



St Patrick's Catholic Primary & Nursery Voluntary Academy



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Dear Parents & Carers,

2nd December 2019

This week we begin our Advent preparations for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Please try to join us for our Advent Liturgies every Friday morning at 9am in the school hall. Thank you to all the families and governors who joined us on Friday last week for a beautiful and inspiring Act of Worship on the first Advent theme of HOPE. This week year 6 lead us in the theme of PEACE, come along - it's a beautiful way to prepare through Advent.

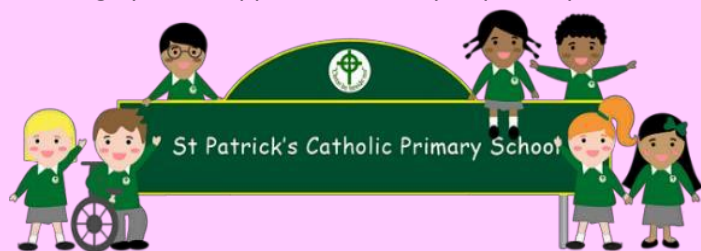
Join us for mass today at 2pm to mark the beginning of Advent and the Year of the Word.

We have lots of new initiatives this half term which we would encourage you to support as well as you possibly can and we look forward to working with you.

Kind regards,

Tracy Lane

Headteacher



Save the Children Christmas Jumper day

On Friday 13th December we invite all our staff and children to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas T Shirt and donate £1 to the Save the Children Charity. We will begin the day with an Act of Worship led by Year 5 so please come along if you can and join in the joy!



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Make the world better with a sweater!

Year 5 Swimming

Please remember that year 5 will be going swimming every Thursday morning after Christmas. They will need full swimming costumes or swimming trunks (not shorts), a towel and a swimming cap if they have long hair. If you wish your child to wear goggles in the pool you have to put this in writing, signed by you as their parent or the pool staff won't allow them to wear goggles. Swimming is part of the KS 2 curriculum and all children must take part.

PFA Film Night

This week on Thursday 5th Dec - Angry Birds 2. Please book in at the school office asap so we can buy enough hot dogs, snacks and drinks. Thanks to the PFA for all their hard work.



Trips & Visitors

Information is currently being sent out about trips and learning experiences planned for classes for after Christmas. To further support parents, all events for the rest of the year are being further subsidised by school by £10 per child to reduce the cost. Please support us by making the contribution asked for so that these events can go ahead as they enrich and engage your child in their learning.

WEEK	SCHOOL EVENT	ASSEMBLIES/LITURGIES	AFTER SCHOOL 3.20-5pm
4 th Nov	<p>Tuesday Boots WE Day representatives from Yr 5 & 6</p> <p>Friday Yr 2 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park 7.45am</p> <p>Friday House Assembly 9am</p>	<p>Weekly liturgies are as follows: Monday- whole school liturgy based on Sunday's Gospel- 9AM Tuesday- Hymn Practice & Liturgy Whole School- 2.40PM Wednesday- Chaplaincy Liturgy Whole School- 2.45PM Thursday- Paired Acts of Worship all classes- 2.45PM Friday- House or Class Assembly- 9AM PARENTS WELCOME</p>	<p>Spaghetti Fun Maths Club begins Tuesday 3.20pm</p> <p>Thursday PFA Film Night- Toy Story 4 3.30-5pm</p>
11 th Nov	<p>Judaism Week</p>	<p>Monday 11th November Remembrance Liturgy 11am</p> <p>Friday Yr 1 Assembly Please join us in the school hall 9.05am</p>	<p>Monday: Dodgeball years 3,4,5 & 6 Tuesday: Lego years 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 Wednesday: Basketball years 3,4,5 & 6 Thursday: Art Club years 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 Friday: Gymnastics years 1,2,3 & 4</p>
18 th Nov	<p>Monday Flu Vaccinations Reception- Year 6</p> <p>Wednesday University of Nottingham to visit class Yr 3</p>	<p>Friday 22nd- House Assembly Theme: Celebrating Achievement Please join us in the school hall 9.05am</p>	<p>Monday: Dodgeball Yrs 3,4,5 & 6 Tuesday: Lego Yrs 1-6 Wednesday: Basketball: Yrs 3,4,5 & 6 Thursday: Art Club Yrs 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 Friday: Gymnastics Yrs 1,2,3, & 4</p>
25 th Nov	<p>Thursday 28th Foundation Stage Stay & Play Phonics morning.</p> <p>Friday Yr 3 University of Nottingham Discovery Day Trip</p>	<p>Friday 29th Nov- Year 2 Advent Liturgy Theme: Hope Please join us in the school hall 9am</p>	<p>Monday: Dodgeball Yrs 3,4,5 & 6 Tuesday: Lego Yrs 1-6 Wednesday: Basketball: Yrs 3,4,5 & 6 Thursday: Art Club Yrs 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 Friday: Gymnastics Yrs 1,2,3, & 4</p>
2 nd Dec	<p>Wednesday Inflataverse arrives in school.</p>	<p>Monday 2nd Mass to begin Advent 2pm All Welcome</p> <p>Friday 6th Dec- Year 6 Advent Liturgy Theme: Peace Please join us in the school hall 9am</p>	<p>After School Clubs as above</p> <p>Thursday 5th Dec PFA Film Night – Angry Birds 2</p>
9 th Dec	<p>Tuesday University of Nottingham to visit class Yr 3</p>	<p>Friday 13th Dec- Year 5 Advent Liturgy Theme: Joy Please join us in the school hall 9am</p>	
16 th Dec	<p>Wednesday 18th Foundation Stage Trip to Manor Farm</p> <p>Thursday Whole School Christmas Dinner</p> <p>Friday 20th Dec- Whole School Expert Ending- Round the World 1pm Please join us in the school</p>	<p>Tuesday 17th- Foundation Stage & KS 1 Nativity 9am Please join us in the school hall</p> <p>Friday 20th Dec- Year 4 Advent Liturgy Theme: Love Please join us in the school hall</p>	<p>Thursday 19th PFA Christmas Disco 6-8pm</p>

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MONDAY 23rd December– SUNDAY 5th January 2020

Year 4 Residential Trip

If you have a child in year 4, please attend the meeting straight after school tonight Monday 2nd Dec to find out about the planned residential trip for your child. There is a lot to be shared so please attend.

Word of the Week

Joy

Statement to Live By

I can work, rest, play and pray each day.

Mission of the Week

Work in the day, play after school, pray in the evening and rest at night.

Our mission was decided upon by Year 3 this week. Thank You.

PFA Christmas Disco

Preparations are well underway for the Christmas Disco 6-8pm. Thank you to all volunteers who attended the planning meeting last week.

Tickets go on sale this week from the school office priced at £2 per person and under 3s are free. However, please consider the suitability for very young children and babies as it will be very **LOUD!**

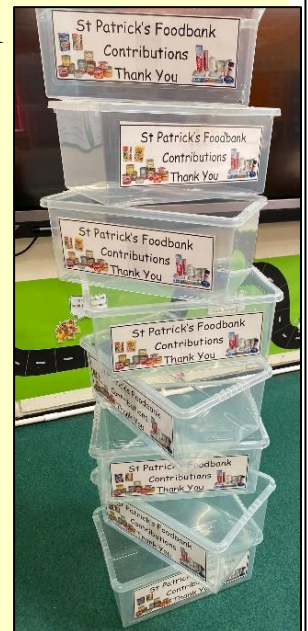


Don't miss it- DJ Siddall will be on the Decks!

St Patrick's Foodbank

Thank you to all parents who have kindly donated to our school foodbank. The items are stored in the entrance for any parent who finds themselves in a time of need. Times of crisis can happen to anyone and as a community we need to support each other when we can.

If you find yourself in short term need, please help yourself to something from the box.



The idea of the school foodbank is for families who are genuinely in need and not just because you can't
Thank you for helping us to help others.

Please check our Twitter feed for regular updates on how to keep your children safe online and to see the exciting events taking place in school each week in all classes. If you haven't given consent for your child's photo to be used on our Twitter page, please reconsider. We would love to be able to show you what they are doing in school as it happens. You can sign up in the school office.



Free School Meals- please apply, if you are eligible school will receive funding to help your child.

If you are still unsure if you are eligible please contact the Pupil Benefits Team who will be happy to help you and answer your questions:

Either fill in an application form available from the School Office

OR

Apply online

https://emsonline.nottscg.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE

OR telephone 0300 500 80 80.

Children's Safety

Please do not walk across or through the school car park at any time of day. The car park is accessed by vehicles throughout the day and we can't be held responsible for injury to anyone in the car park.

Please keep your safely child on the path.

FOUNDATION STAGE STAY AND PLAY

Thank you to all parents who joined us last Thursday 28th November for the Foundation Stage Phonics Stay and play. We hope you all took something away with you that you found helpful. We loved having you in school. Thanks you.

NURSERY CLOSURE DAY

On Wednesday 18th December the nursery will be closed for any children not wanting to go on the manor farm trip. Nursery will also be closed on Friday 6th Dec as staff will be carrying out home visits to new pupils starting with us after Christmas. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

PFA CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

These will be on sale at morning break at the cost of £1. Inside there is a message, mission, sweets and a surprise treat. All funds raised will be used on the children in school.

Mass for the Start of Advent

Advent liturgies continue on Friday 6th December at 9am with Year 6 leading us in prayer and reflection. Please join us in school today, on Monday 2nd December at 2pm for mass to mark the start of Advent. Everyone is welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This half term is such a busy one and I'm sure your preparations for Christmas will soon be under way. Please pop these dates in your diary as we would love you to join us in school to celebrate with our wonderful children.



Monday 2nd Dec 2pm - Mass for the start of Advent

Friday 6th Dec 9am - Year 6 Advent Liturgy

Friday 13th Dec 9am - Year 5 Advent Liturgy

Friday 20th Dec 9am - Year 4 Advent Liturgy

Tuesday 17th Dec 9am - EYFS & KS 1 Nativity

Christmas Dinner Thursday 19th December

Friday 20th Dec - 1pm Whole School Expert Ending

Grown Up Book Exchange

Please help yourself to books at our Book Swop for Grown Ups.

You'll find the Book Swop Cabinet outside the entrance door to school. If you have any books that you have finished reading and are happy to share with others, please add them to the cabinet and help yourself to what is in there.

Christmas Dinner

If your child doesn't usually have school dinners but you would like them to join in with their friends and have a traditional Christmas dinner, please book and pay at the office by Wednesday 11th Dec.

Lillian Greenwood MP

Christmas Card Competition

Most schools in Nottingham take part in this competition every year. This year we have a winner!

Well done to one of our Year 1 pupils who has won a runner up prize. The name of the winner will be revealed next week when they receive their prize from Lillian in school.

Bishop Patrick has asked that I share the following communication with all parents and staff:

Why Catholic Schools matter at this General Election As a religious community we value our partnership with the government in the provision of Catholic education. It is a partnership which has flourished over the last 170 years. The fruit of this partnership is the network of more than 2,200 Catholic schools across England and Wales, making the Church the second-largest provider of education in the country. This relationship has been a resounding success on a secular as well as a pastoral and spiritual level. Not only are Catholic schools some of the highest achieving in the country, they are also considerably more ethnically diverse and take in significantly more pupils from the poorest households than the national average. With this profile and record, the future existence of Catholic schools should be uncontroversial. However, we know this is not the case. Nationally, there are a number of organisations campaigning either to end the provision of schools in England which have a religious character or to transform the curriculum in such a way that it would remove the ability of Catholic schools to maintain their specific ethos. It is this ethos which makes our Catholic schools so unique and successful. So now, more than ever before, we cannot take the future of Catholic schools for granted. With the general election imminent and when political parties are canvassing for our support, it is important that we ask about a political party's commitment to our community's precious schools. It is still vital to remember that whoever forms the next government, whether comprised of a single party or a coalition, will implement a legislative agenda which could have a direct impact on both Catholic education and the curriculum that is taught in Catholic schools. We must be conscious too that some political parties, while holding favourable views on schools with a religious character generally, also hold policies that could damage Catholic education specifically. Therefore, it is vital you get answers on where a political party stands on the following issues. Core principles It is not sufficient for a Catholic school just to be called "Catholic". There are core principles which protect their ethos and the distinctive education they provide. Among these are the ability to give priority in the school's admissions criteria to Catholic children, the bishop's right to appoint the majority of the school's governors, the right to reserve the school's senior leadership posts for Catholics; and the right to teach and inspect Catholic Religious Education. Religious Education Religious Education lies at the centre of the core curriculum in Catholic schools. Ten per cent of school time is dedicated to the subject and it is an academically rigorous theological discipline. Recently we have seen calls to abolish this and rename it "Worldviews" with a nationally set curriculum. Not only would this change the nature of the subject and reduce its importance, it could also result in the state determining how and what the Church teaches about the Catholic faith in Catholic schools - something that would be totally unacceptable. Support for school leaders, teachers and staff Our school leaders, teachers and support staff are outstanding in the work they do. We need to ensure that political parties are committed to supporting teachers and the vocation of teaching. We hope that any future government will continue to provide support for the formation of Catholic teachers through continuing professional development and teacher training. Relationships and Sex Education Catholic education is based on the formation of the whole child. Well-taught and age-appropriate Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an important part of this. However, even more important is the right of parents, as the primary educators of their children, to be fully consulted and to maintain their ability to withdraw their children from these lessons. While we are confident that the model curriculum in Catholic schools delivers RSE in accordance with the teachings of the Church and the wishes of parents, the same cannot be said for other schools. Hence for Catholic parents who do not have the option to send their child to a Catholic school, it is vital that this parental right remains in place. New Catholic schools Since 2010, the Church has had to find space for an additional 50,000 pupils without being able to open new schools. As a community, we need to make sure that political parties remain committed to supporting the opening of new Catholic schools without a restriction on the proportion of Catholic children that they are free to admit. As a Catholic community, we have provided our schools as part of our commitment to the common good of society and the education of young people in our country. For many years these schools have flourished. Now it is time to speak up for them and do our civic and Catholic duty to ensure that they can continue to flourish for many years to come.

The Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Chairman of the Catholic Education Service and Bishop of Leeds