

With Jesus we...
Love first,
Live the Gospels,
Learn for Life

20th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy half term, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate.

Happy Birthday St Patrick's!



This week we celebrated the school's 60th birthday! We enjoyed a beautiful Mass celebration led by Bishop Patrick himself who spoke to the children about Saint Patrick and what it means to be a saint. The children excelled themselves with their answers and it was clear they enjoyed the celebration as their singing raised the roof! We were joined by all members of our school community including Trust and Diocesan representatives, past pupils from The Becket school, parent/carers, parishioners from Our Lady and St Patrick's Church, Governors and staff members, past and present. It was wonderful to welcome so many visitors who have played such an important part in the growth, life and joy of the school.

We were even more delighted to hear that Bishop Patrick was able to stay to bless our brand, new **Community Prayer Garden**. The blessing was a truly beautiful occasion with the sun shining and the birds singing. This garden will be officially open after half term once the grass has had time to settle. Huge thanks to Mr Etches and the Trust site for their hard work with this – it truly was a work of heart! The sculptures were designed by the children themselves to represent our mission statement with the red heart to symbolise *love first*, the green cross links to St Patrick and the multi-panel glass represents our diverse, multi-cultural community.



In true celebratory style, we extended the celebrations for the entire week! So far the children have enjoyed a range of activities including a 'Journey through the decades' Hymn Practice.

Today, the school was alive with all kinds of bright and bold colours inspired by the 60s! Mrs Cannell launched the '**60 Acts in 60 Days**' challenge to encourage the children to do one small act of kindness every day for 60 days. The children will also take home a commemorative book mark today to remember this special day and our mission statement of, '*With Jesus we love first, live the Gospels and learn for life.*'

KEY DATES

Odd Socks Day to promote Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 6th November

Year 3 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 8th November, 10am

Remembrance Liturgical Prayer
Friday 10th November, 10.45am

Black History Month Celebration
Friday 10th November, 2.30pm

Year 2 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 15th November, 10am

Individual/Class Photographs
Friday 17th November

FS2 & Yr1 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 22nd November, 10am

St Patrick's Children reading at Mass to celebrate Youth Sunday
Sunday 26th November, 9am

Advent Mass in School
Tues 28th Nov, 9.45am

HOPE Liturgical Prayer, led by Yr 3
Thurs 30th November, 1.30pm

PEACE Liturgical Prayer led by Yr 4
Thurs 7th December, 1.30pm

Years 3 & 4 Cathedral Carol Concert
Tuesday 12th December, 6-7pm

JOY Liturgical Prayer led by Yr 5
Thurs 14th December, 1.30pm

Harvest Mass

Last week we celebrated our Harvest Mass. Thank you for all of your kind donations. We have already received thanks from the Meadows Food Bank. It really does make a difference to those in our community who need our support at this time.

Raising Money For Others

You may recall that some staff members ran the Nottingham/London Half Marathon a few weeks ago. Your kind words of support were gratefully appreciated as were your generous donations. As you are aware, the children in Year 6 suggested that they sponsor the staff to not only motivate them but also to raise money for the earthquake appeal in Morocco and the floods in Libya. The school community raised a whopping **£127!** Thank you so much! The money has already been sent to a charity to support these countries in crisis.

Thank you also to **'Clare Bears,'** an organisation run by one of our parents who has been selling used school uniform at affordable prices. All funds raised are then returned to school for school resources. Thank you for supporting our families and school.

Education Sunday

At the start of the academic year, a group of children from St Patrick's represented the school by reading the bidding prayers in Mass at Church. It was wonderful to see children from St Patrick's honour this National Day of Prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education.

RE Information

At the recent Parent's Consultation we asked parents/carers to complete a Parent Voice Questionnaires to help us identify the strengths and developments of the school. We will share the outcome of these with you shortly. If you were unable to attend your appointment, please contact the office to arrange a convenient time to complete the feedback form.

At these meetings, your child's progress in a range of subjects including RE was shared. If you wish to find out more details about the **RE curriculum** this term, please scan the QR code below or click [here](#) to access the page on our website. Additionally, more information regarding our **PSHE curriculum** including RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education) can be found [here](#).

Listen to our School Radio!



St Patrick's now has its very own school radio! This is led by the digital Leaders in Year 6 who will soon be broadcasting a range of weekly shows including **Mission Monday, Chatty Tuesday, Writer's Corner** and **Funny Friday**. Click [here](#) to take you straight to the radio listening page or scan the QR code above where you can listen to their very first broadcasts.

The Synod

Yesterday, a range of members of our school community including Mrs Whitehall (Chair of Governors), Mrs Cotter, two pupil representatives and myself attended the Trust Synod event at the ALIVE Church in Lincoln. It was a wonderfully inspiring day where together, just like the Church leaders in Rome, we gathered with other schools to share our thoughts and reflections about the future of the Church regarding communion, participation and mission. The children were a credit to the school! We will now gather our thoughts and ideas as a school community and plan our next steps on how we can develop our faith and include all members of our community in doing so.

KEY DATES

LOVE Liturgical Prayer led by Year 6

Thurs 21st December, 1.30pm

FS/KS1 Nativity Performance

Fri 15th December, 9.30am

Last day of Advent Term

Friday 22nd December

First day back in January 2024

Monday 8th January

Please scan the following QR codes to access the following:



RE Curriculum Information



PSHE/RSHE Information



School Radio



Our Lady and St Patrick's Parish

House Meetings

For the first time each of our individual House Teams gathered in classrooms and enjoyed House Meetings led by their new Year 6 House Captains. The house Captains led their meetings with professionally prepared power points and were wonderful in motivating their teams and allowing the children to have a voice in identifying the strengths of the school and ways we can improve. They had some fantastic ideas which will be explored. House Meetings will continue half-termly and we look forward to our next one in November.

PFA – Parent Friend Association

Parent/carers who were interested in joining the PFA met together to discuss creating a new PFA for the school. We will meet again after half term to make further progress in setting this up formally. If you would like to attend and haven't previously expressed your interest, please let the office know and we will add you to the invite list for the next meeting.

Eco Warriors

Last week, our Eco Warriors gathered for their first meeting. As a team, we chose a Saint to represent the work we will undertake this year. Our children chose Saint Francis due to his message of love and compassion for nature. This year, the work we do as an Eco Club will contribute to the CAFOD '**Live Simply Award**' and the Woodland Trust '**Green Tree Award**.' Throughout the year, the Eco Club alongside the other members of our school will be completing a variety of fun, practical tasks which will not only help our physical environment but also educate our wider school community on how they can be more eco-friendly! You can find out more about these through our website [here](#). We will continue to update you with ways that you can support our work.

Magical Maths

Magical Maths Club starts after half term for 5 weeks for those children who have signed up. There are a few places left so if you are interested please book on using the link sent from the school office. It will run every Monday straight after school and begin on Monday 13th November.

New Netball Club – *From Miss Moody and Miss Sutton*

Year 5/6 Netball club starts after half term with Miss Moody and Miss Sutton. The sessions will run every Tuesday until 4:30pm. Please make sure you have returned your letter back if you would like to join us!

INSET Days and Dates

Please make a note of useful dates and INSET day dates for this academic year detailed in the columns on the right:

Finally, thank you once again for all your support and a very Happy Birthday to St Patrick's! Here's to another 60 years of inspiration and joy!

I wish you a happy, safe and restful half term holiday and look forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Monday 6th November**.

With best wishes,

Miss Ferrara

INSET Day Dates 2023-24

Thursday 4th January – INSET Day

Friday 5th January – INSET Day
(Children return to school on Monday 8th January)

Friday 9th February – INSET Day