



St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

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

17th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy half term, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate.

Harvest Mass



This week, we celebrated our Harvest Mass. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your kind and generous donations. The hall was filled with an impressive display of food items for the children to see - a true testament to the generosity of our school community.

The Meadows Food Bank have already collected the donations and has expressed sincere gratitude for your support. Your contributions truly make a difference to those in our community who need a helping hand at this time.

A special thank you also goes to the children who read at Mass last Sunday to promote our Harvest celebration and our Chaplaincy Team who led the service this week. They read their parts beautifully, with reverence and represented our school with pride.

Education Sunday

At the start of the academic year, a group of children from St Patrick's represented the school by reading the prayers in Mass at Our Lady and St Patrick's Church. It was wonderful to see children from school honour this National Day of Prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education.

St Francis of Assis Year 6 Hub Mass

Last Friday, our Year 6 children attended Mass at Our Lady and St Patrick's Church, joining pupils from other schools in our family hub to celebrate together. A group of our children took part by leading the bidding prayers and during the offertory procession, we presented our large wooden tree decorated with wooden leaves. This tree symbolises how each member of our school community is united in love, joy, and hope, especially during this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Parent Questionnaire



At last week's Open Afternoon and Book Look, we asked parents/carers to complete a Parent Voice Questionnaire to help us identify the strengths and developments of the school. We will share the outcome of these with you shortly. If you were unable to complete the Parent Questionnaire, please click [here](#) to access or scan the QR code. As we trialed a new system for the Advent term this year, we are keen to hear your views about this. The usual traditional appointment style Parent Consultation will resume in the Spring term.

Open Evening – Please spread the word!

To celebrate and promote our school to prospective new parents and children, we will be holding an Open Evening on **Thursday 6th November from 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 members of our community.

House Meetings

Two weeks ago our individual House Teams gathered in classrooms and enjoyed House Meetings led by their new Year 6 House Captains. The house Captains led their meetings with professionally prepared powerpoints and were wonderful in motivating their teams and allowing the children to have a voice in identifying the strengths of the school and ways we can improve. They had some fantastic ideas which will be explored. House Meetings will continue half-termly and we look forward to our next one in November.

OPAL

This half term we have continued our OPAL journey. Some highlights have been the addition of the kayaks and rolling barrels! The **Golden Welly Award** continues to be a fortnightly highlight for the children where children are celebrated for their positive play. This is awarded each play assembly for excellent play. After half term, we will be promoting our digging area again. Wellies and waterproof clothing are a must for this so please send your child with these if you have them at home. Thank you for your continued support and donations. Please keep them coming in!

As the weather turns colder, please ensure all children come to school with a coat to ensure everyone can go outside at playtime whatever the weather.

Easy fundraising For School – How can you help our school?

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 a whopping £771.45! Thank you so much! Your help in continuing to increase this amount would be greatly appreciated! Once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it and there's no catch or hidden charges.

Simply click [here](#) 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.

Year 6 Applications for Secondary School

The deadline for submitting your application for a secondary school place is 31 October 2025. Application forms are available on your home Local Authority website. For Catholic school applications, if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion you should also complete a supplementary information form and return this form to the school by the deadline (forms are available from the LA and the school). You **MUST** also include the supporting evidence* as required with this form, e.g. a baptismal certificate. Failure to supply the required supporting evidence may mean that your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place.

*If you do not have the required evidence please contact the parish where your child was baptised for a copy certificate in good time.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our multi skills club for Years 1, 2 and 3 has started alongside field hockey for Years 4, 5 and 6. Spaghetti Maths is due to start soon alongside a range of other clubs - watch this space for further after school opportunities happening soon.

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

Back to school – School opens
Monday 3rd November

Year 3 visiting Church for Parish Mass
Wednesday 5th November, 10am

Open Evening for New Prospective Parents
Thursday 6th November, 4.30-6pm
Please spread the word!

PFA Festive Family Photo Session
Thursday 6th November 3.30-6pm

**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

**School Christmas Dinner and
Christmas Jumper Day**
Thursday 11th December

FS/KS1 Nativity Performance
Friday 12th December, 9.30am and 1.15pm

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 including coats. 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 in August 2024 and includes information regarding penalty notices for irregular attendance, such as the first-time penalty notice issued for term time leave or irregular attendance being £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. This framework is a requirement across the country and will be followed by all schools. We appreciate that holidays are expensive out of term time however please note that this is now 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 from September 2024. Further information from Amy Bradshaw, our Education Welfare Officer, can be found [here](#)

Poppy Appeal



We are supporting the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and poppy-related merchandise. These will be available to purchase after half term from the office for a donation of your choice.

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 to the right here:

INSET Day Dates 2025-26

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)

Congratulations Miss Lane!

With love and excitement, our whole school community sends its warmest congratulations to Miss Lane as she celebrates her wedding this weekend! It has been a wonderful countdown, made even more special by the children's excitement and anticipation for the big day. We hope her celebration is filled with love, laughter and unforgettable moments. We wish her every joy and happiness as she begins this wonderful new chapter and look forward to welcoming her back after the October half term holidays as Mrs Stevenson.

Congratulations!

Staffing Structure – Acting Headteacher

As mentioned in a letter sent yesterday, I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Lane further regarding her recent appointment as Acting Headteacher during my maternity leave. The appointment of the Acting Deputy Headteacher will take place after half term and any further changes following this will be communicated to parents as soon as possible. I will remain at school for the first week after half term and would like to take this opportunity to thank members of our school community for your continued support and best wishes. I am truly grateful and appreciative of your kind and thoughtful words.

I wish you a happy, safe and restful half term holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 3rd November**.

With best wishes,

Miss Ferrara