

# Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Telephone no 01249 713125

[www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk](http://www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk)

Email: [admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk).



## Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

### Week ending Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

#### Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

Happy Advent to all of our families! We are very excited to have started the season with so many lovely events, lighting the first candle on our beautiful Advent Wreath, sharing delicious Christmas lunches together and gathering for our fantastic Christmas Bazaar today. Many thanks to our PTFA and wider parent community, for all you have done to produce such an amazing event for all of our children. We all feel very lucky and VERY Christmassy!

#### 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 95%. 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.



**ROBLOX MAJOR SAFETY UPDATES** – Recently Roblox, the game used by 90 million people daily, announced some major updates which are available to users and parents. Roblox has a PEGI rating of 7 in the UK. The Roblox app has a rating of 'Everyone 10+' on Google Play Store and 12+ on the Apple App Store. The rollout of these updates, has already started and will be fully implemented by March 2025. These safety updates include:



- Limits to how children under 13 can communicate.
- Parental controls accessible from the parents phone rather from the child's device (remote management).

For more information about all the new features visit the Roblox website <https://corp.roblox.com/newsroom/2024/11/major-updates-to-our-safety-systems-and-parental-controls>

#### CURRICULUM

**TAPESTRY AND GOOGLE CLASSROOMS** – Google Classroom 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

**ADVENT 2024** – Advent began on Sunday 1st December and is a time of waiting and expectation, which can be challenging, as we prepare the way to a meaningful Christmas. At such a busy time, Advent focuses us on the coming of Jesus and gives us a wonderful opportunity to bring him further into our lives. All of our children will receive an 'Advent Acts of Hope and Kindness Calendar' and will be encouraged to record their kind acts to receive Footsteps in Faith badges. 5 acts of kindness will earn 1 Footstep in Faith badge! CAFOD has their online Advent calendar available for families to share a daily reflection <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>



**FATHER MICHAEL VISIT TO RECEPTION AND KEY STAGE 1** – It was lovely to welcome Father Michael to school last Friday. He came to visit Reception and Key Stage 1, and talked about Advent Season and the Nativity, as well as answering many questions on all he does for our school and wider community. The children loved the visit and we will see Father Michael again in the new year.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

**NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION REMINDER**– We are so excited that our gift to you of our Christmas Nativity and KS2 play,



are filling the school with joyous song at present! EYFS and KS1 Nativity ‘Born in a Barn’, will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 9.30am and 2pm. The KS2 Nativity A ‘Corsham Christmas Carol’, will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**– As we shared with you in our last newsletter, our collection box for the Royal British Legion felt very full when it was collected, and this has proved to be true when the official count was made! We have received a message, thanking our school community for our support and saying **we collected a magnificent £287.91!** an amazing total and one which will make a big difference to this important charity.

### ENRICHMENT

**REPAIR CAFÉ ASSEMBLY**– On 26<sup>th</sup> November, the amazing Corsham Repair Café, visited Year 6 to explain to them what they do and how they fix various items such as vacuum cleaners. Their aim is to help local people and communities reduce carbon, waste and landfill to improve the environment we live in and save money. In doing so we can all reduce pollution and increase the eco-environment to a more sustainable life. This Friday they visited the whole school to lead us in an assembly about this vital work. Please keep a look out for dates when they have drop in cafes, at locations such as The Pound Arts.

### PARENTS AS PARTNERS

**A CHRISTMAS CARD WINNER!** – We were delighted to be contacted by Corsham Town Council last week, to let us know that Orlando won the 7-10 age group, in this year’s Christmas Card Competition. We saw so many wonderful entries from our children, that we are sure that the judges were spoilt for choice! A huge congratulations to Orlando, who will be part of the group switching on the Corsham Christmas lights in tonight’s celebrations.



**RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR 2024** - If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**UKHSA ADVICE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR SCHOOLS AND PARENTS** - UKHSA has shared a useful guide, which provides a quick snapshot of what can be done to prevent and manage cases and outbreaks of common infectious diseases such as chickenpox. Please follow the link for further advice [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z?utm\\_source=Schools+newsletter&utm\\_campaign=3348f90204-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_09\\_02\\_02\\_40\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_48248bb0ce-3348f90204-88530444](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z?utm_source=Schools+newsletter&utm_campaign=3348f90204-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_09_02_02_40_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_48248bb0ce-3348f90204-88530444)

### Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Celebration of the Word ‘Second Sunday of Advent’ Reception and Key Stage 1 Dress Rehearsal in costume
Tues. 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 2 Dress Rehearsal in costume
Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS and KS1 Nativity ‘Born in a Barn’ @ 9.30am and 2pm – <b>please bring tickets</b> Year 4 swimming 6/6
Thurs. 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 ‘Corsham Christmas Carol’ @ 9.30am and 6pm - <b>please bring tickets</b>
Fri. 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Christmas Jumper Day – voluntary contribution £1</b> 2.30pm Celebration Assembly – invited parents
Mon. 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Celebration of the Word ‘Third Sunday of Advent’
Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception and Key Stage 1 Sorry Service @ 2.30pm Key Stage 2 Reconciliation @ 2.30pm
Wed. 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas visitor coming to school!

**INSET DAYS FOR 2024-25**  
**Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**  
**Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**  
**Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**  
**Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**  
**Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Thurs. 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Rock Steady Concert @ 2.15pm – invited parents
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christingle – School and Governors only Last Day of term!

*We hope to see many of you at the Corsham Light Switch On tonight!*

*Jennie Courtney*  
Headteacher



*The Catholic Churches of St Patrick Corsham  
and St Mary Chippenham presents...*

# CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

St Patrick's Church Hall Corsham

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

13:30 – 15:30

*All are welcome!*

COME STICK SWEETS INTO ORANGES

