



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Number 2
Friday
21st Sept
2018

This Week's Ethos Statement: *I can say how I feel*



Thankyou from Mrs Gray

Last Friday we had a wonderful assembly to celebrate Mrs Gray's time at St Patrick's. The children sang songs, performed poems and gave Mrs Gray a beautiful card with messages and pictures from them. Mrs Gray received many gifts and cards of thanks but has asked that I add a special thankyou to all the parents for their very kind donations which meant we could give her gifts of flowers, chocolates and money. She will be using the money to buy a giant wall clock and some special perfume she has wanted to buy. Thank you all so much for your generosity!

Harvest Festival Mass –Tuesday 2nd October at 11am



Please start to bring your tinned and packeted harvest gifts into school next week eg pasta, rice, tinned soup, beans, veg etc. Any fresh produce (fruit and vegetables) needs to be brought to school on Monday 1st October or Tuesday 2nd October please. The food donated for the Harvest Mass by families and staff will be donated to the St Vincent's for those in need in our local area.

Please join us in church for our harvest celebration Mass.

Dates for your Diary

25th September – Year 4 visit to Yorkshire Water

26th September – Day of Languages

27th September – Year 5 visit to Pizza Express

28th September – MacMillan Coffee morning 8.45-9.45am in the school hall

October – Walk to School Month / Black History Month

2nd October – Harvest Mass at 11am in church / Open evening at Corpus Christi for Year 6 families

5th October – Year 5 Assembly 2.40pm / Be bright for CAFOD day

9th October – Northern Ballet visit to school

11th October – World Mental Health Day

19th October – Year 3 assembly 2.40pm

22-24th October – Book fair in school – parents can purchase books after school 3.15-3.45pm

23rd October – Poetry Recital Final 2pm

23rd October – Parents Consultation evening option 1 -3.30pm-6pm - parents get information though a text on 9th October to book a 10 min appointment time online.

24th and 25th October – D:Side whole school lessons on Internet Safety and Social Media

There will also be sessions especially for parents/carers on the dates.

24th October- Parents Consultation evening option 2 - 5-7.30pm

26th October – Final day of half term

After School Clubs

All forms that were received on time should have been returned to your child this week indicating which clubs they have a place. If your child is taking part in a sporting club after school they will need to bring a separate change of clothes i.e. t-shirt, jogger bottoms, trainers. Children can not use their PE kit for these clubs. Please collect your child on time at 4.15pm from the school playground.

Lexia Clubs					
Morning sessions (8.15-8.40am)	WB 24.9.18	WB 1.10.18	After school (3.10-3.45pm)	WB 24.9.18	WB 1.10.18
Tuesday	Yes	Yes	Monday	Yes	Yes
Wednesday	Yes	Yes	Tuesday	Yes	Yes
Thursday	Yes	Yes	Thursday	Yes	Yes

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – Clubs finish at 4.15pm				
	Class		WB 24.9.18	WB 1.10.18
Monday	Y5/6	Brass Band	Yes	Yes
Monday	Y4,5&6	Football - boys	Yes	Yes
Tuesday	Y3	Cookery Club	Yes	Yes
Tuesday	Y3&4	Recorders	Yes	Yes
Wednesday	Y4,5&6	Dance	Yes	Yes
Thursday	Y4,5&6	Football - girls	Yes	Yes
Thursday	Y4,5&6	Basketball	Yes	Yes
Friday	Y5&6	Multi Skills (Hall)	Yes	Yes

Uniform

It has been wonderful to see all our children looking so smart at the start of the school year. Thankyou!

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE LABELLED AS THIS HELPS US RETURN MISLAID / LOST ITEMS TO THEIR OWNER.

Reading



Please ensure your child reads every day and that you sign their reading diary every week.

We know lots of children enjoy their own books / Library books at home too which is wonderful – thankyou!

Celebrating Birthdays

We love to celebrate our children's birthdays in school. We always ensure they are given a birthday card at the Friday assembly and the school sing happy birthday to them. On the day of their birthday the children in their class will sing happy birthday too to make it extra special for them. We ask that if parents want to bring something for their child to share that it is **one** of the following: a small packet of sweets / a sweet OR a bun or small piece of cake already wrapped and ready to distribute at the end of the day. (We do not have time to do this during a busy school day.) We can not allow children to eat these in school as we would prefer parents to make this decision at the end of the day.

It is always wonderful to see the generosity of our children and parents but we need to consider the practicalities of a day in school and the wishes of other parents to choose what their child eats.

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School Trips

Class teachers will have already planned some of the school visits and visitors in already and they can be seen on the school calendar (see noticeboard / website). These visits/ visitors are planned to enhance the curriculum and broaden first hand experiences for our children. We ask for a voluntary contribution to the cost of transport and entry fees. We need all families to support this to ensure these visits can go ahead. Class teachers may ask for parent helpers for the trips to ensure we have good pupil:adult ratios. If you can help in any way please let us know. We will always try to give you as much notice as possible.

Year 5 and 6 both have residential visits which are more expensive to fund. We ask parents to make use of our regular payments card to spread the cost over the year. We will send both classes more information before half term.

Prayer Garden

Many thanks to Santander Bank who visited school in the first week of term to brighten up our Prayer Garden and make a small pond to attract insects and wildlife into the habitat.



Enriching Our Curriculum

We have always ensured our children experience a wide range of learning opportunities during their time at St Patrick's. The table below shows some of the whole school planned days/ weeks and any information we think may be helpful to you as we start the school year. If you can help in any way, please let us know.

Subjects	Date	Focus	Links
MFL	26-9-18	Celebration of Language diversity in school. French will be a focus + can you speak any other languages?	European day of languages
Community/Wellbeing/ Catholic Life of the School	28-9-18	Macmillan fundraiser coffee morning for adults led by Year 4 / Bun sale at playtime for children – all children and staff invited to donate buns	National campaign
PE/ PSHE/ Geography	October	Promoting children/ adults to walk to school, or a part of the way. Display to promote our success in the school hall.	Walk to school to month
RE Catholic Life of the School	5-10-18	Be bright for CAFOD Charity Fundraising – Children to wear own clothes in bright colours and bring £1 donation. CAFOD assembly led by Year 5.	CAFOD
PSHE	11-10-18	Mental health lessons and activities in school from our PSHE scheme.	World mental health day
History / RE/ PSHE	October	Black history - Each class to study 1 person during the month.	Black history month
English	23-10-18	Poetry recital – Children across school are invited to prepare a poem to perform to the school eg nursery rhyme or poem from a book or even their own poem. Auditions start WB Monday 8 th October.	World Poetry
PSHE	12-11-18	Anti-bullying week – assembly, lessons and activities in school from our PSHE scheme.	Anti-bullying Week

Subjects	Date	Focus	Links
Art/DT	10-14/12/18	DT/Art projects for Christmas. Cards, Calendars etc....	Christmas preparations
Fundraiser / Catholic Life of the School	14-12-18	Christmas jumper day charity fundraiser. All children and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper / or Christmas colours + bring a donation of £1	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Maths	16-1-19	Maths problem solving day – whole day of maths activities and practical challenges across school – links to Growth Mindset	Maths Challenge Day
English	28-1 to 1-2 19	Story writing/ telling week. Invite mystery readers- parents/ grandparents can you help? Opportunity for stories read from different cultures and in different languages.	National story telling week
PSHE/ Computing	5-2-19	Safer internet day – lessons and activities in school from our PSHE scheme + National campaigns (CEOP - Thinkuknow)	National internet day
English +Art/ DT link.	7-3-19	Each class will link to their class reader. Children make props costumes linked to class book. No dressing up costumes need to be bought /hired especially by parents.	World Book day
Science	11-15/3-19	Scientific investigations - 1 themed day with a focus on the current Science Topic and interesting Science facts the children can share. Planting throughout the year in the polytunnel and around school – Can any parents/grandparents help?	British science week
Community/ wellbeing/ RE/ History	15-3-19	A day of celebration in school. We will have Mass in church and in the afternoon there will be a toy and bun sale. Children and adults in school dress in green clothing (link to Ireland).	St Patrick's Feast Day / Green Day
Geography / DT / Science / Catholic Life of the School	24-4-19	The children will learn about Recycling plastic/paper etc. The children will learn about the impact of plastic on world – environment and people. DT/ science projects considering alternatives to plastic - designing & testing.	Recycling Awareness Day
PSHE/RE - Catholic Life of the School /Geography	20-6-19	CAFOD assembly / resources to raise awareness of the challenges refugees face and how we can help.	World refugee day
Science/ PE/PSHE	24-6-19	A week of activities that focus on how we keep a healthy body, mind and spirit. We invite visitors in the speak to the children and lead practical activities. Staff lead healthy eating activities and any parents / grandparents with any skills / knowledge in this area are asked to join us in delivering short sessions. Can you help?	Health week

Working Together – Home / School / Parish

We always want to work with families to ensure we are providing the best we can for our children. We have always appreciated the excellent relationships we have had with our families which we know is at the centre of our successes at St Patrick's. We always welcome feedback and will always reflect on our provision for your children. We are of course limited by time and budget restraints but we will always do our very best. Recently, a parent asked if I could put some more information about how events etc work in St Patrick's – I hope this newsletter helps cover some of those areas. If you have any other queries please let me know and I will do my best to update either through the newsletter, website or individually.

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Another question raised by a parent at the end of last year was why we have 2 weeks at Summer Spring Bank holidays. This was introduced after **consultation with parents** to try to enable families to have a cheaper summer holiday in school holidays. The Governors have decided to consult with you again about this holiday as they prepare to set the **calendar for 2019/20**. We have put a questionnaire on our school website. It will be live for 2 weeks. We ask all parents to try to complete the questionnaire as it will affect the school calendar for the next school year. The Governors will continue to set the Spring break around Easter.

Go to the school website: www.stpatrickleeds.org.uk and follow the link on the Home page.

Safeguarding – Keeping Children Healthy and Safe from Harm

Mobile Phones

Please can I ask all parents who allow their children either have a phone / use their phone to constantly check what they are viewing, groups they belong to and accounts they have set up.



Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vitally important. Please ensure NO HOLIDAYS are taken in school time. We work with the local attendance Officers to ensure all children attend school every day unless they are unwell. We have to monitor pupils whose attendance falls below a certain percentage and work with the Attendance Officers to ensure that attendance improves. The Attendance Officers will do unannounced 'Late Gates' to emphasize the importance of arriving on time every day. They send a letter home to any child that is late that day. Please ensure your child is on time every day.

Many thanks for your support!

Food allergies

We have several children who have severe food allergies in school.

We ask that parents **do not** send in **bananas, nuts** or **kiwi fruits** to eat in the playground at break time or dining room in lunch boxes.

Epi-pens and Inhalers

If your child has an epi-pen please ensure we have an up to date one in school.

If your child uses a blue preventer inhaler please ensure we have one in school at all times with a spacer.

Many thanks.



Scooters and bikes in playground and on crossing

We ask all children (and younger siblings) to please not ride their scooters and bikes in the playground or when crossing the road. There have been several near misses and we want to be sure that all our children and parents are kept safe from injury. Many thanks.

Immunisation Letters

Please return your Flu Immunisation letter by 28th September. Last year, the NHS staff told us that any late returns were unable to have the immunisation in school.

Data checking sheets

Please return the yellow data checking sheets to us as soon as possible. It is a requirement now that we have at least **2 contacts for every child** in school. Please update school immediately if your contact details have changed.

We would like to share with you school policies and practices with regards to ensuring that children are taught and encouraged to live healthy lifestyles and adopt safe practices.

School policies are in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach to practices throughout the school and that they are adhered to by staff, governors and volunteers. Adults have a tremendous impact on young children and with this in mind adults at St Patrick's Catholic Primary:

- are good role models for children and welcome to support visitors to school
- enjoy their work and working with children and are conscientious and hard-working
- recognise and value strengths in each other and use these to support everyone
- work within that agreed policies of the school
- promote a happy, caring and safe school
- encourage children to think for themselves, ask questions and find answers
- create an environment of trust whereby children are trusted to work seriously
- challenge and support children in their learning.
-

There are policies in place to safeguard our children and they include:

- **Child Protection** – this is sensitive area in which all staff receive regular training. Here, school and other services for children and families all work together to support the needs of children. **There are 3 designated Child Protection Staff, Mrs Kneeshaw, Mrs Newton and Mrs Longbottom.** If you have any concerns please contact them through the school office. There is also a named governor for child protection, Mrs Margaret Morrison. The child protection policy can be viewed by parents on request.
- **Attendance** – children's attendance at school is monitored on a daily basis and notable absences or patterns of absences are followed up by the Parental Support Advisor, Mrs Hudson, and in more serious cases the Attendance Officer. The school prides itself on its very good attendance figures. Parents are asked to notify school of any absence on the first day of absence by contacting the school office.
- **Behaviour** – high standards of behaviour are expected in school. However, as we all know children do fall out from time to time. Where this is the case dealt with sensitively by an adult who gives both children time to explain what the problems is and helps the issue to be resolved. Children are often reminded about our school rules and they know that we have them in order for everyone to be happy and keep safe.
- **Health and Safety** - everyone here at St Patrick's Catholic Primary knows they have a responsibility to ensure children and adults are able to work in a healthy and safe environment. The school has staff trained as first aiders who deal with accidents should they occur.
- **Curriculum** – through the planned curriculum we ensure that the issues of healthy eating, physical exercise and safety are taught. This aspect is enhanced by the many visitors to school, eg police officers, fire service, D Side, road safety team and many more who talk to the children about keeping safe at home and at school.
- **Safer recruitment and selection** – this aspect is taken very seriously. Governors and the school ensure that all staff new to the school and volunteers who work in school on a regular basis undertake a DBS check.
- **Complaints & Concerns** – should parents have any complaints the school staff will listen to your concerns and will follow up any issues arising. There is a clear procedure in place. We ask that you don't put off discussing your concerns – make an appointment to see your child's class teacher immediately.
The headteacher will always be happy to meet with you and help resolve any issues. The school is committed to working closely with parents / carers for the benefit of the children. Remember no problem is too small and can often be prevented from becoming a bigger issue.

We all know that children thrive better and are able to reach their full potential when school and families work closely together. All of us here at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School are totally committed to this and we look forward to our continuing close partnership with you in the future.

God bless, *Mrs S Kneeshaw*

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Mrs Webster and Year 4 (and parent helpers) will be hosting a

MacMillan Coffee morning in school

on Friday 28th September at 8.45-9.45am

Please come along and support this wonderful charity.

Coffee and Tea 50p

Cake / Bun 50p

We are asking the whole school and staff to donate buns /cakes for this event.

Any surplus buns will be sold to the children at playtime for 50p

Many thanks in advance for your support.