

Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Telephone no 01249 713125

www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk

Email: admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk.



Saint Patrick's Newsletter

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

Week ending Friday 12th June

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

We hope you all had a fantastic half term break, especially enjoying the mini heat wave, which saw temperatures being higher than the Caribbean!

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 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



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD ADVICE 'SIGN THE PACT' - The Smartphone Free Childhood 'Parent Pact' is a way to band together



with other parents in your area to agree to delay getting your child a smartphone until at least the age of 14, and social media until at least the age of 16. You simply add the details of your school and your children's year groups. It's completely anonymous, but hugely impactful. It's all about strength in numbers – if your child knows that other children in their class also won't be getting a smartphone until they are older, the peer pressure instantly dissolves. It removes the pressure from parents too, as they can easily look at the Parent Pact numbers

for St. Patrick's and be reassured that there are a number of other families doing the same as them. Smartphone Free Childhood analysis has suggested that a school only needs 25% of families signed up to this pact to start significantly shifting the culture around smartphones. St. Patrick's Primary currently has 21% of families signed up. If you intend to delay smartphones until your children are older, please consider signing the pact as it would have a huge impact if we could push our numbers up to 25% and beyond! It takes 30 seconds to sign the Parent Pact, and the more of us who do, the quicker we'll change the social norm. You can sign it here:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/sign-the-parent-pact>

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR - We are frequently told by visitors, members of the community, and on school trips about the excellent behaviour, manners, and respectful attitudes shown by our children. This is something we are incredibly proud of, and it reflects what we see every day in school. As our pupils wear their school uniform with pride, they are ambassadors for our school both during and beyond the school day. We are often contacted by members of the public who wish to share positive comments about our children's politeness and good conduct.

We would like to remind families, however, that our expectations for behaviour extend to journeys to and from school. While the vast majority of our pupils continue to represent the school exceptionally well, we were contacted at the end of last term regarding some inappropriate language and behaviour displayed by a small number of children. We would be grateful if families could take the opportunity to discuss with their children the importance of showing respect, kindness, and consideration at all times, both in and out of school. By working together, we can ensure that our pupils continue to be positive representatives of our school and our community. Thank you.

CURRICULUM

TAPESTRY AND GOOGLE CLASSROOMS – Google Classrooms 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

ST. PATRICK'S WERE DISCOVERING OPERA – Last Friday the children in Years 1-5 took part in 'Discover Opera Live', an online lesson led by The Royal Ballet and Opera Company. We were given a whistle stop tour of music from the earliest operas to the present day, with snatches of some well known arias being sung wonderfully. We also saw behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House and looked at the makeup department, the special effects and the costumes. As a highlight the children were taught and performed part of their own opera to finish. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, inspiring afternoon.

Mrs. Nicki Cawthorne (Music Subject Leader)

WATER SAFETY - This week at Saint Patrick's Primary we had a whole school focus on water safety awareness. We did this by sharing the 'Water Safety' resource advised by The Clifton Diocese with the children. Two separate water safety assemblies were held on Tuesday 9th June, one for each key stage. The assembly was part of our PSHE learning and discussed the importance of the water safety code. All children learnt valuable skills in how to keep safe in and around water. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter, for further information.

Mrs Kate Solomon (PSHE Subject Leader)

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – A huge congratulations to Aidan and Aurelia, who made their first Holy Communion last weekend, and who we celebrated today as a school. It was lovely to be able to part of their special day and myself, Mrs Minty and their teachers felt a huge sense of pride and joy as we witnessed them take Holy Communion for the first time. Thank you to their families, to all involved in preparing them for their special day, to those who prepared the churches and to Father Michael and Father Richard for leading us. Both days were beautiful and I know will be remembered for many years to come by the children and their families.



ENRICHMENT

CRICKET CAMARADERIE - Saint Patrick's produced an excellent all-round performance in the Corsham Cluster Y5/6 cricket match, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork, and skill throughout. When batting, we quickly learnt how to clock up runs and, in the field, we were focused and energetic. There was some excellent teamwork on display and great sportsmanship which was noted by the leaders. Well done to all involved.

Mr Turnbull (PE Subject Leader)

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

WHEELIE WEDNESDAY AND THE CIRCUS IS COMING! – The PTFA has some exciting events coming up for families to enjoy! On **24th June**, we are hosting **Wheelie Wednesday** at Castle Combe, where children, parents/families can bring their bikes, scooters, or anything with wheels and enjoy time on the track with family and friends. Helmets must be worn at all times, and children must be supervised by an adult.



We are also delighted to welcome **Lucas Jet Circus for Schools** on **20th July**. This high-energy circus show promises lots of fun, with children becoming part of the action. There will be two performances during the afternoon, along with snacks and circus-themed treats available to purchase. As always tickets are available to purchase through our box office <https://buytickets.at/stpatricksschoolptfa>

Dates for your Diary...

Mon. 15th June	Year 5 Taster Day at St Gregory's Bath
Tues. 16th June	Celebration of the Word – school only Racket Club Years 1 and 2 - 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wed. 17th June	Year 6 Leavers Mass @ Clifton Cathedral – for all Year 6
Thurs. 18th June	Walk Safe Workshops – Reception / Year 1 / Year 3 / Year 6 Racket Club Years 3-6 3.15 – 4.15pm
Fri. 19th June	Celebration Assembly – invited families
Future Dates....	
	<i>Wednesday 24th June – Wheelie Wednesday @ Castle Coombe</i>
	<i>Thursday 25th June – SEND Coffee and Catch Up with Mrs Sykes – 9am</i>
	<i>Friday 26th June – Corsham School Transition Day – Year 6 children</i>
	<i>Thursday 2nd July – Sports Day Reception, Y1 and Y2 am and Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 pm – Reserve Sports Day is Thurs. 16th June</i>
	<i>Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th July – Parents Evening Online (Y1-Y6)</i>
	<i>Tuesday 14th July – KS2 Play 'Shakespeare Rocks'</i>
	<i>Monday 20th July – Circus Day and Evening</i>
	<i>Wednesday 22nd July – Leavers' Assembly @ school for Year 6 families</i> <i>Last Day of School Year</i>

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

We hope everyone has a lovely weekend and that the sun comes out for all!

Jennie Courtney
Headteacher

Resource!  Read through the information below about staying safe in water and the Water Safety Code.

What is the Water Safety Code?



Photos: Western Gateway Park, California

 Stop and think - spot the dangers.	 Stay together	 In an emergency Float	 Call 999 or 112
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Look at the photo...

What can you see?
What looks fun?
Do you think the people here are enjoying the water safely? How?
Can you spot anything that might need extra care or thought?

- 1. Stop and Think** - Before going near water, take a moment to look for any dangers.
- 2. Stay Together** - Always stay with adults when you're near water.
- 3. Float** - If you fall into water, stay calm, float on your back and control your breathing.
- 4. Call for Help** - If someone is in trouble, tell an adult or call 999.

Why do you think the Water Safety Code is so important?
Can you think of a way to help you remember the Code?

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wheelie Wednesday

A unique opportunity to experience the race circuit at Castle Combe and enjoy spending time with friends and family.

Bring your bike, scooter or anything with wheels (!!)

Drinks and Snacks Available to purchase with cash and card.

HELMETS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON THE TRACK!!!

WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2026

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES WHILST ON THE TRACK.



5.30pm - sunset @castle combe

TICKETS COST £3.50PP OR £12 FOR A FAMILY TICKET UP TO 6.

Visit the box office to purchase your tickets. 📄

Monday 20th July



GET READY FOR FUN!!!

SHOWTIMES

1ST SHOW 3.45pm

2ND SHOW 5pm

Each show lasts approx. 1 hour

A high energy circus show where the children become the stars!

4 x British Unicycle Champion

TICKETS £6 pp
Under 2's FREE
(Must purchase the appropriate ticket so we can manage capacity)

FAMILY TICKET £20
for 4 people

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL
Taking place in St Patrick's School

SNACKS, DRINKS AND CIRCUS ACCESSORIES
available to purchase before and after shows.



Scan the QR code to buy your tickets today!