

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Newsletter 27.9.19



Our Virtue to Live by: **Respect** and **Courtesy**

I am respectful and courteous when...

- I respect myself and know I deserve respect from others
- I treat everyone how I would like to be treated
- I use good manners

My first parish mass....

I attended 10am mass at St. Patrick's last week and what a joyous occasion it was. It was lovely to see a community coming together to truly embrace God's grace and celebrate the Eucharist together– the young...the old and every age in between! God calls us back to him each week; his door is always open. Believe me, you will be most warmly welcomed through the doors of St. Patrick's.

Sacraments

This year, Y3 will make their sacrament of Reconciliation, this will take place in March. The children in Y4 will make their First Holy Communion in May and our Y6 pupils will be invited to make their sacrament of Confirmation; this ceremony will be in January. A letter will be sent home on Monday with Y6, with details about preparation for Confirmation - please discuss this with your child. It is the Bishop's wish that family play a key role in preparing for the sacraments, and that the parish, home and school work in partnership together. I know this worked really successfully in the parish last year and after meeting with the parish catechists they are keen to repeat it again. May I take this opportunity, on your behalf, to thank the parish catechists who work tirelessly for the parish and the school – we are very lucky!

Flu Immunisation

You should have received a letter regarding this. Following the success last year, this is being rolled out to all primary age pupils. You need to complete it online and then your child will have the vaccine in school on 18th October. I did it the other day for my child and it took me two minutes. If we can prevent our children from suffering really nasty symptoms then let's do it. The vaccination is a quick nasal spray. Please let us know if you require any help completing the form.

Key Dates

October

4th @ 2.40pm Y6
CAFOD Be Bright day
Assembly - Parents welcome

9th - Journey
Holocaust museum
visiting school Y6

11th – Poetry Slam @
2pm - Parents welcome

15th – Y5 visiting Pizza
Express

18th – Flu Immunisation
in school

22nd – School photo
day

23rd/24th – Parents'
evenings

23rd/24th – D-Side
education visiting

25th – Break up for
half term

After-School Clubs

We are up and running with the majority of our clubs. A big thank you to the staff who have coordinated this. We are very lucky that we have access to good quality sports coaches. Let's not forget all the staff who, after a long day teaching in the classroom, take on a club in their own time. We do really appreciate the opportunities you provide for the children. Can we please make sure children are collected promptly by an adult at 4.10pm. Mr. Hope was delighted with the football friendly between Y4 and Y5/Y6. He is busy organising a number of fixtures for the girls' team too – watch this space!

Allergies

I asked on the last newsletter for parents to let us know of any allergies your child has; thank you for doing this. We are going to operate a band system at lunchtime whereby the children with a food allergy will, on entry to the dining hall, place a yellow band on their wrist to ensure they get the right meal for them. Our lunchtime staff are very experienced and know all the children well but we need to be diligent when it comes to protecting our pupils. I will be speaking to the children about this new procedure.

Volunteers and FOSP

I asked last week for volunteers for the library – I am extending this plea now to gardening. If we have any green-fingered parents or grandparents then please step forward. Mr Hope and Y3 did a sterling job tidying the prayer garden last week but we could do with some regular help in this area – whatever time you can spare. A big thank you to all the people who currently volunteer in school. We really appreciate the time you give to our school.

I will be canvassing support for FOSP (Friends of St Patrick's) and arranging an initial meeting shortly. We have some great ideas for fundraising events this year, but we need help to get them up and running. A lot of the resources you see in school have been bought thanks to money raised by you; without FOSP the school environment would be a much poorer place. Get involved, it is your school – I just know that we have set of outgoing parents who enjoy a good social event. Let's get them organised!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Huge thanks to everyone who attended or sent in buns/cakes or donations of money. We are still counting the very generous donations. We still have some buns left over so we will hold another sale on Monday...50p a bun. Just look at what we can do when we all come and work together and the bonus - we had a lovely time eating cake in the process!

Y6 Harvest assembly

Please note, you are invited to join us for this assembly next Friday starting promptly at 2.40pm. Any donations of tins and dried food goods will be gratefully accepted from Monday next week. We will be sending all donations to the SVP who will ensure they are distributed to families/people in need.

Homework Diaries

Years 1 to 6 have all got Homework Diaries. We hope you find the diaries a useful way to communicate between home and school. Please sign each night to say you have heard your child read.

Free Sports Kit - Aldi

Great news – we are a third of the way towards getting a free sports kit. This is a tremendous effort. Please keep collecting and sending them in, we still need another 200 stickers. The offer ends on the 3rd November. I'm sure we can do it!



Holidays in Term Time Reminder

Schools are not allowed to authorise any requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time. If you are planning to take your child out during term time you will need to complete the relevant forms then it can be coded correctly - these are not my rules. We are set very challenging attendance targets each year. Let's do our very best to meet them. If your child is ill and not fit to be in school then please do not send them. If they have vomited or have had diarrhoea then they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout.

Attendance awards

Week beginning 2.9.19 - Y4

Week beginning 16.9.19 - Y5 100%

Week beginning 9.9.19 - Y4 100%

Well done to the above classes - keep it up!

I have been informed that the cluster will be running a late gate this term. Make sure you are in the playground and ready for the bell at 8.40am.

End of the school day

It has come to my attention that some children are unclear as to who is picking them up when it comes to going home. Please can you let staff know if you have made arrangements for a friend or family member to pick-up. I also need to reiterate that this needs to be an adult. We will not let older siblings leave with young children. Our priority, like yours is keeping your child safe. Please keep us in the loop or we will have to contact you direct. Thank you for your cooperation with this very important matter.

Final thought...

I can hardly believe that we are at the end of the fourth week...where did that go? I am thrilled with the start we have made. The children are a credit to you and are certainly living out our current virtues of respect and courtesy. I find the current daily headlines are all doom and gloom and I struggle to find examples of compassion and kindness. Well, I am pleased to say the children and staff here at St.Patrick's can show the world a thing or two about respect and care for each other. To share just two examples...Y6 have been the most caring and selfless buddies that they could possibly be to our new Reception children. Sitting alongside each child at lunchtime, guiding them around the school and engaging them in play. Another big thank you to Mr Hope, Mrs Moxon and Y3 for making our prayer garden a place to be proud of once again. You fill my heart with hope for the future.

**With warmest wishes,
Mrs Claire Grady**



Y3 gardeners

Y4/5/6 footballers developing
team spirit

