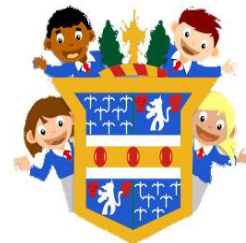


# Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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## Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January

### Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

Happy 2026 to you all! We hope you had a joyous and restful Christmas with your loved ones and that 2026 has begun on a positive note. It was lovely to see a little snow this week, enough to make our town look its most beautiful, but not enough to cause too much disruption. **This is an important reminder to please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather i.e. warm, waterproof coat, long trousers or tights, hat, scarf, gloves etc. We would like to make the most of every dry playtime, but will have to keep children in for their safety, if they are not dressed for the weather.**



### 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 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.



**SAFETY ON THE LACOCK ROAD AND SCHOOL CAR PARK** – Can we remind all of our families to drive carefully and to park responsibly, when using the Lacock Road. The speed limit is 20 mph at drop off and collection times and we ask that you keep children close to you, when walking to and from school. The Traffic Officers have been in the area already, so please do park correctly and use the parking permits, which were allocated at the start of the school year. On arrival at school, please can you be mindful of children around the parked cars, in the school car park. We ask that parent/carers keep their children beside them, to avoid accidents or falls, especially in the icy weather. Thank you.

### 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

**MATHS WORKSHOP FOR YEAR 3 AND 4 PARENTS** – We are delighted to invite parents of Years 3 and 4 children to attend a Maths Workshop, led by Mrs Osborne (Year 3 Teacher), Mrs Henry-Chapman (Year 4 Teacher) and Mrs Wood (Maths Subject Leader). This is focussed on the Multiplication Check at the end of Year 4, what children need to know and fun ways of gaining Times Tables knowledge! It will take place on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm** and we hope many of you can join us.

### LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

**POPE LEO'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO US ALL** – Pope Leo XIV shared his homily during Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, on New Year's Day, the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and World Peace Day. In his message Pope Leo said that, **"at the dawn of the new year, the liturgy reminds us that for each of us, every day can be the beginning of a new life, thanks to God's generous love, his mercy and the response of our freedom,"** He continued, **"It is beautiful to view the coming year in this way: as an open journey to be discovered."** Overlooking St. Peter's Square after Mass, Pope Leo urged people to help usher in **"an era of peace and friendship among all peoples."** As we come to the end of the Year of Hope, we hope all in our community listen to these words and work together, to build a stronger community of love, patience and understanding to all.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND EPIPHANY** – It was lovely to all gather together on Tuesday for our first Celebration of the Word. We celebrated being able to have Jesus with us in our Nativity scene and discussed that even though many of us have put away our Christmas decorations, we are now in Christmastide, awaiting the arrival of the Three Wise Men. We looked at how other countries welcomed in a new year, from eating grapes in Spain to the new geographic South Pole location in Antarctica! Today our Chaplaincy Team members

from Year 5, led us in our Epiphany Service. We imagined we were one of the wise men and thought about how we would have felt seeing Jesus? We discussed why this day is so important to us and reflected on the journey and faith of the Wise men. It was a beautiful service and we thank our Chaplaincy Team for leading us all and our Governors, for joining us.

**RECEPTION CLASS CELEBRATION** – On Friday, Reception parents were invited to celebrate the wonderful start the children have made at St Patrick’s. It was a lovely morning, enjoyed by children, parents and staff. We spent time reflecting on all that the Reception children have already achieved — and we are only just into our third term! Some of their fantastic accomplishments include writing their name, reading their first words, zipping up their coats independently, and making new friends. Well done Reception!

Miss Harding – Reception Teacher and EYFS Leader

### ENRICHMENT

**YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 DISCOVER STONEHENGE** – Year 3 and Year 4 had an amazing and fascinating day at one of the world's most famous ancient monuments, Wiltshire's very own Stonehenge! Year 3 learned all about Neolithic life in a workshop where they built a model of Stonehenge, examined Neolithic tools and clothing, investigated how log rollers, ropes, sleds and wooden frames were used to transport and erect the enormous stones and even wove their own rope! Year 4 dove into the myths and legends surrounding Stonehenge and its mysterious past, they used Lego to create their own stories inspired by the mystical monument! The classes investigated the different stones and building techniques used, and how the monument relates to the solstice alignment and looked closely at artefacts found in the area to gather clues about how Neolithic people lived. While it was very cold, we were lucky to have bright sunshine and not many crowds. The children were exemplary and received many compliments from the public for their respectful behaviour, and from the Stonehenge educators for their strong historical thinking, reasoning and questioning skills.

Mrs Osborne and Mrs Henry-Chapman

### PARENTS AS PARTNERS

**NEW HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT** – You should have received a Parentmail with our new Home/School Agreement attached. Please can you read and explain this to your child and then print, sign and return to school. This agreement is important in explaining how we work together, in the best interests of our children. We acknowledge our responsibility as a school, to support parents/carers in their task of nurturing their child(ren) towards being the best they can be, within a caring Catholic community. We ask parents as the primary educators of their children, to work with us to support their child’s learning at school and for our children to recognise the different and unique talents which God has given them and their responsibility to use them wisely.



**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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** All online applicants who apply by the national deadline date will receive notification of the outcome on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### Dates for your Diary...

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Mon. 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | Celebration of the Word – school only   |
| Tues. 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan  | Multi Sports Club Years 3-6 - 3.15 – 4.15pm   |
| Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | Year 6 Swimming begins 1/4<br>Lunchtime Chess Club for Year 5 and 6 – please sign up on Monday              |
| Thurs. 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan | Multi Sports Club Years 1-2 - 3.15 – 4.15pm<br>Teambuilding & Problem Solving @ The Corsham School – Year 4 |
| Fri. 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | Year 6 Class Assembly – Year 6 families   |

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

|   |
|---|
| <b>Future Dates....</b>   |
| <i>Mon. 19<sup>th</sup> January - Gardening Club for Key Stage 2 begins 3.15-4.15pm</i>   |
| <i>Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Mufti Day – Glam Up for the donation of a glue stick to school! (voluntary donation)</i>                    |
| <i>Mon. 26<sup>th</sup> January – PE Enrichment Day Winter Olympics- Reception to Year 6 – PE uniform to be worn (more details to follow)</i> |
| <i>Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 Class Assembly – Year 5 families welcome</i>   |
| <i>Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Celebration of the Word – Candlemas – school only</i>   |
| <i>Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Anaphylaxis UK Assembly for whole school</i>   |
| <i>Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> February – Yellow Mental Health Day – wear as much yellow as you can or your favourite mufti to feel your best!</i>    |
| <i>Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day (more details to follow)</i>   |
| <i>Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> February – Year 6 Trip to Hampton Court – school uniform and comfortable shoes to be worn</i>                         |
| <i>Ash Wednesday Service for Reception – Year 5</i>   |
| <i>Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> February – Year 4 Class Assembly – Year 4 families welcome</i>  |
| <i>Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> February – Real World Recording Day for Mr Newstead (more details to follow)</i>                                      |

Jennie Courtney

**Headteacher**