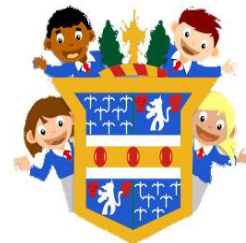


Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 5th December

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

Thank you to our amazing PTFA and parent helpers, for the hours of time and planning, which went in to today's FANTASTIC Christmas Bazaar. The children loved it and it has been the most wonderful start to Advent and December! While we are celebrating and thanking, thank you so much to all the families who donated glue sticks for the creative season we are now in. A huge thank you to Mr Pillinger, who donated 3 huge boxes of Pritt Sticks, which will defiantly see us through the season and beyond. Our community's kindness always astounds me and we are all exceptionally grateful for your support.

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 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 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 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.



GADGET GIFT GUIDE – Christmas can be an exciting time when some families may consider gifting children new devices or gadgets.

Ireland's online safety charity, CyberSafeKids, have put together a brand new guide for parents and carers covering:

The benefits and risks of popular smart devices and toys.

What you can do to make them safer.

Age recommendations and more.

If you are considering any 'gadget' as a gift, we would recommend that you follow the link to ensure that you are keeping them as safe as possible, when using the new item. <https://www.cybersafekids.ie/giftguide/>



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

KEY STAGE 2 MASS CANCELLED – In agreement with Father Michael, we postponed our Mass on Tuesday, due to a bad weather forecast and lack of parent walkers. Unfortunately, on the day, the weather was some of the best we had seen! We are reliant on parent walkers to help us to attend Mass safely and are very grateful to those who do offer their support. **If you are ever available to walk our children to Mass, swimming or any other events, please do get in touch as your help is very much needed. Thank you again.**



KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY AND KEY STAGE 2 SHARE HOPE, PEACE AND JOY – Our whole school has been filled with the most joyous singing in recent weeks, as everyone prepares for our Christmas gift to you all, our Christmas Nativity and performances. This year Reception and Key Stage 1 will remind us of the true meaning of Christmas, as they perform 'A Bundle of Joy', while Key Stage 2 will share the gift of 'Hope, Peace and Joy' through poetry and Christmas Carols. We know it is a highlight for many of our families and this year, as in the past, you will be in for a real treat! Many thanks to all the staff who work with our children to prepare this for you and to our families, for helping with line and lyric learning and the beautiful costumes.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD ADVENT FOCUS CONTINUES – In our Celebration of the Word whole school worship on Monday's, we continue to 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 should now have received their 'Advent Acts of Hope and Kindness Calendar' and we would ask you to encourage them to think of others and 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 APPLICATION CLOSE THIS WEEKEND– 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.**

YEAR 6 START THEIR ACTS OF KINDNESS IN STYLE – On Monday Mrs Courtney and Mrs Minty accompanied Year 6 to the Pound Arts Centre, to join the Golden Oldies for a Christmas Sing Song! The Golden-Oldies Charity (or Goldie's) provide regular singing sessions for older people across Wiltshire and their 'Smile sessions' are open to all, but are particularly aimed at older people who may sometimes find themselves feeling lonely. We were invited to join their Christmas Sing Along and **everyone** had such a wonderful time, leaving each Goldie with a Christmas card and small gift from us all. It was a lovely start to the Christmas season.



ENRICHMENT



'BIKEABILITY' A LIFE SKILL – Last week the majority of our Year 6 took part in Bikeability. Bikeability is the Department for Transport's flagship national cycle training programme for schoolchildren in England. It is a practical training programme, run over 2 days, which provides schoolchildren with a life skill and enables them to cycle confidently and competently on today's roads. The children were all commended on their sensible, mature attitudes and we are proud to say all passed, receiving their certificates and badges. Well done all!

YEAR 5 HOCKEY STARS – Our Year 5 children took part in a fantastic hockey tournament filled with energy and teamwork. They showed great determination from start to finish, against five teams, from other local schools. I want to praise our team for encouraging one another and showing respect throughout. Everyone had fun on the pitch, celebrating fast passing, brave tackles and exciting goals together, and despite narrowly losing some matches and winning one, this team can look forward to more success in the future.

Mr Turnbull – PE Subject Leader

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

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 continue to lead many wonderful events and fundraisers this term, which we hope to see many of you attending. Here's what's still to come:

Christmas Jumper Day (11th December) – A fun day for the children to wear their favourite Christmas Jumpers, your favourite Christmas outfit or your comfy and cosiest winter clothes...the choice is yours! .

Hampers Donations – We're collecting items for our Christmas hampers – any contributions are greatly appreciated



Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 8 th Dec	Celebration of the Word – focus on St. Nicholas led by Year 2 and Advent – school only
Tues. 9 th Dec	Tag Rugby Year 1/2/3 3.15-4.15pm
Wed. 10 th Dec	KS1 Nativity 'A Bundle of Joy' @ 9.30 am and 2pm (ticketed) Year 4 Swimming 5/6 Lunchtime Chess Club for Year 5 and 6 – please sign up on Monday
Thurs. 11 th Dec	KS2 'Hope, Peace and Joy' An Afternoon/Evening of Poetry and Praise @ 1.45pm and 6pm (ticketed) Christmas Jumper and Mufti Day

	Tag Rugby Year 4/5/6 3.15-4.15pm
Fri. 12th Dec	2.30pm Celebration Assembly – invited parents
Future Dates....	
Christmas Dates!	
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

We hope to see lots of you at the Christmas Light Switch On tonight. Please do visit the Saint Bartholomew's Christmas Tree Festival, to view and appreciate all of the beautiful trees. Our children's decorations look gorgeous!

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