



St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY.
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Love first,
Live the Gospels,
Learn for Life

6th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn Term of 2024! We've certainly missed you and your children and have enjoyed listening to their summer adventures and news.

I extend a warm welcome especially to our new children and families who have joined us in Nursery and new children across the school. Here at St Patrick's, you will find a caring, friendly and inclusive community who are dedicated to keeping our children safe and happy so they can learn well and thrive.

The maintenance team, with the help of Mr Etches, have been busy over the summer refurbishing areas around school and the outdoor seating area in the KS2 playground. It looks fantastic and we're grateful for their hard work.

The St Patrick's Way

In the last newsletter, I informed you about our new behaviour initiatives to encourage our children to listen and respond well in lessons and speak with clarity and confidence.

We will spend the first full week of term reminding children of our behaviour policy in order for learning time to be maximised and for children to enjoy school as much as possible.

We have re-launched the school's new values to the children this week to encourage the children to live and learn with positive habits. These have been created from the outcomes of questionnaires given to children, parents, staff and governors.

These values will be linked to the school's behaviour rewards which include house points, class discipleship diamonds and value wristbands which the children will take home. Please find these values below:



KEY DATES

First day back in September
Wednesday 4th September

Education Sunday – St Patrick's children reading at Mass
Sunday 8th September, 9am

Year 6 visiting Church for Parish Mass
This will be re-arranged in due course.

First Whole School Mass
Tuesday 17th September, 2pm

Year 5 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 25th September, 10am

Year 4 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 2nd October, 10am

Year 3 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 9th October, 10am

Parent's Consultations
Wednesday 9th October, 1pm – 7pm

St Patrick's Children reading at Mass to celebrate Harvest
Sunday 13th October, 9am

Harvest Mass
Tuesday 15th October, 2pm

Stay and Play EYFS
Thursday 17th October, 9-10.30am

Black History Month Work Presentation
Friday 18th October, 2.30pm

Open Morning for New Parents
Wednesday 6th November, 10.45 – 11.45am

OPAL Update - Outdoor Play and Learning



Last academic year we began the first step in our OPAL journey. We are truly amazed at the impact this has had on our children. Pupil voice has stated that this is now “the best playtime ever!” Our journey is only beginning but already we have a wide variety of activities for our children to engage with, mud café, sandpit, a boat, small world, den building and more! Thank you for all your donations

which have allowed for OPAL to be such a success.

This academic year, we aim to invite parents, carers and families in to join



us for an OPAL session so you can have the opportunity to experience OPAL play at its finest. A big thank you to the OPAL working group which involves staff, parents and governors who support the creation and delivery of OPAL.

As part of our commitment to OPAL playtimes, we are keen to ensure children have outdoor playtime whatever the weather, come rain or shine. Please ensure your child comes to school with a

waterproof coat and labelled **wellingtons**. Children with wellingtons in school may access the field daily, whatever the weather. We do have a ‘Welly Library’ in school and would welcome donations. These are free for your children to borrow too. Please let school know if you need support in providing these for your children.

As children with wellington boots in school are able to access the field in all weather conditions, you may wish to send in **waterproof trousers** to protect your child’s school trousers. Please send these in with your children if you wish for them to wear them whilst on the field. Children without wellingtons will still enjoy outdoor play on the concreted areas.

First Holy Communion Preparation

If you would like your child to start sacramental preparation in order to celebrate their First Holy Communion, please collect a form from Our Lady and St Patrick’s Church. These forms can only be collected in person following Mass from Father David at Church this weekend and next weekend.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

At St Patrick’s we offer an array of after school opportunities including Makaton, basketball, football, dodgeball, CAFOD and Faith In Action, to name a few. This term, we are excited to offer our children the chance to attend Spaghetti Maths Club and Spanish Club. More information regarding clubs offered this term will follow shortly.

PFA

Our wonderful PFA will be in touch shortly about ways to support our school funds. Parentkind, the charity that supports school PFAs, have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their ‘Cashpot for Schools’ initiative. If you shop at Asda and would like to help, all you have to do is opt in through the Asda Rewards App, choose St Patrick’s School and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com between 2nd September and 30th November 2024. Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Every little always helps and thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

**Remembrance Liturgical Prayer –
Parents/Carers Welcome**
Monday 11th November, 10.45am

Year 2 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 13th November, 10am

Individual/Class Photographs
Friday 15th November

FS2 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 20th November

**St Patrick’s Children reading at Mass to
celebrate Youth Sunday/Christ The King**
Sunday 24th November, 9am

Yr1 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 27th November, 10am

Advent Mass in School led by Year 4
*This Mass will be re-arranged in due
course.*

HOPE Liturgical Prayer led by Yr 6
Friday 6th December, 2.30pm

FS/KS1 Nativity Performance
Fri 13th December, 9.30am

PEACE Liturgical Prayer led by Yr 3
Fri 13th December, 2.30pm

JOY Liturgical Prayer led by Year 5
Fri 20th December, 2.30pm

Last day of Advent Term
Friday 20th December

First day back in January 2025
Monday 6th January

Open Morning

To celebrate and promote our school to prospective new parents and children, we will be holding an Open Morning on **Wednesday 6th November** from **10.45 – 11.45am**. If you know of any parents/carers considering a school place for their children, please spread the word and share the date with them. We would love the opportunity to share how wonderful St Patrick's School is with our community.

Labelled Uniform

Please ensure all **uniform items are labelled** with your child's name. This really does help with organisation and ensuring we are able to help your child look after their clothing.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance of pupils at school is not only vital for learning and development but a legal requirement. The new national framework for penalty notices launched this August 2024 and includes information regarding penalty notices for irregular attendance, such as the first-time penalty notice issued for term time leave of irregular attendance being £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. This framework is a requirement across the country and will be followed by all schools. We appreciate that holidays are expensive out of term time however please note that this is now national guidance and schools have a legal responsibility to follow it. Please take this new legislation into account when thinking about booking holidays during term time from September 2024. Further information from Amy Bradshaw, our Education Welfare Officer, can be found [here](#)

INSET Day Dates

Please make a note of useful dates on the previous page. Please also find the INSET day dates for the academic year 2024-2025 below:

INSET Day Dates 2024-25

Return to school Wednesday 4th September

Friday 11th October – INSET Day

Friday 14th February – INSET Day

Monday 28th July – INSET Day

Tuesday 29th July – INSET Day

(Children finish school on Friday 25th July 2025)

School Start Times

Please find a quick reminder about the school start times below. Please try your very best to ensure children are as punctual as possible to school so they can start the day well and make the most of their learning time when at school.

School Start Times

Classroom doors open at **8.40am**

School Start time **8.50am**. Classroom doors close at **8.50am**

School End Time: **3.15pm**

Finally, thank you once again for all your support. You are all welcome to attend our **Welcome Mass** on **Tuesday 17th September** at **2pm** and we look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes,
Miss Ferrara