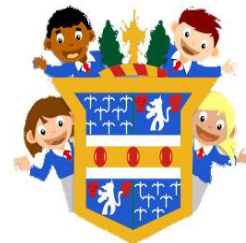


Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 1st May

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

We cannot believe we are half way through Term 5 already! **Please remember it is Bank Holiday Monday next week and school will be closed on Monday 4th May.** We hope the sun shines for our extra long weekend!

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



WHATSAPP NOW TO ALLOW UNDER 13 YEARS OLDS ACCESS - WhatsApp has been a significant concern for many schools, particularly chat groups where predominantly low level issues suddenly escalate. In a recent unexpected move, WhatsApp announced that children under 13 can now use WhatsApp via 'Parent-Managed Accounts'. These are accounts which can be set up by a parent on their child's device, but are managed from the parents device. As well as no access to AI within WhatsApp and no advertisements, there are parent management features which include:



Contact management - parents can choose who can contact their child and which chat groups they can join. Children cannot join groups without parents approval. Messages from unknown contacts are sent to the parent first for approval.

Activity notifications - parents can view their child's activity such as when a child adds a new contact or if disappearing messages are turned on. Parents will also be notified if their child blocks or reports a contact.

We would strongly advise any parent considering allowing their child to have access to Whatsapp, to ensure they fully understand the app and security of it, to keep their child safe. You can find further details on

https://faq.whatsapp.com/875902238256170/?cms_platform=android

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

YEAR 6 SATS WEEK – A POSITIVE APPROACH – As we move closer to the Year 6 SATs, we want to reassure both children and families

that these assessments are just one small part of each child's learning journey. At school, we are focusing on helping pupils feel confident, prepared, and proud of what they know. We encourage all children to approach the tests with a calm and positive mindset. The most important things are trying their best, getting a good night's sleep, and remembering how much they have already achieved this year and in all of their time at St Patrick's. SATs are simply an opportunity for children to show what they can do—they are not something to worry about. In class, learning continues as normal, with a balance of preparation, continuing with their general cross curricular learning and plenty of encouragement. At home, you can help by keeping routines steady, offering reassurance, and celebrating the effort you see your child making. We are very proud of all our Year 6 pupils and the progress they have made. With a sensible approach and a positive attitude, we know they will do themselves proud. To start their week positively, the children are all invited to a special breakfast every morning from 8.15am – a chance to chat with friends and relax a little before the start of a busy day.

We would remind all parents in Year 6 that pupils must be in school in good time in order to start the tests promptly. If your child is unwell and you feel they are not fit to sit the paper, please contact the school as soon as possible. The timetable for the week will be as follows...

Monday – English Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling

Tuesday – Reading Comprehension



Wednesday – Arithmetic Maths Reasoning Test 1

Thursday – Maths Reasoning Test 2 and celebration – *details in separate Year 6 parentmail*

Friday – Rest!

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

THE PRESENTATION SISTERS 250TH ANNIVERSARY – This year, the Presentation Sisters who founded our school, celebrate their 250th Anniversary. They were founded by the Venerable Nano Nagle, who asked the sisters to ensure that schools were a priority for them in their ministry. Nano’s life was defined by courageous compassion - by small acts of love that transformed lives and rippled through history, to reach us today! To honour 250 years of this spirit in action, we are going to take part in the “250 Acts of Kindness” Global Challenge! The Presentation Sisters have sent us a beautiful book about Nano’s life, which we have shared with the children, and now it is time for ‘our deeds’ to count! In the hall we now have a ‘Kindness Tree’ in honour of Nano Nagel and each class have been challenged to think of an act of kindness to add to our tree. All will be written on to lanterns, another symbol of Nano Nagel, and hung on our tree as a reminder of the good we too can do for others. This will be shared with the Presentation Sisters and contribute to the 250 Acts of Kindness Global Challenge.



ENRICHMENT

BOOKINGS OPEN FOR OUR FIRST SAINT PATRICK’S HAPPINESS FESTIVAL – Join us on the 16th May for our very first joyful and uplifting Happiness Festival – a day dedicated to well-being, positivity, and fun for all ages! Explore a variety of themed zones designed to inspire and relax, including calm spaces for unwinding, mindfulness activities to soothe the mind, and creative areas filled with art and music. Whether you’re looking to recharge or try something new, there will be something for everyone. We’ll also be offering bookable holistic treatments such as massage, alongside opportunities to discover ways to support and improve your physical health. Take time to browse our fantastic selection of stalls featuring sustainable gifts, jewellery, skincare products, and plenty of delicious treats to enjoy. Bring the whole family along to connect with others, discover new hobbies, and soak up the positive atmosphere. It’s the perfect chance to relax, explore, chat, and most importantly—have fun!



You can find the full list of attendees so far (with more still to come!) on our Instagram page, and you can start booking for payable treatments and activities using the following link

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stpatricksschoolptfa/2123910>

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 CORSHAM 10K TEAM – A huge THANK YOU to our amazing runners who took part in the Corsham 10K last Sunday and have so far raised a fantastic £1,487. Mrs Minty, Mr Kirkby, Mr Pillinger, Mr Laver and Mrs Holmes all took part to raise these much needed funds for our school. We send our love to Farmer Harry who unfortunately was injured and could not race on the day and to all those who marshalled the race and kept everyone smiling and safe. It was a great day, which saw the whole community turn out, to cheer on the runners. Well done to all of our children who took part in the children’s race, we were very impressed and could see a whole group of future 10k athletes! Please see some of the wonderful photos shared at the end of this newsletter.



Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 4th May	Bank Holiday Monday – School closed
Tues. 5th May	Celebration of the Word – school only Royal Institution of Science workshops for KS1 and KS2 Royal Institution of Science community event 5-6pm ticketed Rosary begins, led by Chaplaincy Team, month of Mary Athletics Club Years 3-6 - 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thurs. 7th May	KS2 Outdoor Lunchtime Writing Club begins Rosary 12 noon led by Chaplaincy Team Athletics Club Years 1-2 3.15 – 4.15pm
Fri. 8th May	Rosary 12 noon led by Chaplaincy Team Celebration Assembly – invited families welcome
Future Dates.... Monday 11th May – Start of SATs Week for Year 6 Thursday 14th May – Year 6 celebrate end of SATs Week Friday 15th May – PTFA Disco – more information to follow Wednesday 20th May – Father Craig to visit KS2 Friday 22nd May – Year 5 and 6 Stratford Upon Avon Trip Last Day of Term 5 Thursday 4th June – Term 6 begins!	

INSET DAYS FOR 2025-26

Mon. 1st September 2025

Mon. 5th January 2025

Mon. 1st June 2026

Tues. 2nd June 2026

Wed. 3rd June 2026

Jennie Courtney

Headteacher

