

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> January

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

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas with your family and friends and are now ready for 2025, a new year full of possibilities and potential. We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Pilinger from her maternity leave, who will be working in Year 1 on Thursday and Friday. Read on to find out some of our plans for Term 3...

#### 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.

**NEW DEVICES FOR CHRISTMAS? TRY THE ABC GUIDE** – With Christmas having just been, January is a great time to take stock of the devices in your home (plus any new presents received) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child. One frustrating issue a parent can encounter, is that the available features and how you set devices up, differ greatly. Internet Matters have really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. **ABC stands for:**



**A** - Activate parental controls.

**B** - Balance screen time.

**C** - Check and chat.

You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice on the following link <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/abc-online-safety-checklist/>

#### CURRICULUM

**TAPESTRY AND GOOGLE CLASSROOMS** – Google Classrooms is fully accesible 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

**CHRISTMASTIDE / GALILEE TO JERUSALEM / JUDAISM** – This term we begin our RE learning, initially focussing on Christmastide and then continuing with Judaism, Catholic Social Teaching and Galilee to Jerusalem. This branch is about the Kingdom of God which is not a place, but a way of living and relating to each other. Each area adds to our understanding of the values we need to hold and the way we need to live. Please see your child's Tapestry or Google Classroom page for more information.

**FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH BADGES** – Everyone still has time to complete their 'Advent Acts of Hope and Kindness Calendar' and to receive a Footsteps in Faith badges. 5 acts of kindness will earn 1 Footsteps in Faith badge! All calendars will need to be shared with class teachers by **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.**



**CLASS ASSEMBLIES** - This term Key Stage 1 will be leading the majority of our Friday assemblies, please see the 'Dates for your Diary'. Parents of each class are very welcome to attend these assemblies, which begin at 2.30pm. We always enjoy hearing about what our children have been learning in class...as well as learning a lot ourselves! We hope to see you there.

**PIANO LESSONS AT ST PATRICK'S** -There are some spaces available for piano lessons at the school. Beginners and those wishing to take grades welcome. For more information please contact Rupert Brown [ruperttkbrown@gmail.com](mailto:ruperttkbrown@gmail.com) 07951 294684.



**2025 JUBILEE YEAR** – Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church – an event that takes place once every 25 years. The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”, an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people right across the world at a time when there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic. The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with others. We will be working closely with Bishop Bosco, Clifton Diocese and our friends in the Camino Schools throughout the year and we will begin our celebrations on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**. This will be a ‘Colourful Mufti

Day’, when the children will make hearts of hope and kindness, to decorate our school entrance. Please keep a look out for other Jubilee events, which will be taking place throughout 2025.

### ENRICHMENT

**SAVE THE DATE - 2025 ART EXHIBITION** – Following the success of our first ever Art Exhibition, last March, we would like you to ‘Save the Date’ for our 2025 Art Exhibition. This exhibition celebrates the amazing talents of our local artists, whilst you will be able to pay to view the exhibition, purchase some beautiful art work and children entry for FREE! The date will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and if you know of any local artists, or are an artist yourself, please contact us as we would love to exhibit and celebrate your talent!



### PARENTS AS PARTNERS

**RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR 2025** - 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...

<b>Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Celebration of the Word – School Only
<b>Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Year 3 and 6 Trip to We the Curious – school uniform to be worn
<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Downside Chaplains visiting to lead Chaplaincy Training pm No Celebration Assembly because of training
<b>Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Jubilee Launch Day for Schools and Colleges Celebration of the Word – School Only Last Day for Footsteps in Faith Badges
<b>Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	Year 6 begin swimming – whole class swimming 1/3
<b>Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	9am Celebration of the Word ‘Jubilee Year School Launch’ – School only Colourful Mufti Day!

**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**

**Future Dates for your Diary...**  
 31<sup>st</sup> January - Year 2 Class Assembly @ 2.30pm – Year 2 families welcome  
 7<sup>th</sup> February-Reception and New parents celebration at 09.30 am  
 7<sup>th</sup> February - Father Michael visiting Year 1/2/Reception  
 7<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1 Class Assembly @ 2.30pm – Year 1 families welcome  
 10<sup>th</sup> February – Meeting for Year 5 parents re: Kilve Court Residential @ 3.15pm (Year 5 Classroom)  
 11<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day – lessons in all classes  
 14<sup>th</sup> February - Reception Class Assembly @ 2.30pm – Reception families welcome

*We are now in the colder months, so please remember to send children in with a warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves etc. If we do encounter any challenging weather, any closures will be announced via the school website, Parentmail and on the radio. On our school website you will find ‘Severe Weather’ information, as well as Home Learning Activities. These are under the tab ‘Parent Information’*

*Have a great weekend!  
 Jennie Courtney (Headteacher)*