



**St Patrick's**  
Catholic Voluntary Academy

**ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY.**  
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**Headteacher:** Miss L Ferrara



Love first,  
Live the Gospels,  
Learn for Life

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we finish school tomorrow for the Easter holidays, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate. Its been a busy term indeed filled with lots of opportunities for reflection, fundraising fun and celebrations along the way.

### St Patrick's Day Mass



On March 16<sup>th</sup>, a group of children from across the school represented the school proudly at the St Patrick's Day Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick at Nottingham Cathedral. The children read and sang beautifully and enjoyed leading the offertory procession. Bishop Patrick himself alongside the Chair of the St Patrick's Day Committee, commented on how well the children read and represented their school community. Back at school, the children enjoyed a St Patrick's themed Celebration of the Word and each child was invited to take home a coin with a Shamrock imprint to remind them of strength, courage and the pride of St Patrick's. Please know that the community of the St Patrick's school and parish were in all of our thoughts and prayers on this day.

### School-Parish Links

Brother Andrew and Father David enjoyed visiting the school on World Book Day. Father David also visited school this term to lead the school in a Service of Reconciliation. Mrs Cannell regularly publishes a short feature about the school in the Parish newsletter and we are very lucky indeed to have established Parish Prayer Partners for those children making their First Holy Communion and to have some Parishioners volunteer read with the children.

### Holy Week

The children in KS2 have led us in a series of Celebration of the Word Presentations this week as we reflect on the events of Holy Week. The Foundation Stage joined with KS1 to celebrate the joyful events of Palm Sunday. It was a beautifully creative procession which began outside near the school entrance and led into the hall to symbolise the procession into Jerusalem.

Year 3 and 4 led us in a poignant dramatisation of The Last Supper where they even shared bread made by the children with us all.

Year 5 depicted the events in the Garden of Gethsemane yesterday which was led with reverence and the message of serving others with courage.

Today, Year 6 end Holy Week with a powerful presentation of the stations of the cross. I know the children will lead this with the utmost respect, maturity and respect and we are incredibly proud of all of the children this week for their efforts. Please remember to join us at 2.40pm if you are able.

### KEY DATES

**First day back after the Easter break**  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday**  
(school closed for one day)

**KS2 (Yr6) SATS Week**  
Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May

**KS1 SATS**  
*These will no longer be formally administered. Children will be assessed in-house using usual school assessments and communicated to parents in end of year reports.*

**Half Term Dates**  
May 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31st June  
Children return on June 3rd

**Year 1 Phonics Screening**  
Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 4 Multiplication Check**  
3rd June – 14<sup>th</sup> June

*Your child's attendance at school leading up and during the assessment period is extremely important in order for the children to prepare fully for these assessments*

**For copies of the assessment letters sent to Year 1, 4 and 6 detailing all the relevant information, please [click here](#).**

**Last Day**  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July

## Fundraising Fun

The school was a hive of activity this half term with every child grouping together with their House team to take part in a fundraising activity for Lent. We had Easter sun-catchers, Easter basket cakes, decorated biscuits and prayer jars filled with a chocolate treat. They sold like hot cakes! Each house voted to support either a local, national or international charity to raise money for which included the World Wildlife Federation, Nottingham Hospitals Charity and the Guide Dog Charity. Collectively, they have raised £328! Our EYFS children also completed their annual Lenten walk for CAFOD and raised a huge £178 for this. The events have been an absolute triumph in serving others during this season of Lent. This, along with our Lenten bell, which the children ring at 1pm every day for a 1 minute prayerful silence, have served to allow our children to put their faith into action, pray and give to others over Lent. All of these events have also served to emphasise the **Year of Encounter** and **Year of Prayer** encouraged by Pope Francis as we approach the Jubilee. Well done St Patrick's school!

## Science Week and The Big Plastic Count – *Message from Mrs Sarno*

A huge thank you to all of the families that took part in our Big Plastic Count for science week. It was a fabulous way for us all to look closely at the plastic waste that we individually are creating. The nationwide data which will reveal the bigger picture of the UK's plastic waste problem and provide the evidence needed to push for change is not yet available. This will be released in April, however please check classroom windows to see the results for each class. Each plastic footprint shows how the small amounts we each use add up over the year- the results are quite thought provoking!

Now that we have completed it, you may be wondering what next. Please watch this space for more plastic free events! You can still carry the momentum forward at home too by encouraging your children to help sort your recycling, having plastic free picnics or sending your child with a plastic free lunch. Thank you for your support!

## World Book Day

What a huge success World Book Day was at St Patrick's School! The school was alive with an array of book characters, including the staff who dressed up to represent the story of Noah's Ark. The day began with a motivating assembly led by Mr Ward and class visits to our brand-new school library. The Library area was officially opened with the cutting of the ribbon by Mr Ward and Mrs Lane, who was warmly invited back to also be Year 6's mystery reader. Mr Ward arranged for the Book Fair to visit school the week after to continue the buzz of reading which it certainly did indeed! We were inundated with orders and overwhelmed with your support. Thank you and together we hope to keep growing our children's love for reading.

## World Maths Day

We celebrated World Maths Day last weekend, with a friendly battle between our house teams! Timetables are an integral part of children's mathematical learning and understanding and the children have been competing throughout the weekend! Learning timetables and number facts really are the basis of understanding all mathematical concepts. It is vitally important that your child learns these facts as well as they can. Challenging them to know the answers to these questions as fast as they can answer the question, 'what's your name?' is a great goal to aspire to and will help no end. Thank you for all your support with this and watch this space for the winning house!

## Parent Consultations

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our Parents Consultation on 14<sup>th</sup> March. It was lovely to see you all and provide the opportunity for you to look at your children's work and learn about your child's progress from their class teacher. If you were unable to attend your child's appointment, please contact school to re-arrange this. Thank you for your co-operation whilst we trialed our new electronic booking system. Parental feedback is always welcome.

## Mass Dates

*Please see when each class is visiting Church to celebrate Parish Mass below:*

### **Year 6 Mass In Church**

Weds 17<sup>th</sup> April

### **Year 5 Mass In Church**

Weds 24<sup>th</sup> April

### **Year 4 Mass In Church**

Weds 1<sup>st</sup> May

### **Year 2 Mass In Church**

Weds 8<sup>th</sup> May

### **Ascension Day Mass**

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May Time TBC

### **Year 1 Mass In Church**

Weds 15<sup>th</sup> May

### **Year 3 Mass In Church**

Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> May

### **FS1 and FS2 Mass In Church**

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> June

### **Faith/Parish Ambassadors to celebrate Mass In Church**

Weds 12<sup>th</sup> June

### **Year 5/Year 2 Chaplaincy Team to celebrate Mass In Church**

Weds 19<sup>th</sup> June

### **Whole School Mass to celebrate the children who have made their First Holy Communion**

Weds 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1.30pm

## Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

Please visit <https://olsnottingham.com> for times of the Easter celebrations at Our Lady and St Patrick's Church. The children who are making their First Holy Communion will be leading the Stations of the Cross at 9.30am on Good Friday.

## Sporting News

Congratulations to our dance team who had been practising twice a week in readiness for their competition at the Albert Hall. They performed amazingly and were an absolute credit to the school. They scored highly and even received 10's for stage presence and crowd appeal! Out of 24 schools the children achieved 13<sup>th</sup> place! We're pleased to announce that St Patrick's football team came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in their football league and advanced so much as a team throughout the tournament. Well done to all our sporting superstars! Keeping active is very important so keep a look out for some of our sports clubs beginning after Easter.

## Carter's Education Foundation

This Foundation is a local charity which offers families in financial need assistance with educational costs for children and young people up to the age of 25. This could be help with school visits, school uniform or PE kit, clubs, music activities, school travel costs or any other sporting activity that supports physical and mental well-being. If you feel you could benefit more from this support or would like to know more, please visit [www.wilford-carters-education.org](http://www.wilford-carters-education.org). The organisation offers annual grants with this year's application deadline being May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Century Court Care Home Visit

Our wonderful Makaton club and Faith In Action club will visit Century Court Care Home next term to continue to spread joy and happiness to the elderly in our community. The children themselves suggested visits like this more often to help the elderly and vulnerable in our society as part of the outcome of our Synod discussions in House Meetings. Alongside this, the children have also suggested that we install plaques engraved with Scripture and 'Friendship Benches' in our playgrounds to help bring inspiration to our school grounds and help children seek out and make friends.

## Attendance

Having good attendance and being on time is proven to help boost your child's achievement, social development and mental health. It will also ensure your child feels safe and is supported. Research shows that young people with high levels of attendance achieve better SATs and GCSE results, as well as boosting essential key life skills. We are always keen to work with you to maximise attendance as much as possible. Enclosed at the end of this letter is a useful attendance fact sheet to support the benefits of good attendance. Our Education Welfare Officer, Miss Bradshaw, continues to monitor attendance and punctuality daily and continues to make home visits to support parents to ensure children attend school regularly and on time.

Thank you for your continued support this term and I look forward to the summer term ahead where we continue to work towards our very exciting OPAL playtime launch. More information to follow shortly!

I wish you a happy and holy Easter and look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

With very best wishes,

Miss Ferrara

## OTHER DATES

### EYFS Stay and Play

14th June, 1.45 – 3pm

### Year 4/5/6 Sports Day

17th June, 1.45pm

### EYFS Sports Day

18th June, 9.05am

### KS1/Year 3 Sports Day

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm

### Bastille Day

17th July

### Year 6 Musical

Friday 19th July 1.30pm/6.30pm

### End of Year/Year 6 Leavers Mass

23rd July – Time TBC

### Year 6 Leavers Assembly

26<sup>th</sup> July, 9.05am





Part of  
**OUR LADY  
OF LOURDES**  
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

# Why is it important to attend school **every day**?

Having good attendance and being on time is proven to help boost your child's achievement, social development and mental health. It ensures your child feels safe and supported.

**Attendance is a priority in our school and is closely monitored.**

**You must report your child's absence to the school office.**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

80% attendance over 5 years = **1 whole year** of school missed!

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**One** day missed of school, can mean **three** days of catching up with learning for your child

- Research shows that young people with high levels of attendance have better SATs and GCSE results.
- Regular attendance also improves young people's social and emotional development which boost essential key life skills.
- Missing learning causes anxiety and missing playtimes really affects developing friendships.
- If your child isn't in school, it's hard for them to develop their core skills.

## How can **you** help?

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

There are **190 school days** in a year meaning there are **175 days left for holidays and appointments!**

- Try to arrange planned family trips and activities during the school holidays.
- Schedule doctor and dental appointments either before school or after school hours.
- If an appointment during school hours cannot be avoided, ensure your child is in school for as much of the day as possible.
- Try and set good routines at home including good sleep patterns.
- Take an interest in your child's school work and be actively involved in school, Parents Evenings and other events.
- Contact the school if attendance is becoming a problem. We can work together to improve things.