



St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

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

5th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn Term of 2025! 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 Reception 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. We also welcome Mrs Jones, our Year 3 teacher, to the St Patrick's family.

The St Patrick's Way

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 values to the children this week to encourage positive behaviour choices and learn with positive habits. These were created from the outcomes of questionnaires given to children, parents, staff and governors.

These values are 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 the values these below:



OPAL Update - Outdoor Play and Learning

Last academic year we made great strides in our OPAL journey (Outdoor Play and Learning). 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!"

KEY DATES

First day back in September
Wednesday 3rd September

Years 6 and 5 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 10th September, 10am

Education Sunday – St Patrick's children reading at Mass
Sunday 14th September, 9am

First Whole School Mass
Tuesday 16th September, 2pm

Year 4 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 1st October, 10am

Year 3 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Note: Now changed to Weds 5th Nov

Parent's Open Afternoon including EYFS Stay and Play – NEW!
Thursday 9th October, 2-5pm
This event will replace our usual Parent's Consultation and will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and look in your child's books. There will be more information shared nearer the time.

St Patrick's Children reading at Mass to celebrate Harvest
Sunday 12th October, 9am

Harvest Mass
Tuesday 14th October, 2pm

Black History Month Work Presentation
Thursday 16th October, 2.30pm

Last day of the Advent term
Friday 17th October (*school open as usual on this day*)

October Half Term – School closed
Monday 20th Oct – Friday 31st Oct



Our journey is well under way and we are proud to announce we have a wide variety of activities for our children to engage with at lunchtimes including a mud café, our newly opened sandpit, a boat, small world, den building, scooter zone, swings, rope ladders and more! Thank you for all your donations and efforts which have allowed for OPAL to be such a success. The OPAL Play Team have a number of exciting projects planned for this year – watch this space!

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 always welcome donations. The spare wellingtons are free for your children to use. 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 or a waterproof suit** to protect your child's school uniform. 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 over the next few weekends.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

At St Patrick's we offer an array of after school opportunities including Makaton, basketball, football, Spaghetti Maths, fox cycling, choir and iRock music band club to name a few. 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. If you would like to get in touch with the PFA to find out more or offer support in any way, please email pfa@st-patricks.nottingham.sch.uk for more information.

Open Evening

To celebrate and promote our school to prospective new parents and children, we will be holding an Open Evening on **Thursday 6th November** at 4.30 – 6pm. 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.

Back to school – School opens
Monday 3rd November

Open Evening for New Prospective Parents

Thursday 6th November, 4.30-6pm
Please spread the word!

Remembrance Liturgical Prayer – Parents/Carers Welcome

Tuesday 11th November, 10.45am

Year 2 visiting Church for Parish Mass

Wednesday 12th November, 10am

Individual/Class Photographs

Friday 14th November

Yr1 visiting Church for Parish Mass

Wednesday 19th November, 10am

St Patrick's Children reading at Mass to celebrate Youth Sunday/Christ The King

Sunday 23rd November, 9am

FS2 visiting Church for Parish Mass

Wednesday 26th November

Advent Mass in School led by Year 5

Wednesday 3rd December, 2pm

(Note: Please note year group and date change here)

HOPE Liturgical Prayer led by Year 6

Friday 5th December, 2.30pm

FS/KS1 Nativity Performance

Friday 12th December, 9.30am and 1.15pm

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12th December

PEACE Liturgical Prayer led by Year 3

Fri 12th December, 2.30pm

JOY Liturgical Prayer led by Year 4

Fri 19th December, 2.30pm

Last day of Advent Term

Friday 19th December

First day back in January 2026

Monday 5th January

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 national framework for penalty notices was launched last 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 £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days. This framework is a requirement across the country and is followed by all schools. We appreciate that holidays are expensive out of term time however please note that this is 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. Further information from Amy Bradshaw, our Education Welfare Officer, can be found [here](#)

The Boost Basket!

Today we launched a new travelling home-school item with the children – the class Boost Basket! The Boost Basket is designed to help children experience a little “boost” in a variety of meaningful ways – whether it's a physical boost through active play, a well-being boost by taking a moment to relax and reflect with the 'Calm Cards', a kindness boost by doing something thoughtful for someone else, or a personal development boost by trying something completely new. More news has been sent out in a letter today.



Safe Parking – We need your help to keep our children safe outside of school

Councillor Linda Woodings, Executive member for Road Safety at Nottingham City Council has asked that the following message be shared with all parents/carers at the start of the academic year.

Sadly, over the last school year, three children were injured after being knocked over by cars outside Nottingham schools. As the new term begins, your co-operation in following the advice below is vital to keep the roads outside school calm and safe for everyone:

Be timely - Arrive to school in good time in order to park away from the school, especially the zig-zag lines and walk your child/children through the school gates. This will mean better visibility and a safer environment for everyone.

Be considerate - Park considerately without blocking pavements or resident's driveways and turn off your vehicle's engine whilst waiting, to reduce pollution

Be patient – Drive carefully and patiently whilst driving away from the school. We appreciate everyone has busy lives, however this has been the main cause of previous accidents.

INSET Day Dates

Please make a note of useful dates on the previous pages. Please also find the INSET day dates for the academic year 2025-2026 below along with a reminder of school registration and collection times:

INSET Day Dates 2025-26

Friday 19th September 2025 – INSET Day
Friday 13th February 2026 – INSET Day
Friday 24th July 2026 – INSET Day
Monday 27th July 2026 – INSET Day
(Children finish school on Thursday 23rd July 2026)

School Start Times

Classroom doors open at **8.40am**
School Start time **8.45am**.
Classroom doors close at **8.50am**
School End Time: **3.15pm**

Finally, thank you once again for your support in advance. You are all welcome to attend our **Welcome Mass** on **Tuesday 16th September** at **2pm** and we look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes,
Miss Ferrara