

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Newsletter 25.10.19



Our Virtue to Live by: Thankfulness

- ❖ I am thankful for all the gifts in me and around me
- ❖ I know that all I have is a gift from God



Remembering to say thank you....

Sometimes those two words are all too easily forgotten. From a very early age my parents taught me the value of being thankful for all I was and for all I had been given. I am not ashamed to say that we did not have a lot of material goods but moreover to be thankful for the life I had been given by God and the family I belonged to. Here I am still giving thanks to God for the very same things. As your new headteacher, I give thanks to God for this wonderful community that I've joined: the St. Patrick's family who have welcomed me with open arms, who have supported me whole heartedly and who have helped me unreservedly settle into my new role. Simply...thank you!

In November We Remember

A reminder that 1st November is All Saints Day and a Holy Day of Obligation, a day when Catholics are called to attend mass and remember all the saints of the Church who have died and now live with God in heaven. Mass times for that day at St. Patrick's are 9:00am and 7:00pm. In November we remember our own loved ones who have sadly died. We have sent a cross home with each child today. Please help your child to decorate it and write the name/s of someone you would like us to pray for throughout the month of November. You are also invited to join us for our Remembrance assembly on the 8th November at 2.40pm - Y6 will be leading this assembly.

Sacrament of Confirmation Y6

The first class is on 12th November @ 3.15pm in school. Please complete and return your slip to school if your child would like to make their confirmation. The Parish Catechists are very much looking forward to working with you as a family.

Key Dates

October

25th October -

Break up for half-term

November

4th - School re-opens

5th - FoSP bun sale 50p

5th - Northern Ballet begin working with Y5 on a 10wk project

6th - Y5 @ Mount St. Mary's for the Big Sing Concert- all day

6th - Phonics meeting for Y1 parents 3.15pm

8th - Y6 Remembrance Assembly: Parents welcome 2.40pm

12th - Y4 Pedestrian training

13th - Y4 Warburtons visiting school

25th - Y6 Knife Awareness with West Yorkshire Police

6th December - FoSP Disco 3.30-5.30pm

Y6 Deadline for Secondary School applications

Please make sure you complete and submit the online form by the **31st October**. It is important to also complete the separate Supplementary Information Form for each Catholic high school that you apply to. In my experience no SIF...no place offered.

Y1 Phonics Meeting 6th November 3.15pm

We are asking all our Y1 parents to join us for an important meeting regarding the teaching of phonics. Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. In Y1, our children are required to sit a phonic screener in June. Is it very important that we work together home and school to achieve the best result we possibly can for each individual child. This will set them on the way to becoming successful readers and writers. Little and often is what children at this age need. This is a school priority for us as a school and it will be a big focus for me this year. Y1 parents: please join us for the meeting and learn how you can best support your child going forward. Staff will be on hand to mind your children while you attend this short but important meeting. If you cannot attend, please speak to Ms Hainsworth or Ms Harvatt and they will give you the information separately.

Parent governor vacancy

We are sending home a letter and application with details about the position that has become vacant. We are extremely lucky here that we have a proactive governing body who strive to do all they can to lead and govern this school effectively. It is a voluntary position and many of our governors have a long standing history with the school and parish and others have children who have long since left the school but stay on to serve the community in this position and we are very grateful. Please put yourself forward if you feel you can commit to role and you have the right skills and knowledge to offer the school.

Car parking and picking up

Some worrying messages have been relayed to me regarding parking near the school crossing. Please do not park near the crossing or in a position that put pedestrians at risk. I have been told that we have had a number of near misses involving children narrowly avoiding been hit by a car. PC Power, our community police officer, has been in touch with school and will in future be a visible present at the end of the day. He will be approaching people parked irresponsibly and will also be ensuring that the Lollipop lady is treated with the respect and care she deserves also. The vast majority of people arrive on time and park correctly or even better they walk. Those who do not will be challenged for the greater good of our school community.

Parent Pay

You should have been able to set up Parent Pay, the online payment system. I know many parents have and are using it successfully. Any problems getting started, please get in touch with the office and we will endeavour to resolve.

Flu Immunisation

90 pupils had the vaccine in school last week. This was a slightly disappointing uptake. I was with all the children when they had the vaccine and they were super brave. The nurses were thrilled with them and commented on the lovely manners of all the children. It took seconds and was painless. They now have that level of protection and it also means that they are not going to be bringing that illness home to you as a family. The vaccine team did supply me with additional dates for drop- in sessions locally including a mobile bus at Tesco Roundhay on the 26/10 9am- 2pm. They left a number of leaflets with alternative dates and times in the office. Please call in and get one if you would like to take up the free vaccine for your child.

Parents' Evenings

These were overwhelming positive evenings. It was lovely to speak to so many of you about your lovely children. I know a number of people had to cancel at the last minute; please rearrange with your child's teacher. I will be contacting people who did not make an appointment after half-term. A big thank you to our feeder high school Mount St.Mary's and Mr Cooper, the headteacher, who attended the meetings and spoke to parents regarding transition and what MSM can offer your child. D-Side and our local attendance officer were also on hand to answer queries. Staff work incredibly hard to prepare for these meetings and I hope you found the new way of recording these meetings useful going forward. Come in and talk to your child's teacher should you be concerned or worried about anything.

School Photo Day

You should have received a personal barcode that led you to images of your child and details about how to order. If you are having any problems, please come into the office.

Share Parent Group

This group are continuing to meet on a Friday morning at 8.45am. Last week, parents had the chance to go and observe their children in class taking part in a phonics session. Come along for a cup of tea or coffee to the last remaining session after half-term.

FOSP News

Thank you to everyone who attended and to Miss. Owen who attended the meeting in my absence. There will be another meeting on the 4/11 @ 3.10pm. FoSP are hoping to have a **bonfire bun sale on the 5/11** so please send in donations from the 4/11, which is the first day back.

I understand a Christmas disco is the next big event.

Save the date 6th December... we are looking for any spare Christmas decorations to help spruce up Santa's grotto. There are some great ideas in the pipeline for the new year, but we will need more people to help out. Remember every penny raised will be going to buying much needed resources for your children.

We Did It! A Free Sports Kit from Aldi!

We filled the poster - 300 stickers ...an amazing achievement everyone. Thank you. We will let you know what the kit looks like and how we fair in the draw to win £20,000. Finger crossed everyone!



Attendance awards

Week beginning 14.10.19 - Year 6

Well done to the above class - keep it up!

After-School Clubs

We are very lucky to have a number of clubs running in many different areas of the curriculum. As the dark nights draw in, please can I ask that we pick up promptly and that all pupils are picked up by an adult (and we are told who this will be if it is not a parent) or a sibling that is no younger than 16 years. Both myself and my staff have a duty of care to keep your children safe. We will have to contact parents if we are not clear about pick-up arrangements.

Reception Admission for September 2020

Open afternoons 18th and 26th November at 1.15pm. Please contact the school office to book on an afternoon.

Final thought...

At the end of my first half-term as the headteacher of St. Patrick's, I would like to share this with you: I was at a headteacher meeting this week and we had to write two twitter headlines to describe our journey. Mine was #learningcurve and #sorewarding. I have learnt a lot, both about the job and the children and families we serve. Onwards and upwards in Autumn 2. I will endeavour to learn something new each day, just as the rest of the staff and your children will. #communityoflearners. Have a wonderful half-term

everyone and I will see you all on Monday 4th November bright and early.

#weareStPatricks

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Claire Grady



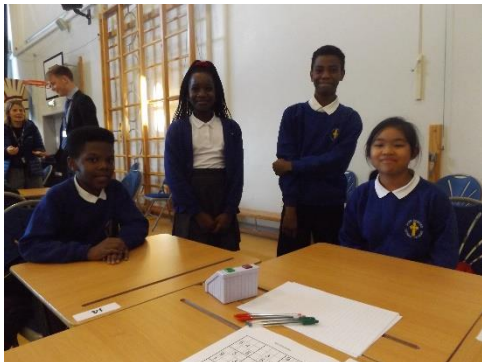
Curriculum News

Poetry Slam – What a real treat it was to see every class reciting a poem. What a challenge! Not only did we have whole class recital, but we also had individuals who wanted to perform a poem.

Leeds United Time Capsule Competition – Y6 were placed in groups and all took part to in this city wide competition to design this. We received an email after submitting our entries to say that we had got through to the final. On 18th October, Mr B and Mrs Longbottom escorted the winning group down to Elland Road to pitch their idea in a Dragon Den's style atmosphere. Mr B was visibly moved by the performance of our children. Staff told me they articulated their views and made their points with great confidence and eloquence. We weren't the overall winners, but they were in our eyes both for their performance and conduct. Well done guys!



GSAL Maths Competition – All primary schools in Leeds have the chance to take part in the Grammar School Maths challenge. A number of pupils in Year Six were invited to take part in the competition at the Grammar School. This was a wonderful experience and a chance to showcase our talent against other schools. Miss Owen tells me that the children acquitted themselves handsomely and rose to this very difficult challenge.



Pizza Express – Y5 were lucky enough to visit Pizza Express and all made a pizza. They have been using the visit as a stimulus for their writing and also as part of their science work.



P.E. – Round robin competition: well done to the football team who were extremely successful against 4 other local teams. They played with great skill and sportmanship. Well done to the girls who were brilliant in the Catholic cup. Mr. Hope is delighted with all of you.



Music – I have been delighted to hear Y3 and Y5 performing to the highest of standards with Miss Haigh (diocese choir lead) each week. It is a real treat to hear both classes sing! Miss Haigh will be leading the singing in the KS2 carol concert. We will also be treated to hearing the school band play; they are currently very busy in rehearsals!

Well done to all the children who have received a certificate for super skill work with Sport England this half-term. If you have not managed to be awarded with one yet, make it your target in Autumn 2. You can do it!