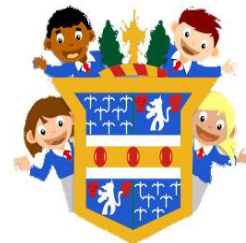


Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 21st November

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

Now that the weather is starting to feel more wintery, can we ensure that all children have a warm, waterproof winter coat, hat, scarf, gloves etc so that we can enjoy as much outdoor time as possible. Please ensure all items are named to have them returned safely to you!

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 95%**. 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 will need to be done for each day your 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.



APP SAFETY SETTINGS FOR PARENTS – With the Online Safety Act now in force it's no surprise to see a lot of focus and scrutiny on



tech companies, their features and safety settings being so prominent in the media, particularly safety settings failures. However, that shouldn't detract from the fact that safety settings are important, they're not perfect and never will be, but they are there for a reason. **Although none of our children are old enough to use social media apps, which are mostly from 13 years up, we are sharing the guidance for the more popular social apps (all from the Internet Matters website).**

TikTok parental controls <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/tiktok-privacy-and-safety-settings/>

Snapchat parental controls <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/>

Instagram parental controls <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/instagram/>

FaceTime privacy and safety settings <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/facetime-privacy-and-safety-settings/>

WhatsApp privacy guide <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/whatsapp/>

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 – It was great to have some of you join myself and Mrs Minty for our workshop last week.

We discussed everything from the joys and true meaning of Christmas, to how each family celebrates differently and how to enjoy this precious time without breaking the bank balance! We have been asked if these will continue and we are happy to arrange one per term for this academic year. If you have any ideas related to parenting, mental health, cost of living please send them in, as we would like to make these workshops as meaningful as possible for all.

Parent Workshops

CATCH UP AND CAKE – It has been lovely to have so many parents join us for our Catch Up and Cake sessions, so far this term. Please remember that **Year 4 Parents will meet on Monday 24th November** and **Year 1 Parents will meet on Wednesday 3rd December**. We look forward to seeing you all.

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

A LOVELY VISIT FROM FATHER CRAIG – Father Craig visited us to help us understand more about the importance of Remembrance. Father Craig served in the Armed forces for sixteen years before leaving and becoming a police officer serving communities in the Southwest of England, in a variety of specialist roles for 22 years. Who better to help us to understand Remembrance and service to others.

CHAPLAINCY COMMISSIONING AT CLIFTON CATHEDRAL – We were very excited to join the celebratory Mass, led by Bishop Bosco, to commission members of our Chaplaincy Teams for the coming year. It was a lovely opportunity for pupils from many diocesan schools to come together and celebrate the important part they play in our school communities.

ADVENT BEGINS – Advent begins on Sunday 30th November and is a time of waiting and expectation, which can be challenging, as we prepare the way to a meaningful Christmas. At such a busy time, Advent focuses us on the coming of Jesus and gives us a wonderful opportunity to bring him further into our lives. All of our children will receive an 'Advent Acts of Hope and Kindness Calendar' and will be encouraged to record their kind acts to receive Footsteps in Faith badges. 5 acts of kindness will earn 1 Footsteps in Faith badge! CAFOD has their online Advent calendar available for families to share a daily reflection

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>



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



WEDNESDAY CHESS CLUB FOR YEARS 5 AND 6 – We are delighted to share that we have a small group of keen chess players in Years 5 and 6, who have offered to organise a lunchtime chess club. This will be held on Wednesday lunchtime in the library and will be monitored by members of staff. This term it will be for children in Years 5 and 6, but only 10 can attend each session. If your child is interested, please ask them to sign up on Monday morning. We will ensure that everyone who wants to attend, has some lunchtimes allocated to them, if demand is high.

REALLY GOOD TEAMWORK AT RUGBY – The Year 6 Tag Rugby team battled hard to achieve two very respectable wins on the Astro at the Corsham School this week and the thrill of breaking through opposition defence to score tries was exhilarating! The competition was stiff, so we didn't finish in the top three teams, but I want to praise the participants for the huge improvement in their skills, awareness and strategy that I've seen over the years. Their fantastic teamwork is all down to the way these ten players listened to, praised and supported each other. Well done Year 6!



Mr Turnbull – PE Subject Leader


PARENTS AS PARTNERS


COFFEE AND CATCH UP WITH MRS SYKES AND DEBBIE RIALS – We would like to invite you for a coffee afternoon with our SENCo, Mrs Sykes and a guest visitor, Debbie. Debbie has worked as an autism specialist and is an author, writing books for both families and professionals with practical advice and strategies for all. We will be inviting you to join us on **November the 27th at 2pm**, as well as answering questions, she will be discussing strategies to support families with the changes in routines, decorations, visitors, food, treats during the festive period.


Mrs Sykes – SENDCO

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 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.

 **Hampers & Tombola Donations** – We're collecting items for our Christmas hampers and tombola – any contributions are greatly appreciated.



Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 24th Nov	Celebration of the Word – focus on Advent – school only Bikeability Group 1 Y4 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm Gardening Club for Y1/ Y2 3.15-4.15pm
Tues. 25th Nov	Bikeability Group 1 Tag Rugby Year 1/2/3 3.15-4.15pm
Wed. 26th Nov	Bikeability Group 2 Year 4 Swimming 4/6 Lunchtime Chess Club for Year 5 and 6 – please sign up on Monday
Thurs. 27th Nov	Bikeability Group 2 Coffee and Catch Up with Mrs Sykes and Mrs Rials @2pm Hockey Tournament @ The Corsham School Year 5 Tag Rugby Year 4/5/6 3.15-4.15pm
Fri. 28th Nov	2.30pm Celebration Assembly focus on Geography – invited parents
Future Dates....	
<i>2nd Dec – Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 Mass at Saint Patrick's Church @ 11am, led by Father Michael</i>	
<i>3rd Dec – Year 1 Catch Up and Cake @ 2.30pm</i>	
Christmas Dates!	
Sat. 29 th Nov – PTFA Wreath Making Workshop – book online	
Fri. 5 th Dec – School Bazaar (pm) and Corsham Lights Switch on	
Wed. 10 th Dec – KS1 Nativity @ 9.30 am and 2pm (ticketed)	
Thurs. 11 th Dec – KS2 Christmas performance @ 1.45pm and 6pm (ticketed) Christmas Jumper and Mufti Day	
Tues. 16 th Dec – Christmas Lunch KS1 – parents book online	
Wed. 17 th Dec – Christmas Lunch KS2 – parents book online	
Fri. 19 th Dec – Christingle for school and governors	
Last Day of term!	

INSET DAYS FOR 2025-2026

Mon. 1st September 2025

Mon. 5th January 2026

Mon. 1st June 2026

Tues. 2th June 2026

Wed. 3rd June 2026

*Please take a look at our Christmas cards and gifts with Teddy on them, which are available to order.
These can be seen in our office window and further details of how to order were sent out in a Parentmail.
Many thanks to our friends at the Almshouses, Corsham Court and Corsham Town Council, for allowing us to use their images on these items.*

Jennie Courtney
Headteacher

**SAINT PATRICK'S
CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS**

This year we will be selling Christmas cards and tote bags, to raise money for school funds. The cards will be a pack of 6 with 2 of each of the designs below, Teddy visiting some of our local landmarks! The packs will cost £5 for 6 cards. We will also be selling canvas tote bags with Teddy in front of the Almshouses. These will cost £12.50. We have examples to look at in school. Please look out for a further email of how to purchase, at the start of term 2.

Happy Half Term!




stpatrickscorsham

Corsham's Wishing Tree
Come and make your Christmas wish and we'll hang it on the tree.



**SATURDAY 29
NOVEMBER**
10AM-1PM
**CHAPEL GARDEN
(BETWEEN CO-OP AND
GROUNDED)**

AND Christmas music
from the Corsham and
Colerne Military
Wives Choir

Wishes are FREE but a donation to this year's causes will be very much appreciated.


www.corsham.gov.uk


**CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
SWITCH
ON** *in Corsham*



**FRIDAY 5
DECEMBER**
**TOWN HALL,
HIGH STREET**

**MARKET
STARTS 3PM**
**MUSIC
STARTS 5PM**
**LIGHTS
ON 6PM**



