



**St Patrick's**  
Catholic Voluntary Academy

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



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

19th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of our Advent term, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate before the Christmas holiday ahead.

#### **Advent Mass Led by Year 4**

At the start of December, we gathered to celebrate the start of Advent in Mass. It was wonderful to celebrate this special season together in prayer and song. So far, the children have helped with our Advent preparation so beautifully in a range of ways:

**EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity** – The children shone with confidence and joy as they performed such a heart-felt interpretation of the Christmas story: A King is born! It was a wonderful to celebrate our youngest children coming together to retell the Christmas story in a way that spread light, hope and Christmas cheer whilst reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

**Year 6 HOPE Celebration of the Word** – A beautiful start to our weekly preparations. The children sang with spirit and spoke confidently, reminding us all about the hope of a peaceful world as we draw near to Christmas time.

**Year 3 PEACE Celebration of the Word** – Year 3 led us in prayer to reflect on the theme of peace. Whilst it provided us with moments of calm and reflection, the children raised the roof with their singing, spreading peace and positivity far and wide!

**Year 5 JOY Celebration of the Word** – Year 5 will certainly be spreading the joy tomorrow as they lead the school in prayer, reflection and song. Having heard Year 5 rehearse, I know that they will lead the school confidently tomorrow in a reflection about the joy of Christmas and how we can appreciate and spread this to others in the simplest of actions from the quiet of the snow to the laughter in classrooms.

#### **Year 3 and 4 Church Carol Concert**

A huge well done to our Year 3 and 4 classes who represented the school with such pride at our Carol concert in Church last week. They sang with such infectious spirit and energy and I know that everyone who was able to come and enjoy this event would agree that it was very special indeed to hear the children sing so well in the beautiful Church building. The children were delighted to see so many parents/carers and friends supporting them and even joining in with a little audience participation. Thank you to all those who came along to support the children and hear their beautiful singing.

#### **KEY DATES**

**Children return to school**  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Epiphany Mass – In School**  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm

**Year 4 visiting Church for Parish Mass**  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 10am

**Reception and Year 6 visiting Church for Parish Mass**  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 10am

**Jubilee Year of Hope Launch**  
January 25<sup>th</sup> – More details to follow!

**Year 5 visiting Church for Parish Mass**  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 10am

**Children's Mental Health Week**  
From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February

**Year 3 visiting Church for Parish Mass**  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 10am

**Safer Internet Day**  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

**Year 1 and 2 visiting Church for Parish Mass**  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 10am

**INSET DAY**  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

### Parish-School Links

We have continued to strengthen our links with Our Lady and St Patrick's Church this term with most classes having visited the Church for Mass. A number of children have also represented the school at Church when reading the bidding prayers for a range of Masses including Education Sunday and the feast of Christ The King. Each class will continue to visit the Church next half term – please see the dates opposite along with Christmas Mass dates. You are welcome to meet us at Church for the class Parish Mass and join us for these celebrations.

### Our Lady and St Patrick's Church Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve 4pm

Christmas Day 9am

### Fundraising and Serving Others

We have held a number of fundraising events recently where lots of money has been raised to help those in need.

Mrs Foote's famous Santa Sacks raised a whopping £250! These funds will be spent on exciting OPAL equipment – watch this space!

Our recent non-uniform days for both Youth Funday and Save the Children collectively raised £185.

Our wonderful Makaton Club also visited the residents of Century Court Care Home last week to showcase their singing talents and bring light and joy to the elderly members of our community. The school were even treated to an impromptu Christmas Concert on their return! Parents/carers gathered to celebrate their hard work in an after-school performance too. Huge thanks to Mrs Foote and Mrs Cotter for their ongoing dedication and hard work.

Thank you as always for your support with all of these events. Together in many ways we really can make a difference.

### Community Prayer Garden

Please be reminded that our Prayer Garden is a space we share with family and friends. The garden, complete with a Prayer Post Box, is open before and after school when the gates open for registration and dismissal and is open for our families to use.

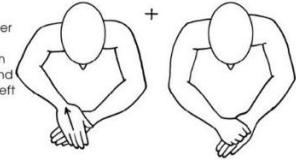
### Year 6 Primary Parliament Update From Miss Moody

Our Year 6 Primary Parliament group were lucky enough to spend the day at Nottingham Council House this half term debating key issues that we felt were important to us and discussed the changes we want to see here in our City! We learnt different ways to communicate what we want to say, but most importantly, we learnt that our voice matters! We are delighted to see St Patrick's represented in the short film which captured the voices of the pupils over the two days of Primary Parliament. The film captures the creativity, critical thinking, and enthusiasm of the children who attended and we are confident that you will find their views to be powerful and inspiring. Please enjoy the video here: <https://www.ignitefutures.org.uk/primary-parliament>

### Odd Socks Day

We celebrated this day in school with a colourful array of odd socks! We used this vibrant visual as a sign to show we celebrate our differences and are firm in our stance in standing up to bullying and discrimination. The week began with an Anti-Bullying assembly in support of Anti-Bullying week. We talked to the children about what the definition of bullying is using the acronym **STOP** (Several Times On Purpose) and the same acronym for what children should do about it (Start Telling Other People). We have our anti-bullying display located centrally in school to remind the children of these messages and children will focus on positive friendships, types of bullying and ways to seek support as part of our PSHE curriculum. Details can be found [here](#).

Slide right hand over  
back of left hand  
towards body, then  
close right hand and  
place on back of left  
hand



Christmas



## PFA

Thank you to our proactive PFA Team who have organised a Film Night this term - an ever-popular event which was specifically requested by the children themselves. This week we saw the return of the Christmas Fair. This was the first in many years and we were delighted with the turn out. There were face paints, Christmas themed stalls, glitter galore and lots of tombola fun! It was truly a lovely event to bring our community together, enjoy some festive fun and help raise money for school funds. Thank you to all those who came along to support or helped with stalls and of course, **thank you** to our wonderful PFA team led by Miss Buchanan for making it all happen.

## OPAL Updates From Miss Lane

It's been a successful Advent Term for OPAL. We've seen the addition of an art area, fun in the leaves and music! Thank you to families for your donations and continuing support with the levels of mud your children return home with. It's wonderful to see all our children engaged in play every lunchtime. A special thank you to the PFA members – their tireless work for funding has meant that next year the St Patrick's PFA will appear in our local Tescos as a part of their donation campaign. More details will be shared on this closer to the time. Thank you to our PlayTeam: Miss Wall, Mrs Foote and Mrs Trueman, their dedicated passion and hard work has allowed OPAL to grow from strength to strength. We are very excited for the new year for the opening of our digging area and the introduction of tyre swings.



## St Patrick's Passport – 50 Things to do before you leave St Patrick's!

From flying a kite to watching a sunrise, the St Patricks passport was compiled with 50 things to do before you leave St Patrick's suggested by our parents, staff, Governors and the children themselves. Every child was given a passport a few weeks ago if you need further copies, please let the school office know. Why not give it go and see how many you can tick off as a family!?

## Supporting Our Local Community

Due to the bouts of weather we have had recently and are due to have in the months ahead, traffic can be particularly difficult within the village of Wilford during busy school drop off and collection times. The residents of Wilford kindly ask that extra care is taken when driving through the village at a safe speed and without mounting the pavements. Thank you for your support.

## Summer Teaching Internships

The Our Lady of Lourdes Trust is currently offering university students places on the Summer Teaching Internship program, a government funded programme to support university students to get into teaching. Please see the poster at the end of this letter for more information.

## INSET Days and Dates

Please make a note of useful dates detailed within this newsletter. Please also find the INSET day dates for this academic year below.

### INSET Day Dates 2025

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – INSET Day

Monday 28th July – INSET Day

Tuesday 29th July – INSET Day

*(Children finish school on Friday 25th July 2025)*



@StPatricksNotts

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** and seeing you at our Epiphany Mass on **Monday 6th January at 2pm** if you are able to join us.

Thank you once again for all your support this term. From us all at St Patrick's, we wish our children and families a very happy and holy Christmas filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

With best wishes,

Miss Ferrara



# SUMMER TEACHING INTERNSHIP 2025

Earn £1275 for a  
three week  
internship, working  
in a school,  
alongside  
Teachers.

**9th June -  
27th June 2025**



You can apply if you are an undergraduate or masters student on a  
Languages or STEM related degree.

Places are available in schools across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire

Christ the King, Arnold, The Becket School, West Bridgford, The Trinity School, Aspley, All Saints,  
Mansfield, Nottingham Girls Academy, Aspley, St Peter and St Paul, Lincoln, St Bede's, Scunthorpe

**TO APPLY AND FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT VANESSA SCOTT  
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