



St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

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

June 2nd 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you all had a safe and happy half term. As we begin the final half term of the school year, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate.

First Holy Communion Celebrations

Huge congratulations to all of our children who celebrated their First Holy Communion before half term. It was wonderful to celebrate together at Our Lady and St Patrick's Church which was full to the brim! Children who made their First Holy Communion in other Parishes were in our thoughts and prayers too. The sunshine made for an extra special day, filled with lots of faith, hope and happiness. We are so proud of all the children who celebrated this special sacrament with such reverence, maturity and joy – well done! Our thanks go out to Mrs Cannell and Mrs Cotter who gave up their time to help prepare the children, along with the other Catechists at the Parish.

Well Done Year 6!

A very big well done to all of our children in Year 6 who sat their SATs before half term. We were so proud of their determination and efforts. Work continues in Year 6 and in the rest of the classes as we venture into the final half term of the year.

Please note that the **Phonics Screening for Year 1** (and some Year 2 children) and the **Multiplication Check for Year 4** will take place this week and next week. Your child's attendance at school leading up to 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 and 4 detailing all the relevant information, please click [here](#). Please see the information boxes on the right for key dates or speak to your child's class teacher.

Faith In Action and Makaton Club

Our Year 6 Faith In Action group are coming to the end of their sessions and hope to be awarded the PIN level award for their hard work at the end of the year. Our famous Makaton Club have been busy working hard to put together a concert for the residents of Century Court Residential Home this half term – more details to follow.

Magical Maths

We recently enjoyed an assembly from the ever-popular club Spaghetti Maths. If you would like further information about any of these, please contact the school office.

KEY DATES.

Year 4 Multiplication Check

2nd June – 13th June

Year 1 Phonics Screening

Week beginning 9th June

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

Last Day

Friday 25th July

Payment Updates

Please ensure payments to the school for lunches, music lessons and other items are regularly paid and accounts are updated as this ensures that our school office and school procedures can run smoothly. If you need any support with payments or wish to talk through this, please contact the school office or ask to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team where we will be more than happy to discuss options with you.

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 a 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.

OPAL Update (Outdoor Play and Learning)

On Wednesday 23rd April, we were delighted to open our playground gates and invite parents/carers in to enjoy an afternoon of OPAL play. We started the session with an informative presentation about the benefits of outdoor play from Wendy, our OPAL representative and Miss Lane, before heading out into the sunshine with the children from Years 1-6. The children were keen to show all the adults how to maturely make a 'dynamic risk play assessment' before using equipment and how much fun outdoor play in all weathers really can be. It was a glorious afternoon and a wonderful opportunity for our parent/carer community to enjoy seeing OPAL play in action.

Thank you so much as always for all your contributions towards OPAL. This would not be possible without the hard work of our **OPAL play team**, our busy **PFA** who recently raised money from an Easter Egg raffle and a school disco, **Mrs Foote's famous Summer Sacks** and of course, the support from our families.

Our end goal for this academic year was to build a sand pit and we're excited to announce that we are almost there!

Huge thanks to **Mr Formosa** for giving up his weekend to dig out the sandpit and **Mr Etches** for securing the structure and preparing the ground. It is now ready for the sand – watch this space for the grand opening!

Special thanks to...

Thank you!!!

Mr Formosa

for giving up his time on the weekend to dig out the sandpit.

The PFA for their ongoing help and support! With their help, the school secured a whopping £1000 from *Tesco* to help fund the sandpit. Last term's Film Night and disco was also a huge success and helped to raise further funds. Thank you to parents/carers for supporting the events.

Mrs Foote and her Summer Sacks which sold like hot cakes!

Mr and Mrs Trueman for the tyre donations!

Claire Bears for continuing to sell previously owned school uniform at affordable prices to support our families.



Parking

We have had positive feedback from parents/carers about the **new safety parking signs** outside the school's entrance. These are on loan to the school to ensure safe and responsible parking. Our local PCSO will continue to make routine visits the area to promote safe parking and ensure parents/carers are parking sensibly to ensure the safety of our children. Please **do not** park on the yellow lines and avoid blocking the drives of neighbours who require 24-hour access. When dropping children at breakfast club or picking up from after school clubs, please use the white bay parking areas and do not block the parking gates as this prevents staff from being able to access or leave the car park.

Staff Updates

We would like to share the news that Mrs Smith, who has been a highly valued Teaching Assistant at St Patrick's School for the past 21 years, will be retiring at the end of June. Mrs. Smith has made an incredible contribution to the lives of so many children and families over the years, and her dedication, warmth, and kindness will be greatly missed. Unfortunately, Mrs Smith has been absent from school for some time due to ill health and we know many of you will join us in wishing her a restful and happy retirement. We thank her sincerely for her years of service and send her our prayers and very best wishes for the future. Mrs Smith will be popping in to school over the next few weeks so please feel free to come in and bid a fond farewell and reminisce over many memories as I know Mrs Smith taught many of our parents/carers too!

We also say farewell to Mrs Taylor, our midday supervisor, who has left to begin a new adventure. We thank her for her dedication and efforts and wish her lots of luck in her new role. We welcome Mrs Khan to the midday supervisor play team in the next few weeks.

We welcome Mrs Luong to the staff team as she formally begins her role as a Teaching Assistant at the end of June. Mrs Luong has been with us for some time already and has quickly become part of our St Patrick's school family.

Please note important dates outlined in this half termly newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at the various of events coming up. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to the adventures of the final half term ahead.

With very best wishes,

Miss Ferrara

Mass Dates

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

Year 5 and FS1 Mass In Church

Weds 4th June

Year 6 and FS2 Mass In Church

Weds 11th June

Year 4 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