimming 5/6
Thurs. 5 th Dec	KS2 Christmas Lunch – pre-order online by Thursday 28 November EYFS/KS1 packed lunches in classrooms 3.15-4.15pm Multi-Sports - Reception
Fri. 6 th Dec	PTFA Bazaar 1.30 – 2.15pm (KS2) 2.15 – 2.30pm (invited children) <i>more details to follow</i> 2.30 – 3.15 (EYFS and KS1) 6pm Corsham Light Switch On – <i>St. Patrick's will have a stall with games this year, come and say hello!</i>

INSET DAYS FOR 2024-25
Mon. 2nd September 2024
Tues. 3rd September 2024
Mon. 2nd June 2025
Tues. 3rd June 2025
Wed. 4th June 2025

Future Dates....

Sat. 7th Dec – second collection of Christmas Trees
Mon. 9th Dec - Celebration of the Word 'Second Sunday of Advent'
Wed. 11th Dec - EYFS and KS1 Nativity 'Born in a Barn' @ 9.30am and 2pm – please bring tickets
Thurs. 12th Dec – KS2 'Corsham Christmas Carol' @ 9.30am and 6pm - please bring tickets
Fri 13th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day – voluntary donation £1
Mon. 16th Dec - Celebration of the Word 'Third Sunday of Advent'
Thurs. 19th Dec – Rock Steady Concert @ 2.15pm – invited parents
Fri 20th Dec – Christingle – School and Governors only
Last Day of term!

We hope you all received our parentmail 'Christmas without the Cost 2024'. We understand that this is still a challenging time for many families and this email is full of great ways to make Advent and Christmas special, but without causing financial worry. From places to go, carol concerts to view, pantos to watch, meal ideas and even how to track Santa in Corsham and beyond...there are lots of ideas to think about and try. However, if you have anything you would like support with or to talk through, please feel free to contact us.

Jennie Courtney
Headteacher



