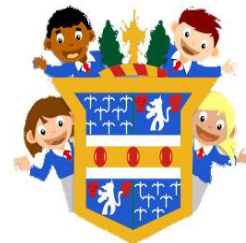


Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 7th November

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

Welcome back to term 2! We hope you all had a lovely half term, whether you were at home or travelled further afield. This term is always a busy, but wonderful one, and we look forward to welcoming you into our school for our next Open Day, Celebrations Assemblies and our many Christmas events!

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 94%**. 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 if your child is not attending school and give a specific reason for their absence, (please do not say 'unwell' or 'sick') this needs to be done for each day you child/ren is absent for our records. Our School Office is open daily from 8.45am – 3.15pm** 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.



MOBILE PHONE INFORMATION – For those who attended the Smartphone Free Childhood drop in session last term, and those who



requested further information, the following article may be of interest. Whilst here in the UK the debate about banning phones in schools continues, in Australia they have been banned for two years. What have the outcomes been? A survey of almost 1,000 public school principals has shown that...80% said the ban has improved students learning, 86% said it has improved socialisation and 87% believe students are less distracted. These are really interesting results and you may like to read the complete article from The

Guardian, using the following link <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/oct/13/two-years-after-school-phone-bans-were-implemented-in-australia-whats-changed-the-impacts-were-clear>

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

PARENT WORKSHOP REMINDER – Our next parent workshop, focussing on honest parenting and our own mental health, will take place on **Wednesday 12th November @ 5.45pm (arrival and wine)**. Its seasonal theme will be **'How to Survive Christmas and Find the Joy Again!'**. We do hope you will be able to join us to share some advice for the festive season, from how to make financial savings, to how to keep your sanity and remember the true meaning of this special time of year.



RECEPTION PARENTS EVENING – Reception Parents Evening will be held on **Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th November from 3.30pm – 6pm**. You can book your online appointment using the School Cloud system <https://stpatrickscatholic.schoolcloud.co.uk/> A guide on how to book your appointment is attached to this letter, but if you encounter any difficulties, please contact the School Office Team. **Bookings will open on Monday 20th October @ 12 noon and close on Friday 7th November.**

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE CORSHAM CHURCHES FOODBANK – A huge thank you from the team of volunteers at the foodbank for your kind donations, following our Harvest collection. With the cost of living crisis and Christmas approaching, your donations have been more important than ever, and more appreciated than you know. Thank you!



ALL SAINTS DAY (1ST NOV) AND ALL SOULS DAY (2ND NOV) – In our Celebration of the Word worship on Monday, we learnt about All Saints Day and All Souls Day. November is traditionally a month when we pray for the Holy Souls. These are not only people we have known and loved, but also people who have lived their lives really well, following God’s message. This month of remembrance reminds us of the importance of love and living the best lives we can.



REMEMBRANCE 2025 – We will be joining our community in the Corsham Remembrance Events again this year, remembering the 80th anniversary since the end of WWII. On **Sunday 9th November**, Carysanne and Willow will represent our school community at the service and laying of wreaths. This will be at the War Memorial at 10.45am. All are welcome to attend this poignant and important gathering. A Requiem Mass with Acts of Remembrance for the Fallen will be celebrated on Sunday 9th November, at 9am in St. Patrick’s Church. We have been selling poppies, bans, reflectors etc every morning before school in support of the Royal British Legion. We thank you on their behalf, for your support.



CORSHAM POPPY PROJECT – We felt incredibly proud of our children and whole community, when seeing Corsham on the local and national news during half term, following the visit from Queen Camilla. Our town looks gorgeous thanks to the Peacock WI Project, who at the start of the year had a goal to create 10,000 poppies to display in our town, but actually received over 31,000 poppies from across the UK and overseas! It definitely warranted a royal visit! Please see the end of our newsletter to see some of the beautiful images which you have shared with us.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026 – A message from Father Michael for those taking First Holy Communion in 2026 (Year 3 and above)
Please collect an application form from Fr Michael or the Parish Administrator after attending Saturday/Sunday Mass. To enrol, please ensure that you are attending Mass with your child each week. **Closing date for applications is Sunday 7th Dec.**

ENRICHMENT



AUTHOR VISIT – On Monday, we were delighted to welcome the local author, Sophie Kirtley to Saint Patrick’s School. Sophie Kirtley grew up in Northern Ireland and spent her childhood climbing on hay bales, rolling down sand dunes and leaping the raw Atlantic waves. Nowadays she lives in Wiltshire with her family and their mini-menagerie of pets and wild things. Sophie has always loved stories: she has taught English, and has worked in a theatre, a bookshop and a tiny pub where folk tell fairy tales by candlelight. She is a prize-winning published poet. Sophie gave an inspirational talk to Key Stage 2 about writing and being an author and her latest book called, ‘Swanfall’. She was really entertaining and the children thoroughly enjoyed it, sharing the migration journeys of swans and reading us the first chapter of her book, before ending with a fun quiz. The children had the opportunity to meet Sophie and ask her many questions, which they loved!

Miss Wilkinson Writing Subject Leader

MATHS CHALLENGE – We were incredibly proud of our Year 6 team who took part in the Primary Maths Team Challenge at The Corsham School on Friday 17th October. Competing in a series of exciting maths rounds designed to challenge and inspire, the children were amazing throughout—and we’re thrilled to share that they came 3rd! Well done to our team and what great ambassadors they were for our school.

Mrs Wood Maths Subject Leader

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

OPEN DAYS – It was lovely to welcome so many potential new families to our Open Day this week. All are welcome! If you know of any families with children starting school in September 2026, or moving into the area with older children who would like to visit our school, please ask them to contact the Office Team to arrange a tour of our school.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR 2026 – Applications for Reception places for September 2026, can be made using Wiltshire LA Parent Portal <https://parentportal.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/admissions> This opened on 1st September 2025. **The national deadline date for applying for a place is 15th January 2026.** All online applicants who apply by the national deadline date will receive notification of the outcome on 16th April 2026.

PTFA EVENTS IN TERM 2 – Our PTFA are leading many wonderful events and fundraisers this term, which we hope to see many of you attending. Here’s what’s happening:

✦ **Christmas Card Designs** – Your children’s beautiful card designs are ready to order – perfect for sending to family and friends.

🎄 **Christmas Tree Orders** – Don’t forget to order your tree through school and make your home sparkle this season!

🎁 **Christmas Bazaar** – A fantastic festive event for the whole school – with games, stalls, and plenty of holiday cheer.

👕 **Christmas Jumper Day** – A fun day for the children to wear their favourite festive jumpers and spread some joy with a special visit into school.



- ✚ **Hampers & Tombola Donations** – We’re collecting items for our Christmas hampers and tombola – any contributions are greatly appreciated!

Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 10th Nov	Celebration of the Word – focus on Remembrance – school only Y3 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm Gardening Club for Y1/ Y2 3.15-4.15pm Reception Parents Evening – online
Tues. 11th Nov	REMEMBRANCE DAY – 2 minutes silence @ 11am Y5 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm Tag Rugby Year 1/2/3 3.15-4.15pm Reception Parents Evening – online
Wed. 12th Nov	Year 4 Swimming 2/6 Y2 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm Parent Workshop ‘How to Survive Christmas and Find the Joy Again!’ @ 5.45pm in School Hall
Thurs. 13th Nov	Year 6 Tag Rugby Cosham Cluster Tournament Tag Rugby Year 4/5/6 3.15-4.15pm
Fri. 14th Nov	2.30pm Celebration Assembly – invited parents

INSET DAYS FOR 2025-2026
Mon. 1st September 2025
Mon. 4th January 2026
Mon. 1st June 2026
Tues. 2nd June 2026
Wed. 3rd June 2026

Future Dates....

- 17th Nov – Reception Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm
- 18th Nov – Year 6 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm
- 24th Nov – Year 4 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm
- 27th Nov – Coffee and Cake Catch Up with Mrs Sykes and Debbie Rials @ 2pm
- 2nd Dec – Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 Mass at Saint Patrick’s Church @ 11am, led by Father Michael
- 3rd Dec – Year 1 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm

Christmas Dates!

- Sat. 29th Nov – PTFA Wreath Making Workshop – book online
- Fri. 5th Dec – School Bazaar (pm) and Corsham Lights Switch on
- Wed. 10th Dec – KS1 Nativity @ 9.30 am and 2pm (ticketed)
- Thurs. 11th Dec – KS2 Christmas performance @ 1.45pm and 6pm (ticketed)
Christmas Jumper and Mufti Day
- Tues. 16th Dec – Christmas Lunch KS1 – parents book online
- Wed. 17th Dec – Christmas Lunch KS2 – parents book online
- Fri. 19th Dec – Christingle for school and governors

Last Day of term!

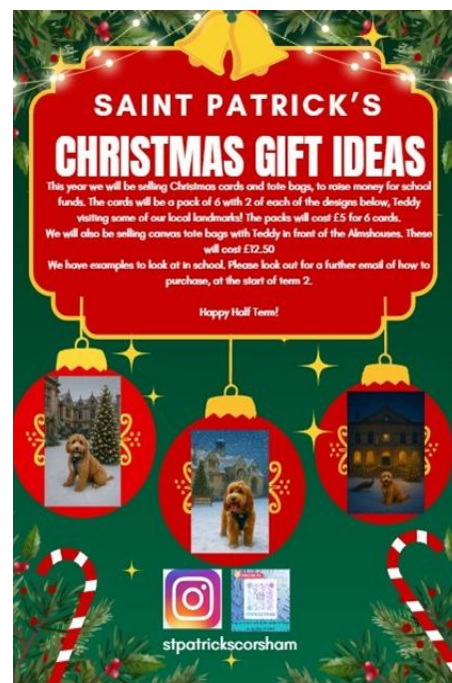
We now have some Christmas cards and gifts with Teddy on them available to order.

These can be seen in our office window and further details of how to order, will be sent out very soon.

Many thanks to our friends at the Almshouses, Corsham Court and Corsham Town Council, for allowing us to use their images on these items.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing some of you at the Remembrance Service on Sunday.

Jennie Courtney
Headteacher






**CORSHAM
POPPY
PROJECT**
ROYAL VISIT 28TH OCTOBER

