



St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

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



4th April 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we finish school today for the Easter holidays, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate. It's 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 17th, Year 6 and Year 1 proudly represented the school at the St Patrick's Day Mass at Our Lady and St Patrick's Church. The children read and sang beautifully and enjoyed leading the offertory procession. Father Pitak, along with 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 gold Shamrock 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.

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 beautifully creative which included meditation using art.

Year 6 led us in a poignant dramatisation of The Last Supper where they sang beautifully, shared scripture and allowed for peaceful moments of prayer.

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

Today, Years 3 and 4 end Holy Week with a powerful presentation of Resurrection Rock – a presentation led by song of the events of Holy Week. I know the children will lead this with the utmost respect, maturity and reverence and we are incredibly proud of all of the children this week for their efforts. Please remember to join us today at 2.20pm if you are able.

Fundraising Fun

The school was a hive of activity this half term with all children gathering together with their House team to take part in a fundraising activity for Lent. We had Easter Bunny Popcorn bags, Chocolate lollies, decorated biscuits, prayer bracelets and even a toy raffle!

Love first,
Live the Gospels,
Learn for Life

KEY DATES

First day back after the Easter break
Tuesday 22nd April

KS2 (Yr6) SATS Week
Week beginning 12th 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.

Year 1 Phonics Screening
Week beginning 9th June

Year 4 Multiplication Check
2nd June – 13th 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](#).

Half Term Dates
May 26th – Friday 30th May
Children return on June 2nd

Last Day
Friday 25th July

All items sold like hot cakes! Each house voted to choose a charity to support and this year the charities included Mary's Meals, CAFOD, St Vincent De Paul and our local Church. Collectively, they have raised **£325!**

Our EYFS children also completed their annual Lenten walk for CAFOD and raised a whopping **£340!**

The events have been an absolute triumph in serving others during this season of Lent. This, along with our Jubilee Prayer of Hope and 40 Day Discipleship Challenge, has helped our children to put their faith into action, pray and give to others during Lent.

World Book Day

What a huge success World Book Day was at St Patrick's School! The school was alive with an array of cosy pyjamas worn by both children and staff. The day began with a motivating assembly led by Mr Ward and a flurry of secret mystery readers throughout the day. The afternoon Book Swap was a wonderful afternoon. We even had to open it out into the playground as so many parents/carers came to read with the children. Thank you for your support and together we hope to keep growing our children's love for reading.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our Parents Consultation last week. 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.

Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

Please visit <https://olspsnottingham.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.

Congratulations to St Patrick's Champion Football Team! 🏆

We are thrilled to announce that St Patrick's school football team has **won the league!** After a season of dedication, teamwork and incredible performances, our players have shown what hard work and perseverance can achieve.

Fourteen children from across Year 5 and 6 began training back in November 2024 attending afterschool club sessions to build on skills and unite together as a team in preparation for the Central Venue League games. As the matches progressed, the players supported each other both on and off the field. This unity was reflected in their performance, as they consistently improved and adapted their strategies to meet the challenges posed by each new opponent.

Miss Thornhill and Mr Bonner were immensely proud of the dedication and spirit displayed by the team, making every game a memorable experience. From thrilling last-minute goals to rock-solid defence, every match was a testament to their talent and determination. With 14 games played, St Patricks came out victorious with 13 wins and 1 loss. The team now look forward to going to Champions League to compete against the other central venue league winners around Nottinghamshire - more information will be sent out nearer the time.

A huge **thank you** to our coaches Miss Thornhill and Mr Bonner, our supporters and families who cheered them on every step of the way. This victory is a proud moment for the children and our school and we can't wait to see what the future holds for our champions. Well done team!

Mass Dates

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

Year 4 and Year 2 Mass In Church

Weds 21st May

Year 3 and FS1 Mass In Church

Weds 4th June

Year 6 and FS2 Mass In Church

Weds 11th June

Year 5 and Year 1 Mass In Church

Weds 18th June

Whole School Mass to celebrate the children who have made their First Holy Communion alongside St Peter and St Paul Mass Celebration

Tues 1st July, 1.45pm



More Sporting News - the Great Big Dance Off!

The Great Big Dance Off is a popular national dance competition open to schools all across England & Wales.

The aim is to bring together children of all ages and abilities where the emphasis is on having fun and building confidence. St Patrick's School were proud to enter for the first time two teams into this year's East Midlands heat, which took to the stage on Thursday 27th February 2025.

Eleven children from Year 1, 2 and 3 and thirty children from Year 4, 5 and 6 dedicated the time and passion to 14 weeks of dance afterschool club rehearsals. Our younger team, made up of Year 1, 2, and 3 pupils, delighted the crowd with their spirited performance of Aladdin's 'Friend like me'. Their routine was filled with joyful movements and charming smiles, capturing the hearts of the judges and spectators alike. Meanwhile, our older group, consisting of Year 4, 5, and 6 students, demonstrated impressive coordination and skills to Rio's 'Hot Wings'. Their routine was a more complex choreography that highlighted their dedication and the progress they had made.

The Result:

Out of 17 entries, Years 1, 2 and 3 came in at 11th place totalling 229 points out of 300 receiving two lots of top marks for Eye contact and Crowd appeal. Years 4, 5 and 6 came in at 8th place (only 4 points from being 4th place) totalling 242 points out of 300 and also receiving two lots of top marks for Creativity and Crowd appeal.

Congratulations to our two dance teams who had been busy practising in readiness for their competition at the Albert Hall. They performed brilliantly and were an absolute credit to the school. Back at school, we were treated to a special performance of these dances where the whole school community were truly inspired. In the words of Strictly, *'Keep dancing!'*

Science Week

This year we were thrilled to be approached by students from the NTU who came into school during Science Week bringing a unique and exciting learning experience for the children. The NTU students brought science to life through engaging talks, hands-on experiments, and fascinating demonstrations using 3D generated terrain maps of the moon, heat sensing equipment and...Lego! Their visit sparked curiosity and encouraged our children to think like real scientists. The children asked fantastic questions and gained valuable insights into how science shapes our world. We hope that this has inspired many future scientists and innovators.

Cycling For Children

There is still time to sign up to register your interest for Fox Cycling – an after school club for 4-7 year olds led by TB Sport. Please see the poster at the end of this letter and click the link here to sign up: <https://bit.ly/foxcycling-stpats>

Century Court Care Home Visit

Our wonderful Makaton 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.

Join Us for an OPAL Open Day!

We're excited to invite parents and carers to our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Open Day! Come and experience the joy of playtime alongside the children, exploring the fantastic new activities that make play times more adventurous, creative and fun. This is a great opportunity to see first-hand how OPAL is transforming play, encouraging teamwork, and boosting well-being. The Open Afternoon for parents will be on **Wednesday 23rd April**. The afternoon will begin with a short presentation in the hall followed by playtime outside with the children. There will be refreshments to purchase and a whole host of playtime activities for you to enjoy with the children. Comfortable clothing and footwear is advisable. We can't wait to share this special experience with you - see you on the playground!

OTHER DATES

EYFS Stay and Play

Fri 13th June, 9-10.30am

Year 4/5/6 Sports Day

Mon 16th June, 1.45pm

EYFS Sports Day

Tues 17th June, 9.10am

KS1/Year 3 Sports Day

Wed 18th June, 2pm

Aspirations Week

Week beginning Mon 30th June

Bastille Day

Mon 14th July

Year 6 Musical Performance

Friday 18th July 1.30pm/6.30pm

End of Year/Year 6 Leavers Mass

Tues 22nd July, 1.45pm

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Fri 25th July, 9.05am

Aspirations Week: Inspiring the Future!

We are excited to announce our upcoming **Aspirations Week** during the week beginning Monday 30th June, a special event designed to inspire and motivate our children by exploring a wide range of careers and future opportunities. The goal is to encourage children to ask questions, dream big, set goals and learn about the many exciting and varied paths available to them.

Hearing from a range of people in a range of professions makes a huge impact, giving children insight into different jobs, industries and the skills needed to succeed. Every job plays an important role in our community and we want to showcase a diverse range of careers. To make this week truly inspiring, we are reaching out to parents and the wider community - if you or someone you know would be happy to come in and talk about your job, we would love to hear from you!

If you're interested in volunteering or can recommend a speaker, please contact the school office. Your experience, whatever it may be, can help shape the aspirations of our children and inspire them for the future!

Communication Guidance for Parents/Carers

The Our Lady of Lourdes Trust is pleased to announce Communications Guidance for Parents and Carers designed to make communication clear, accessible, and effective for everyone in our community. The key aims are to:

- Keep parents, carers, and staff well-informed
- Ensure all communication is respectful and values the dignity of every member of our community
- Use simple, jargon-free language that is easy to understand
- Work closely with families, staff, and pupils on important matters
- Support our mission to provide an 'Outstanding Catholic education for all.'
- Regularly review and improve how we communicate.

This guidance aims to strengthen the relationship between the schools in our Trust, families, and staff – helping schools stay connected and ensuring everyone feels informed and involved. Please visit this page [here](#) to view the guidance.

Special thanks to...

ATO Scaffolding Services
for donating wooden boards for OPAL.
These have been used for seating areas
and the children love using these as
balance beams on the grass!

Claire Bears for continuing to sell
previously owned school uniform at
affordable prices to support our families.
Thank you for the £210 donation!

The PFA for their ongoing help and
support! Today's Easter Egg raffle raised a
huge £140! Thank you to parents/carers
for donations and raffle ticket purchases.

Thank
you!!!

The Importance of Mental Health and Well-being

Mental health is just as important as physical health for both children and adults. Taking care of our well-being helps us manage stress, build positive relationships, and navigate daily challenges. For children, a strong sense of emotional well-being supports learning, confidence, and social development. For adults, prioritizing mental health allows us to be present, resilient, and supportive of those around us.

Simple practices like open conversations, mindfulness and seeking support when needed can make a big difference. If you or someone you know could use guidance, visit the Trust's [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) page for a wealth of resources and support or contact the school office to speak to a member of staff who could help.

St Patrick's school is dedicated to working together to create a caring and supportive community for everyone.

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' flyers 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. The link [here](#) explains this important project.

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 developing 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.

Congratulations Miss Moody!

With love and excitement, our school community sends our warmest congratulations to Miss Moody as she celebrates her wedding this weekend! It will be an unforgettable day, made even more special by children from St Patrick's who will be there to sing and share in this joyful occasion. We wish her a wonderful day filled with love and happiness and look forward to welcoming her back after the Easter holidays as Mrs Davis.



Thank you for your continued support this term and I look forward to the summer term ahead. I wish you a happy and holy Easter and look forward to seeing the children back at school on **Tuesday 22nd April**.

With very best wishes,

Miss Ferrara

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.

EXPLORE FOX CYCLING



OUR SERVICES



SCAN ME



CYCLE TOTS

High-energy, fun classes, filled with games and challenges on balance bikes.

Designed by cycling experts to help kids become super confident on two wheels, developing the skills they need to be ready to learn to cycle.

Lightweight, amazing kids balance bikes are supplied by Fox Cycling for each session. Helmets can be supplied if needed.

CycleTots develops all of the 'prime' areas within the EYFS criteria.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Register your interest in TB SPORT delivering their incredibly popular Fox Cycling programme within your school - St Patricks Catholic Voluntary Academy in Wilford.

Add your child to the wait list by filling in our online form. These sessions will take place **after school** starting in **April** for children aged 4-7 years.

We require a minimum of 6 children to be signed up for each session. The sessions cost £5.00 per session and TB SPORT supply the balance bike and helmet!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/FOXCYCLING-STPATS](https://bit.ly/foxcycling-stpats)

