



St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

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

12th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half of the Lent term, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate before the half-term holiday ahead.

Start of Year Mass

At the start of January, we gathered to celebrate the start of the Lent term and the Epiphany in Mass. It was wonderful to celebrate this special feast day together in prayer and song with parents, parishioners and Governors. The children sang beautifully and we used the celebration to launch the **Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope** as led by Pope Francis. The Jubilee Year is a landmark moment in the life of the global church. School communities are invited to join together as pilgrims of hope, pledging to work together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love. At St Patrick's, we launched this special year in January by dressing up in our House team colours, donating money to CAFOD and making Pilgrim of Hope Prayer Pledges which are displayed in the school hall. We have a variety of themed events planned in for the year ahead including House charity events and the children have already learnt a special hymn linked to this year which we look forward to singing to you very soon. We will ensure to keep you posted of how we are celebrating this throughout the year.

Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day

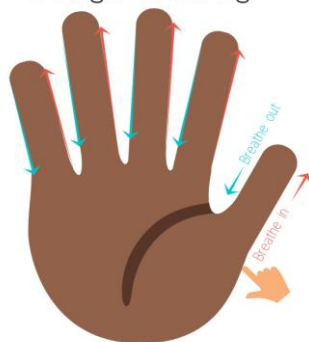
Yesterday we celebrated the Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day. Children across the school each carried a candle into our Prayer Room as a procession and laid it around the Our Lady of Lourdes grotto area. It was a beautiful occasion, made particularly special celebrating in candlelight.

Parish-School Links

We continue to strengthen our links with Our Lady and St Patrick's Church this term by having children from St Patrick's volunteering to read the bidding prayers at Mass on a number of Sunday Masses throughout the year. If you would like your child to participate in Mass in this way, please look out for the emails from Mrs Cannell.

Safer Internet Day

5 Finger Breathing



Last week, Miss Lane led the school in an assembly talking about **Safer Internet Day** and **Mental Health Awareness Week**. Safer Internet Day is a celebration of the safe and positive use of technology, coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre. Miss Lane reminded the children of a variety of ways to stay safe online. The importance of staying safe online at an age appropriate level will also be a focus in PSHE lessons.



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

INSET DAY – no school

Friday 14th February

Return to School

Monday 24th February

Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word

Wednesday 5th March, 2.30pm

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March



St Patrick's Day!

Monday 17th March.

More details to follow soon.

Service of Reconciliation for Children

Tues 25th March

Parent's Consultations

Thursday 27th March, 1-7pm

EYFS Stay and Play- Parents/carers invited

Friday 28th March, 9-10.30am

Holy Week – EYFS/Years 1 and 2 presenting Palm Sunday

Tuesday 1st April, 2.30pm TBC

Holy Week – Years 3 and 4 presenting The Last Supper

Wednesday 2nd April, 2.30pm

Holy Week – Year 5 presenting The Garden of Gethsemane

Thurs 3rd April, 2.20pm

Holy Week – Year 6 presenting The Crucifixion

Friday 4th April, 2.30pm

Last Day of term

Friday 4th April

Return to school

Tuesday 22nd April

We also marked **Mental Health Awareness Week** last week in school. The focus was 'know yourself and grow yourself.' Mrs Sarno spoke to the children about resilience and taught the children a breathing technique called 'five-finger breathing' and how this can calm and benefit the mind.

CAFOD Mass

Two weeks ago, two members of last year's CAFOD club represented the school at a special CAFOD Mass held at Church. The children read in Mass beautifully and even enjoyed socialising with Parishioners afterwards.

Opal Playtime Project

Thank you very much for your ongoing support with our move to playtimes supported by OPAL. As previously shared OPAL is an award-winning company with a focus on outdoor learning and play. If you would like to see what we are working towards please click this link to see a [platinum OPAL school](#). We will be holding an open-OPAL-play event for parents on **April 24th**. More details to follow shortly soon.

Additions to our playground this half term include mud kitchen equipment, slack lines between the trees, a new painting area, a new stage area complete with an outdoor radio and an exciting new gravel pit made possible by the money raised from Mrs Foote's famous Santa Sacks! Thank you to Mrs Foote and the team!

Changes are always introduced within weekly Play Assemblies in order to collaborate with the children to discuss the benefits, risks and put agreed safety measures into place.

Please be reminded that the school field is open most days in most weathers. Children with wellingtons are able to access the field, the mud kitchen and thoroughly enjoy jumping in the puddles! Please ensure you send children into school with a waterproof-overall to prevent school uniform from getting wet and dirty. Thank you for your support in advance.

If you can support our OPAL project in any way, please contact the school office. Any links with local businesses which may be able to help with donations of **crates, pallets, old pots, pans, whisks, colanders, scaffold planks and cable drums** would be greatly appreciated! Please see the BINGO board at the end of the letter and if you can provide any of the loose parts, please bring them in. Thank you again for your help.

PFA

Thanks to our PFA who continue to support the school with fundraising and are enabling the school to grow and develop in so many ways. Huge thanks to the PFA in securing funding from the Rotary Club and for putting the school on the map in Tesco Stores! (more information in the next paragraph). All funds raised are used to purchase much needed school Opal equipment and resources for our sensory provision. The top goal this year is to raise enough money for a sand pit in the summer term. Special thanks go to Ms Buchanan, our PFA Chair and the whole team who I know are busy behind the scenes getting ready for future events which are coming soon! Watch this space!

Easy fundraising For School – How You Can Help St Patrick's

Parents/carers, family and friends can help to raise money for the school by signing up to the *easy-fundraising* website. This site partners with over 8000 brands who donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice without any extra charge. So far, you have raised £178 and the school has 31 supporters. Your help in increasing this amount would be greatly appreciated! Simply click [here](#) or scan the QR code and follow these three easy steps.

1. Sign up – Click [here](#)
2. Download the browser extension with donation reminder plug-in pops up which let you know when a donation is available.
3. Track your donations! You'll be able to see how much you've raised in your account and updates will be sent to you when St Patrick's gets paid.

A special thanks to...

365 Scaffold for donating wooden boards

The Rotary Club for a wonderful donation!

St Patrick's Play Team Mrs Foote, Miss Wall, Mrs Trueman and Miss Lane, Jo Lobaz and *The PFA* for their ongoing help!

Help Needed!

If there is a parent/carer with a **van** who is able to help us transport larger items from time to time, such a picnic tables or palettes, please contact the school office. We would be very grateful for your help!



Stronger Starts for St Patrick's!

Tesco Stronger is a store wide initiative which supports local communities. Our PFA have worked hard to enable St Patrick's school to be selected as one of the organisations where members of the public can vote for the school to be offered funding in the future. If successful, the funds will be used to raise money for ongoing projects. Simply make a purchase at one of the stores shown on the link here <http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk> and use the blue token given at the checkout to vote for our school. Voting is from mid-January until the end of March. The group with the highest number of blue token wins £1500, second place £1000 & third place £500. Jessica Ennis herself has even promoted the school in an exciting video which can be viewed [here](#).

Thank you again to our PFA who is helping in so many ways to help grow and develop our school.

Football News

Our school football team are going from strength to strength this season. The team have shown great sporting spirit, determination and true grit in their matches, winning 8 out of 9 so far. Well done team and keep going!

<i>St Patrick's 3-1 Welbeck</i>	<i>St Patrick's 5 – 3 South Wilford</i>
<i>St Patrick's 1-0 Milford</i>	<i>St Patricks 1- 3 Whitegate</i>
<i>St Patrick's 2-1 Victoria</i>	<i>St Patricks 2 – 1 Nottingham Academy</i>
<i>St Patricks 1- 0 Welbeck</i>	<i>St Patricks 5 – Greenfields</i>
<i>St Patricks 2 – 0 South Wilford</i>	

Attendance – Miss School, Miss out!

Regular and punctual attendance of pupils at school is a legal requirement. Nottingham City Attendance Project, 'Miss School, Miss Out!' have created four videos to help parents/carers to understand the importance of children attending school, and the impact that being absent can have on learning and wellbeing. The videos are short and compliment the 'Miss School, Miss Out' fliers that you will have seen around school. Along with the [English](#) videos, each video has been translated into [Punjabi](#), [Polish](#) and [Arabic](#). Please find access to these videos by clicking on the links.

Well done St Patrick's!

We were delighted to hear from Sharewear recently who the school has had a close partnership with for many years. We regularly have clothing donations from our families and staff which go in our Sharewear box in the school library. Sharewear informed us that our school donations have diverted 274.7kg of clothing from landfill from January 2024 to December 2024! This is a tremendous amount and a great way of serving and helping others. Please continue to send in clothing donations for this wonderful cause.

World book Day – Thursday 6th March

World Book Day will soon be upon us once again. It is always a much loved event at St Patrick's where children and adults enjoy sharing and reading books together. This year, we are asking the children to **bring to school any books in good condition that they have outgrown and/or no longer want** at home in order to have a giant whole school book swap. Please send in book donations **by February 28th February** in order for us to organise the books. The theme this year is 'Snuggle up with a book.' Parents will be invited along in the afternoon to enjoy reading with the children with hot chocolate from **2.45 – 3.15pm**. The dress code for the day will be **pyjamas**. More details at the end of this letter and to follow after half term.

Safe and Considerate Parking

May I remind all parents/carers to park safely and considerately when dropping off and collecting children. These times are extremely busy and careless parking is a risk to the safety of our children. I also ask that parents/carers **do not** park on the **yellow zig-zig lines** or **across our neighbours' driveways**. It is only in working together that we can ensure the safety of our children and show consideration to our neighbours. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation with this.

Collection Time

Please be reminded that the school day finishes at **3:15pm**. Please ensure your child is picked up promptly at this time. Timely pick-ups help us keep the end of the day running smoothly, prevents children from worrying and allows staff to complete end of day tasks. If you are ever delayed, please let the school office know as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

INSET Day

Please note this **Friday 14th February** is a Trust INSET date. The last day of school this week is tomorrow Thursday 13th February.

Following this, we have the one-week half-term break and we look forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Monday 24th February**

Thank you once again for all your support this half term.

With best wishes,

Miss Ferrara



St Patrick's OPAL BINGO

Construction

- Plastic crates
- Trays
- Bread trays
- Cardboard boxes
- Plastic tubing e.g. clean pipes/ guttering
- Tarpaulins
- Pool noodles

Creative Arts

- Chalks
- Pens
- Paper/card
- Paintbrushes
- Industrial size cling film
- Ribbon
- Bubble machine

Wheels

- Suitcases
- Prams
- Bread trays on wheels
- Scooters
- Skateboards

Messy Kitchen

- Pots
- Pans
- Utensils
- Bowls
- Plastic crockery
- Plastic or real small appliances e.g. kettle

Small World Area

- Animals
- Dolls
- Teddy bears
- Vehicles
- Fake flowers
- Fake fruit
- Soft toys

Role Play

- Shops e.g. till, food
- Fabric (duvets, sheets)
- Dressing up clothes
- Hats
- Handbags
- Normal clothes
- Accessories



St Patrick's **BOOK SWAP**



Help us spread the love for
reading.

If you have outgrown or no
longer want a book, pass it on
for somebody else to enjoy.

**Donate your old
books by
Friday 28th
February**

Please only donate books that are still in good
condition.

SNUGGLE UP AND READ



COME AND COSY UP AND READ

PART OF OUR WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH

2:45 - 3:15

FREE HOT CHOCOLATE

