



Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 14th February

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

As you know this has been a very difficult end to the term, but thank you for all of your kind words and messages to our staff, they have meant the world.

WE ARE SAYING A FOND GOODBYE TO MRS ROBERTSON – Mrs Robertson will be leaving us at Easter, after being a loved member of our Saint Patrick's School family for 18 years. She will be relocating to the East Midlands, to start a new exciting chapter in her life. Mrs Robertson has not only been a fantastic teacher in our school, but has championed the children in our school with additional needs, through her role as Senco and will be greatly missed by us all. We know you will join us in wishing her and her family well in this new exciting chapter of her life and we look forward to still having her with us for Term 4. We are happy to announce that Mrs Charly Sykes will be our new Senco and more details for Year 3 parents will follow next term.

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.

WHAT IS DOOMSCROLLING? – Doomscrolling is where someone gets caught in a continuous cycle of negativity and can feed from algorithms, created from your search engine. Whilst doomscrolling is often intentional, it can also be a result of the decisions the algorithm makes for you and can lead to you being led down a rabbit hole of inappropriate feeds. This can have ongoing effects such as anxiety, lack of sleep and other negative effects on wellbeing. Internet Matters has a great article about doomscrolling, including things to look out for and advice for parents. You can find the article by following this link <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-doomscrolling-parents-guide/>



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

RECEPTION PARENTS EVENING BOOKING OPEN – Reception parents can book their Parents Evening appointment on School Cloud, for Term 4 on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th March, from today. **The bookings will close on Friday 28th February at 12 noon.**

MATHS DAY – On Thursday 6th February the whole school took part in our Number Day assembly, where we thought about how we use Maths in every day scenarios and how people use Maths in their jobs. We now have plenty of fun curriculum-based activities including Maths games and code breaking, which we will be using in our lessons, while thinking about how we can challenge our mathematical further thinking.

Mrs. Mandy Wood (Maths Subject Leader)

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2025 - On Tuesday 11th February it was Safer Internet Day across the country. Years Two, Three and Four started the day with a presentation from Mr Chapman, who is a Cyber Incident Investigator for the M.O.D. He spoke to the children about staying safe when engaging with others online. Reception and Year One heard from Mrs Courtney, all about 'scams' online- what to look out for and who to go to when you are worried about something you see online. Years Five and Six were due to hear a presentation from PC Shaun Redmond all about social media but unfortunately, he was called away on police business and will be rescheduling this visit. Throughout the day, Reception and Key Stage One then learnt about Online Relationships-what they are as well as both the positive and negative aspects of these. Key Stage Two continued their learning in class focussed on how to make the internet a safer place. This day brought so much invaluable learning and we would urge you to continue these conversations at home- keep an eye out for useful online safety updates in our newsletters and website.



WORLD BOOK DAY 6th MARCH – This is just to draw your attention to World Book Day coming up next term, more details to follow next term. Children can wear costumes on the day, but this is not compulsory.

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION



WE ARE TEAM TOM – Today was a fantastic day, being part of Team Tom! The children loved balance biking, scooting and cycling, to raise money to support Tom’s Bowhead (modified bike) fund and his dream of competing in the LA Paralympics. The school was full of smiles, team cheering and joy, and a lovely way to end the term. Thank you so much for all of your donations at the gate and to the many of you who we have seen have donated online. **At present we have raised an astounding £443 for Tom!** There will be some great photos on your Tapestry and Google Classrooms pages. If you would like to read more about Tom’s story or would still like to donate, please follow the link to his GoFundMe page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/6vgcn-toms-bowhead-fund> If you donate, please add that you are a Saint Patrick’s School member, so Tom knows who to thank.

ENRICHMENT

A VISIT FROM ACORN AND DOGS FOR HEALTH AND SOME EXCITING NEWS – Last week, we had a wonderful visit from Acorn and Emma. Acorn works in Oakfield School in Frome and supports learning, encourages participation and emotional wellness at their school, as part of the Dogs for Health charity. The children loved having Acorn and Emma visit. Many thanks to those families who alerted us to any nerves, those children had the option to participate as much or little as they wished, and all thoroughly enjoyed saying their hellos.

We now have some exciting news to share. We know of so many benefits from working with Dogs for Health and saw such a positive reaction from our children, that we have decided with the governing body, that Saint Patrick’s will be getting our own school dog. He is a hypoallergenic cockapoo puppy and will be joining us next term. He will be taking part in Kennel Club training, as well as therapy dog and socialising training. He will belong to Mrs Courtney and will live in her office with herself and Mrs Minty, but will be out on gate duties and available to support children emotionally and academically. Mr Newstead had been part of these plans and we know he will still be very much part of our new school dog’s journey with us. Please see the end of the newsletter for an official introduction!

MULTILINGUAL MARCH – Did you know that currently there are over 100 different languages used by multilingual learners in Wiltshire schools? On Friday 28th February, we will be celebrating the start of Multilingual March, which has been designed by Wiltshire EMTAS to promote and celebrate these languages and learners. If you would like to visit your child’s class during March to celebrate and share your language. We would love to hear from you!

Dates for your Diary...

Tues. 25th Feb	PE Enrichment day – lacrosse Years 2 – 6 – PE uniform to be worn
Wed. 26th Feb	Fr Craig (Methodist Church) Assembly for KS2
Fri. 28th Feb.	Reception Parent Evening bookings on School Cloud close @ 12 noon Celebration Assembly – Multilingual March – school only
Mon. 3rd March	Reception Parents Evening on School Cloud 3.30 – 5.50pm
Tues. 4th March	Reception Parents Evening on School Cloud 3.30 – 5.50pm
Wed. 5th March	Ash Wednesday Service in school – school only Y5 Whole Class Swimming (1/4)
Thurs. 6th March	World Book day – details to follow next term
Fri. 7th March	Mr Newstead’s funeral - School closes at 11am today
Future Dates for your Diary...	
<i>Fri. 14th March – Key Stage 1 Pilgrimage onsite – led by Year 6 Year 4 Class Assembly – Year 4 families welcome</i>	
<i>Mon. 17th March – Saint Patrick’s Feast Day Celebrations in school – more details to follow</i>	
<i>Fri. 21st March - Year 6 Class Assembly – Year 6 families welcome</i>	
<i>Mon. 24th – Wed. 26th March – Year 5 @ Kilve Court Residential</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

Fri. 28th March - Mass at St. Patrick's @ 11am – Year 3 and 4 – families welcome
Mon 31st March – We begin 'Stay and Pray' daily drop in prayers for anyone 9 – 9.30am all week – all are welcome!
Wed. 2nd April - World Autism Awareness Day- Assembly led by Mrs Robertson – school only
Thurs. 3rd April – Rock Steady Concert – invited families only
Friday 4th April – Last day of term
Year 5 Class Assembly – Year 5 families welcome
Year 1 – Year 6 Mid-Year Reports out to Parents

We would like to remind you that we have started a book of condolence for Mr Newstead's family, from his Saint Patrick's family. We know how much he meant to us all and we would encourage you to come to school, to sign the book and share your memories of Mr Newstead. You will find the book in the lobby, in front of the School Office. The book will be open from now, until the end of the first week of Term 4 (Friday 28th February). **Please remember that school will be open between 8.40 – 11am on Friday 7th March, to allow staff to attend Mr Newstead's funeral.**

Have a lovely half term with your loved ones,

Jennie Courtney
(Headteacher)

HELLO



Hello!

My name is Teddy and I am going to be the Saint Patrick's School Dog. I am only a puppy, so will be growing up with you. I am a cockerpool and I can't wait to meet you and become friends, I hope you are looking forward to meeting me too.

I know that some people can be allergic to dogs, or nervous around them. Just like when Acorn visited, please let Mrs Courtney or Mrs Minty know if this is the case.

I am looking forward to seeing you in term 4.



Love Teddy x