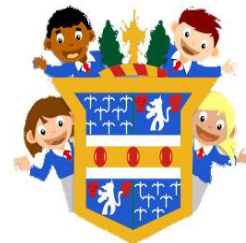


Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Telephone no 01249 713125

www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk

Email: admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk.



Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 5th September

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,



Welcome
Glad you're here!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer with family and friends. It was a lovely summer break for many of us as staff and it has been great to see our children back in school and looking so well. They all seem to be so much taller and so happy to be back with their friends! Teddy had a great summer of days out, holidaying in Wales and making more friends through the charity Dogs for Health. Please keep up with all of our updates, including Teddy's travels and adventures, through



our school and PTFA Instagram.

WELCOME! A huge welcome to our new Reception class – Riley, Rosalind, Noah, Gino, Lola, Denny, Sebastian, Rose, Ryan, Frederick, Max, Monty, Elizabeth, Esme, Ivy, Theodore, Zachary, Finley, Isobel, Nuala, Tobias, Elodie, Kaiyah, Grayson, Albany, James, Arlo, Matilda and Oliver. We also have Ella, who has joined us in Key Stage 1 and Joshie O'Connor who has joined us in Key Stage 2. We welcome Mrs. Couchman, who joins us as a Teaching Assistant in Years 1 and 4, and Miss Fudge who joins our Meerkatz Team. We know you will join us in warmly welcoming all those who are new to our school community.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

ATTENDANCE - As a school we continue to aim for our **school attendance to be 96%**. If you need advice or support on how to improve your child's attendance, please contact the School Office Team 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 Team if your child is not attending school and to give a reason for their absence, for our records. The Department for Education published revised guidance, which came into effect from August 2024. We have attached the guidance to this newsletter and the letter previously sent out to families from Wiltshire LA, which advises of all of the changes and penalties which you could incur. We would ask you to be fully aware of these changes when requesting time away from school or holidays.**



MEDICINE - Please ensure that your child's inhalers etc. are up to date and full. All medicines should be handed in to the School Office or the class teacher rather than sent in with your child. If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please complete a Medicine Administration form at the office.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION - Please take the time to ensure we have the most accurate and up to date contact numbers (home / work / mobile / emergency), current full address, email addresses and your child's up to date medical information on our files for the year ahead. We should have 3 contacts per family, to ensure we can contact someone when needed.

CURRICULUM

TAPESTRY AND GOOGLE CLASSROOMS – Google Classrooms will be accessible to Years 2 to Year 6 by week 2. Tapestry and the Year 1 Google Classroom will be available to Reception and Year 1 parents in week 3. 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

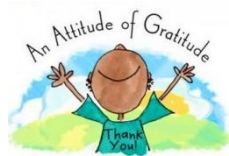
MEET THE TEACHER DATES – Meet the Teacher meetings will be from 2 – 3.15pm, on the dates below...

Tues. 16 th Sept	Year 5	Mon. 22 nd Sept	Year 3
Wed. 17 th Sept	Year 4	Wed. 24 th Sept	Year 6
Thurs. 18 th Sept	Year 1	Mon. 29 th Sept	Year 2

PARENT WORKSHOPS – We will be hosting a number of different workshops this year from supporting your child with the curriculum to parenting questions. This term we will begin with **'Being the Best We Can Be for Our Children...by Putting Ourselves First Sometimes!'**. This will be held on **Wednesday 24th September in the school hall, from 5.45pm, for a 6pm start**. We would love this to be an evening of bringing parents together to discuss some of the challenges of parenting and supporting our amazing children in 2025, as well as finding out other areas that you would find useful for workshops. We hope many of you will be able to join Mrs Courtney and Mrs Minty, for a what we hopeful will be a useful, fun and supportive evening.

Parent Workshops

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION



MISSION AND VISION – This week we have been learning about our school Mission statement and how we can be Agents of Change in our world and share an ‘Attitude of Gratitude’, to make our community a positive and happy place to live in. This included learning about catholic social teaching and how much we need to value every person and the world we live in, as well as how unique we all are and making the most of the gifts we have been given. We will then move our learning on to focus on Creation and Covenant.

CARLO ACUTIS TO BE CANONISED 7TH SEPTEMBER – On Monday our Celebration of the Word will focus on a new saint, Saint Carlo Acutis. Carlo Acutis, known as “The Millennial Saint,” was just 15 when he died of Leukaemia in 2006, but this young computer programmer has left a powerful legacy that continues to inspire young people around the world. At Saint Aldhelm’s RC Church Malmesbury, there is a stained-glass window dedicated to our new saint, and people have been visiting from all over the world see it and learn more about his life. You can read more about him, his life and the window through the church website <https://www.saintaldhelms.com/blessed-carlo-acutis>



EDUCATION SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER – Education Sunday falls on the 14th September, at the start of our academic year. It is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established in 1848, and provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools and universities places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead. Father Michael will be leading Mass at 9am at Saint Patrick’s Church.

ENRICHMENT

SWIMMING – This term Year 3 will be swimming at Springfield Community Campus on Wednesdays. All children must wear swimming hats. If children wish to wear goggles, they must have a letter of permission from parents. **Swimming begins on Wednesday 10th September.**

YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 VISIT TO BATH 10TH SEPTEMBER – We are all very much looking forward to the Year 1 and 2 trip to Bath next week. The Trip will be in two parts. One part will be visiting Bath Abbey, where the children will take part in a workshop, to learn more about the Abbey itself and how Benedictine monks lived during Saxon times. The other part of the day will be a walking tour of Bath, looking at the famous sights, learning about the great history and those famous residents and visitors who have walked the streets before us. All children will need to be in school uniform, with comfortable shoes for walking (trainers are allowed on this trip), a coat / sun hat (depending on weather) and packed lunch in a disposable bag which can be thrown away (no glass bottles or fizzy drinks please). We hope to have a fantastic day and that the children can tell you all about their new learning!

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT – Please ensure that all children attend school in full school/PE uniform. No makeup, nail varnish, jewelry (other than stud earrings and watches) are permitted. **SMART watches are also not permitted.** To prevent injury, no jewelry at all should be worn on PE days. Earrings should be removed and preferably left at home. If not, the child can take them out at school or cover them with micro pore tape. Staff cannot assist children in taking out or covering earrings. Unsuitable or extreme haircuts, hair dye or shaved patterns are not permitted.

Children are expected to wear black school shoes rather than trainers to school. In coming weeks, Reception and Year 1 children will need a pair of wellies to remain in school for outdoor learning. Your class teachers will inform you when they are needed.

Our school uniform defines us as a school community both in school and the local community. We are aware of the rising cost of living and its impact on all areas of our community. Please make use of the PTFA nearly new school uniform cupboard, which works on donations and is open for all every Friday at 3pm. **We would ask you to approach us if you have any issues with school uniform, school dinners etc. as we are here to help.** Please make sure that all uniform, including PE uniform, is clearly labelled and in line with the school uniform policy, as we want to make sure that all uniform is returned to the correct owner. This is on the school website under Parents -> Parent Information -> Uniform.

Thank you in advance for helping us to uphold our standards of uniform and pride in our presentation.

LUNCH AND SNACKS – Please remember that school dinners need to be booked through Edwards and Ward website in advance. Book your child’s meals via ParentPay <https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4416633012625-How-to-book-meals-and-events#how-to-book-meals-and-events-0-0> Children are permitted to eat fruit or vegetable snacks only at breaktimes. Crisps or biscuits and sweets are not to be eaten during breaktime. If your child is eating a packed lunch from home, **please just pack the amount of food that you know your child(ren) will eat to avoid unnecessary waste.**

OPEN DAYS - Saint Patrick's First Open Day for Reception Children joining school in September 2026, will be held on **Tuesday 7th October @ 9.30am**. Our second Open Day will be on **Wednesday 5th November @ 9.30am**. All are welcome!



AND FINALLY....Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 8th Sept.	Celebration of the Word – School only – Saint Carlo Acutis
Tues. 9th Sept.	Healthy Heroes Years 5 and 6 – PE uniform to be worn Football Club – Years 4/5/6 – 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wed. 10th Sept	Year 1 and Year 2 Trip to Bath Year 3 Swimming begins 1/6
Thurs. 11th Sept.	Multisports Club – Years 1/2/3 – 3.15 - 4.15pm
Fri. 12th Sept.	Celebration Assembly @ 2.30pm – <i>Invited parents will be contacted</i>
Future Dates....	
Mon. 15th Sept - Gardening Club begins – see email sent to families	
Tues. 23rd Sept. – PTFA AGM in school @ 2.30pm	
Wed. 24th Sept – Father Craig visiting Years 1-4 Year 5 and Year 6 Mass @ Saint Patrick's Church – all families welcome	
Tues. 30th Sept – NSPCC Stay Safe Workshops for Year 2/ Y5/ Y6	
October – Month of Holy Rosary gatherings x3 per week, led by Chaplaincy Team	
Fri. 3rd Oct – Harvest Celebration – collection for Corsham Churches Foodbank	
Fri. 10th Oct – Smartphone Free Childhood Drop in @ school 9-10am	
Mon. 13th and Wed. 15th Oct – Parents Evening Years 1- Year 6 (online through School Cloud)	
Sat. 18th Oct – Recording of School Song, postponed from last academic year, more details to follow	
Wed. 22nd Oct – Year 3 and Year 4 Mass @ Saint Patrick's Church – families welcome Last Day of Term 1	

INSET DAYS FOR 2025-26
Mon. 1st September 2025
Mon. 5th January 2026
Mon. 1st June 2026
Tues. 2nd June 2026
Wed. 3rd June 2026

Emergency Alert Reminder

Please remember that mobile phones in the UK will be sent a test Emergency Alert at around **15:00 on Sunday 7th September 2025**, as part of plans to strengthen the country's preparedness. The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. It allows vital information and advice to be sent to people rapidly in an emergency. During the test, mobile phones will vibrate and make a loud siren sound for roughly ten seconds, even if they are set to silent. A message will also appear on phone screens, making it clear the alert is only a test.

Have a lovely weekend and welcome back everybody!

J Courtney
Headteacher





GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS....

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days



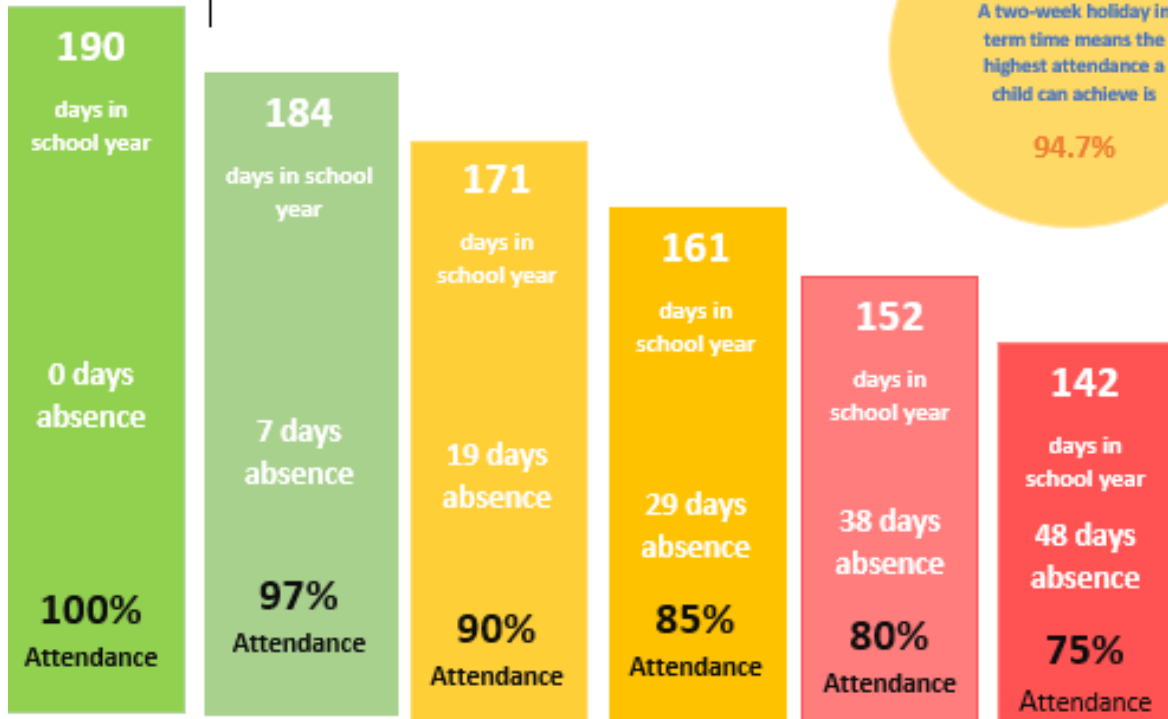
Remember:

Education is important-don't miss out!

Did you know?

A two-week holiday in term time means the highest attendance a child can achieve is

94.7%



Well Done!

A good attendance gives you the best chance for success

I'm concerned

A poor attendance gives you less chance of success

Serious Concern

Very poor attendance has a serious impact and effects life chances

DID YOU KNOW WHEN CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL THEY:

- Can achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Keep up with work and homework
- Learn how to look after themselves
- Grow in confidence
- Make and maintain friendships

There are 365 days in a calendar year.

175 days are not in school

What can parents / carers do?

Ensure your child attends school every day and on time. **Have everything ready the night before to avoid delays in the morning.** Have good bedtime and morning routines with set times for going to bed and waking up. Try to make dental and medical appointments outside of school time or at weekends. Take family holidays during the school holiday. We are unable to authorise term time holidays. Contact us immediately if you need help or support with your child's attendance or punctuality. You must have the school's permission to take your child out of school only in exceptional circumstances.