

Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 20th December

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and at Saint Patrick's, we couldn't agree more!

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 92%. 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.



MY FAMILY'S DIGITAL TOOLKIT – We have shared this resource from Internet Matters before, but with Christmas just a few days away, we thought it worth sharing again. The Family Digital Toolkit is where parents can get personalised online safety advice based on a number of factors such as age, popular apps and platforms their children use, tackling online issues and more. The Family Digital Toolkit can be found via the following link <https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/>

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

CHRISTINGLE – We all gathered today, with invited governors, for our Christingle service. We focused on the power of a single candle. We know Jesus is the light of the world, and that the light Jesus brings us shines in the darkness, and teaches us how we can pass this light on to others. The children made their own beautiful Christingles, we looked magnificent, shining together as a whole school.

CHRISTMASTIDE 2024 – Please see details of the Mass and Services during the Christmas period...

Christmas Eve - *Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord*– Chippenham Mass with the blessing of the crib @ 5pm

Christmas Day – *Corsham Solemn Mass of Christmas Day @ 9am*

Chippenham Solemn Mass of Christmas Day @ 11am

Boxing Day – *Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr* – Chippenham Mass @ 12.10pm

For further details please see the parish website <https://chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk/>

CHRISTMAS GOOD WISHES FROM FATHER MICHAEL – Father Michael wishes you and your families an Advent of hope and expectancy, a holy celebration of Christmas and a happy and peace filled New Year.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES IN TERM 3 – In term 3, we do not have our usual Celebration Assemblies, as we have Epiphany, Chaplaincy Training, Launch of Jubilee Year of Hope and our Reception and Key Stage 1 class assemblies.



CHRISTMAS ENRICHMENT!

It has been a lovely few weeks of Christmas celebrations in school and a big thank you to Mr. Newstead for making our school look so festive

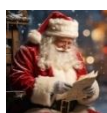
CHRISTMAS LUNCHES – We were all treated to a wonderful Christmas lunch this term...even the Christmas cookies were saying ho..ho..ho! Many thanks to Ms. Smith who prepared our delicious lunch, Mrs Cowen and Mrs Patridge for making the lunch so special and all the staff who ate alongside their classes. It was a great start to our Christmas celebrations!



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND CORSHAM LIGHT SWITCH ON – Our Christmas Bazaar was full of fun and frolics, with many prizes to be won, big and small. Congratulations to all of our winners and to all the children, for taking part so sensibly, while enjoying the excitement of the afternoon. A HUGE thank you to our amazing PTFA Steph, Lisa, Emily and Anna, brilliant parent helpers and all those who came and took part, to make it a truly wonderful event. **The Bazaar, Wreath Making Evening, Christmas Tree Sales and Nativity Raffles raised an unbelievable £2,577.21!** So, a HUGE thank you to all who supported these events.

It was lovely to see so many families at the Corsham Light Switch On, especially with our Christmas Card winner Orlando, helping to lead the count down! Although it was a wet and windy event, the community pulled together to raise everyone’s spirits, and we loved supporting our friends at the Wiltshire Scrapstore on our school stall.

BORN IN A BARN AND A CORSHAM CHRISTMAS CAROL – We have been so proud of all of our children in the Nativity and Key Stage 2 Christmas play this year. From learning lines, to creating sets and props, they were truly at the heart of everything and were very proud to give this to their families, as their Christmas gift. Thank you to all of our parents who helped with line learning and provided such wonderful costumes, I am sure you now know all of the carols and songs off by heart! A massive thank you to all of our staff, who always champion our children to be the very best they can be, with such wonderful results. We hope you enjoyed the as much as we did.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND A SPECIAL VISITOR – Last Friday it was lovely to see a grey winter morning brightened up, with a cat walk of Christmas jumpers and outfits! The children looked spectacular and we loved to see some other family members joining in. This week we had a special visitor call in at our school. Santa himself arrived, mid Christmas Eve preparations, to say hello and even leave some early gifts. He reminded us all to leave him a little treat on Christmas Eve and not to forget a little something for Rudolph!

ROCK STEADY STARS IN CONCERT – We watched a wonderful end of term concert yesterday, led by our talented performers, in their Rock Steady bands. Their talent and enthusiasm were contagious and, as always, we were so impressed to see them work together as a team led by their leader Stan. Well done to all our future rock stars!

OUR AMAZING LINGUISTS – Congratulation to several children, who have received their certificates for completing the first stage of learning French with La Jolie Ronde, and are now moving on to the next part of the course. Félicitations! is how we say ‘well done’ to Ella, Grace, Carysanne, Maya, Alycone, Joshua, Rupert, Audrey, Aidan, Felix and Leo Longhurst.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

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.

Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 6th Jan	First Day back to School! Celebration of the Word – School Only
Fri. 10th Jan	Reception Celebration Epiphany Celebration- Led by Chaplaincy Team – School and Governors @ 2.30pm
Mon. 13th Jan	Celebration of the Word – School Only
Wed. 15th Jan	Year 3 and 6 Trip to We the Curious – school uniform to be worn
Fri 17th Jan	Downside Chaplains visiting to lead Chaplaincy Training pm
Future Dates for your Diary...	
22 nd January – Year 6 begin swimming	
7 th February - Father Michael visiting Year 1/2/Reception	
10 th February – Meeting for Year 5 parents re: Kilve Court Residential	

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

Finally, a HUGE thank you to the amazing staff and governors, who I have the privilege to work with, in our school. They help to make this term a busy, but joyous one for all, and I know you will join me in wishing them a peaceful Christmas with their families. We hope you all have the most wonderful Christmas with your loved ones, whether at home or away, and we wish you all a Happy New Year. See you on Monday 6th January 2025!

Jennie Courtney (Headteacher)



May we be as joyful as the
angels this Christmas time.
May we be as eager as the
shepherds this Christmas
time.
May we persevere like the
wise men this Christmas
time.
May we obey God like Joseph
and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ
child
be with us all this Christmas
Amen.

