

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Newsletter 15.11.19



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



We will remember them...

This is the last week of our current virtue...thankfulness. In our assemblies this week we have given thanks to all those brave people who sacrificed so much, so that we may live in freedom. The children listened with great respect. In November, we remember all the great Saints that are now living in glory with God in heaven. I set the children a challenge to research a famous Saint, perhaps starting with their own namesake. This would be great activity for our Y6 children who have just begun preparing for Confirmation. I hope that they will become inspired by the life of a great man or woman and choose their confirmation name in honour of them.

Sacrament of Confirmation Y6

The first class took place this week. We have had a super response to the invitation. Thank you for attending with your child - the Parish catechists are looking forward to working with you. Just to confirm the date for Confirmation: it will now be on 6th February 2020 at St. Augustine's Church in the evening.



Notice of Training Day

We will be having a training day on Wednesday 22nd January - school will be closed to pupils on that day. I did say when I sent out the planner at the start of the year there was a final day to confirm. To recap the dates of our five training days this year:

2nd September, 22nd January, 13th March, 22nd June and 20th July

Key Dates

November

18th – Open afternoon: prospective Reception parents 1.15pm

19th – Road safety team in school

23rd – Assembly to enrol our Mini-Vinnies

25th – Y6 Knife Awareness with West Yorkshire Police

26th - Open afternoon prospective Reception parents 1.15pm

28th and 29th - D-Side education focusing on medicine and drugs

29th – Advent assembly 2.30pm: Y4 leading

December

6th – FoSP Disco 3.30-5.30pm

9th – Carol Concert KS2 in Church 2pm

13th - Christmas dinner and Christmas dress up

Y1 Phonics

We had a super turnout for the Phonics meeting, including all the teaching staff in school. In Y1, our children are required to sit a phonic screener in June. As I said in the meeting, it is 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. If you did not attend, please speak to Ms Hainsworth or Ms Harvatt and they will give you the information and handouts. The next newsletter will have the dates of some drop-in phonic sessions, both in Yr1 and Reception.

Admission to Reception class for September 2020

The Leeds City Council online portal is now open for applications from prospective parents whose children are eligible to join school in September 2020. If you are wishing to apply, you must do so online and also complete the school's SIF (Supplementary Information Form). These are available on the school website and from the school office. I will be holding two informal tours of the school for prospective parents on the 18th and 26th November in the afternoon. Please contact the school office if you wish to book a place.

Car Parking and Picking Up

PC Power, our community police officer, is continuing to monitor parking arrangements at the end of the school day. He has been approaching people parked irresponsibly and ensuring that the Lollipop Lady is treated with the respect and care she deserves also. I am still having reports from her that people are endangering children by parking on the pavements near the crossing – this must stop. 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. Please bear with us while we continue to iron out bugs from the system. Please do let us know of any problems you are having so that we can address them.

Y6 Residential: Robinwood

Reminder that this is fast approaching on the 13th -15th January. If you want to continue paying for this in instalments, Mrs Sands is happy to accept payments and has this system set-up.

Parents' Evenings

There are just a small number of parents who have not consulted with their child's teacher. Please could you arrange to meet at a time that is convenient.

FoSP News

Bonfire bun sale was a great success. Thank you for the generous donations. We made £90 – Well done!

Christmas Disco 6th December – A flyer and ticket request envelope came home yesterday explaining the arrangements. There are a group of parents working hard to arrange this, so please complete and return as soon as possible. I am sure it will be a fun-filled occasion and every child will receive a gift from a very special visitor!

Remember every penny raised will be going to buying much-needed resources for your children.



Christmas Dinner Day

This year it will be held on the 13th December. A letter was sent home yesterday to all the children who bring a packed lunch inviting them to have dinner that day. Please let us know as soon as you can if your child wishes to have a dinner. It is a lovely occasion and staff will be helping our band of hard working kitchen staff to serve the dinner. The cost is £2.20 and this is subsidised by school. Christmas jumpers/dress up may be worn this day. Please don't go out and buy jumpers especially for this, homemade embellishments are just as festive!



Reminder about illness in school

As several children have had stomach bugs recently, can we please remind parents that children who have had sickness and/or diarrhoea should not return to school for 48 hours following the last incidence of illness to avoid passing this on to others.

Attendance Award

Week beginning 21.10.19 - Y1 99.3%

4.11.19 – Y5 100%

Well done to the above classes - keep it up!

Attendance

We have recently worked alongside our local Attendance Officer to review our school attendance policy and bring our procedures in-line with our cluster and other local schools. The policy will be published on our website soon. Here are some of the main points from the policy:

- Parents **MUST** contact school and inform us of the reason for every absence, on the first day of absence and each day thereafter.
- Parents will be kept regularly informed of their child's attendance, particularly if it falls below 90% (you will receive a letter and may be invited in for a meeting to discuss if attendance does not improve).
- Any holidays taken during term time **will not be authorised** (unless in exceptional circumstances and this is only at the headteacher's discretion) and school will now have to refer for a Penalty Notice (fine) if children are taken on holiday during term time.
- Our registration period will officially close at 9.15am for the morning session. Children arriving before 9.15am will be marked 'Late – L code'. Arrival after 9.15am will be unauthorised absence for the session ('U code'), unless this is due to a pre-arranged medical appointment and school are aware of this. Hospital appointment letters must be brought to the school office, so that the absence can be coded correctly.
- Mrs Newton is now our school Attendance Officer and is working closely with our Cluster Attendance Office to ensure that our school attendance stays as excellent as it always has been. If you have any queries or questions regarding school attendance, please speak to Mrs Newton.

Final thought...

School is a very busy place at the moment with lots going on. Please see below for a flavour of this. We are currently looking to develop the school website and it will shortly be getting a new makeover which will make it easier to access and proudly showcase our developing curriculum and all the wonderful learning that is taking place here at St. Patrick's.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Claire Grady

Curriculum News in November

Y5 Big Sing Liturgy – Y5 had a wonderful day at Mount St. Mary's along with our Catholic Partnership of schools. They were immersed in song and prayer and I could hear them singing in the corridors on their return!



Y6 World War Guest Speakers - Y6 have been treated to two guest speakers recently who came to talk to the class about their family and local history during this time. The children asked lots of questions and really enjoyed researching about the past through handling artefacts.



Welcome Assembly – How wonderful to see the oldest children leading our youngest/newest members out of our very special assembly. Each child was presented with a special prayer panel that I hope will have a special place at home.

Y5 Northern Ballet – Y5 have started their dance project with Northern Ballet. I was there to see them arrive for their first session. The children were excited and eager to begin!

Sport – This last fortnight has been a learning curve for our football teams:

Year 4 missed out on success narrowly at Football World losing in the group stages and the girls lost their first match of the season 3-2 to Highfield. Our girls are now second in the Leeds Girls Merit League.

We now look forward to the Year 6 Bishop's Cup competition this month, where we face a very good St Joseph's Wetherby side on the 26th November.

