

# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Newsletter 29.11.19



Our Virtue to Live by: Hope  
We wait in hope for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.

*Psalm 33:20*

## Christ the King...

Last Sunday we celebrated the great feast of Christ the King. In assembly on Monday, I spoke to the children about Kingship. Jesus was a king like no other. He was a servant king, a king that healed, a teacher king and above all a king that loved us so much that he died for us and was resurrected by God. Going forth this week, we have tried to be of service to others by putting other people's needs before our own. Our Mini Vinnies were invested last week and they are a great example of this. Along with the Faith Friends group, they work tirelessly trying to help other people both in school and in our parish community.

## Advent

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent – the special time of preparation before Christmas. It would be lovely to see the children preparing for Christmas each week in Sunday mass. Year 4 led our Advent assembly this assembly. Thank you Year 4, you did a wonderful job introducing us to this special season. Each class are in the process of selecting a charity and will be holding a fundraising event. This is lovely idea, donating to people who are in need at this time of year. We as a staff will be supporting a charity instead of sending cards to one another. We know this is an expensive time of the year for families, so please do not feel any pressure to buy gifts for staff in school. You may wish instead to donate to the class charity and that would be a wonderful generous offering.

## Reminder: Notice of Training Day

We will be having a training day on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - school will be closed to pupils on that day.

## Key Dates

### December

6<sup>th</sup> - FoSP Disco 3.30 -5.30

9<sup>th</sup> – Carol Concert KS2  
in Church 2pm

11<sup>th</sup> – Advent  
Reconciliation services  
for KS1 and KS2

13<sup>th</sup> - Christmas dinner  
and Christmas dress-up

13<sup>th</sup> - Mini-Vinnies  
visiting a local nursing  
home to sing carols

17<sup>th</sup> - Rec. and KS1  
Nativity 2pm in the hall

18<sup>th</sup> – Christmas parties  
festive /party clothes  
can be worn. Flyer to  
follow

19<sup>th</sup> – Y5 theatre visit  
Northern ballet  
Cinderella

20<sup>th</sup> - End of term mass  
11am please join us.  
**Break for Christmas**  
**School re-opens**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

## Reading

We are looking carefully at the teaching of reading in school. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of children getting off to a flying start in reading and staying engaged with a love of books. I have spoken to a number of parents recently about this and am more than happy to listen to parent views on this subject. Every book you read gives you the opportunity to learn new things and explore new ideas. Please make use of free-lending at your local library. There is a book for everyone; sometimes it takes a little longer to find the one that interests a reluctant reader. I know this as I have one of them at home – don't give up on it! Take them to the library and allow them to choose. One of the greatest stocking filler is an annual; they are filled with all different types of texts and children love them.

## 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. Deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## Parent Pay

I have been informed that there is an issue with money still showing in parents accounts and it appears to be not taken by school. Please continue to add your weekly dinner amount while we get this issue sorted. I am hoping that this will be resolved this week.

## Y6 Residential: Robinwood

Reminder that this is fast approaching on the 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> January. Parents meeting is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 3.10pm in Y6. If you want to continue paying for this in instalments, Mrs Sands is happy to accept payments and has this system set-up.

## Christmas Dinner Day

This year it will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December. A letter was sent home to all the children who bring a packed lunch inviting them to have dinner that day. The cost is £2.20 and this is subsidised by school. Final numbers by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** please. Christmas jumpers/dress-up/ festive colours may be worn this day for a £1 donation. Please don't go out and buy jumpers especially for this, homemade embellishments are just as festive!



**FoSP**



**Christmas Disco 6<sup>th</sup> December** – Excitement is growing as the disco approaches and that's just from the staff! A huge thank you to all the parents who have offered to help. We have had a great response and this bodes really well going forward, thinking about the staffing of future events. If you did offer, you should have received a little note detailing the time you are needed and that jobs will be assigned when you arrive. This should be a wonderful event and I am sure the children will have a ball. I know there are number of children who have allergies and have informed school. Please make sure if your child has an allergy that you are happy for them to eat and drink the food provided or speak to us about making another arrangement.



There will be a tuck shop during the disco. Reception and KS1 will be able buy a pick 'n' mix bag for 50p and we suggest KS2 bring a maximum of £2. If children wish to bring money, they need to have this in a marked envelope. If your child is not coming to the disco but would like to wear Christmas dress that day, they can bring in £1 on the day. All profits are going to buy resources for school. The disco will finish at 5.30pm - please pick-up promptly and normal end-of-school procedures will apply.

### **Reminder about illness in school**

Public Health England have sent a number of messages out this week in response to outbreaks of the Norovirus and Flu. Please make sure if your child suffers a bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea that they do not return to school for 48 hours following the last incidence of illness to avoid passing this on to others. We need to isolate pupils immediately if they present as unwell during the day. Parents will be phoned to collect so please make sure we have up to date contact numbers.

### **NE Sportshall Athletics Champions 2019**

It gives me great pleasure to say that St. Patrick's were victorious last week and were crowned champions. We now move onto the next stage and this will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. I am told they all ran, threw, jumped with great skill and gave it their all to the very end. More importantly, they did so with team spirit: looking out for one another, supporting and encouraging each other and accepted the win with grace and humility. Thank you to all the staff who supported the pupils. Parents you are welcome to attend and cheer them on. I will be going to the next round. Watch this space!

## Attendance Award

Week beginning 11.11.19 - Y4 100%

18.11.19 – Y4 98%

25.11.19 – Y6 96%

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. If you have any queries or questions regarding school attendance, please speak to Mrs Newton.

## Final thought...

Advent has come upon us and from looking at the dates section we have a lot of events taking place. Working with children is a blessing and a privilege and being with children at Christmas time is extra special – please join us and be part of our preparations. The travelling cribs are ready to go and will be coming home from today, beginning with Reception. As a family take the time to pray together around the crib. Please return them promptly, so that all the children can take one home before Christmas.

The Carol Concert will get us all in the mood for the festive season and refreshments will be provided. Bring the family and join in as we sing. The Reception/KS1 Nativity will be a very special occasion, if not a little daunting for our very young children. It would be lovely if we could fill the church for our end of term mass on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. Join us as we pray and complete our school journey through advent. It will be over to you then. In my next newsletter, I will be printing the mass times for St. Patrick's Church for over the Christmas season.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Claire Grady

## Curriculum News in November

Here are a few snippets of life at St. Patrick's !

### Catholic Life of our school

Our Mini-Vinnies were invested last week. Mr Sadler, our Chair of Governors and also a member of the parish SVP, was there to formally welcome the children into their role.

Two of our Y6 pupils led Collective Worship for Y4 this week. They choose the Word and planned this with great care. Y4 were very prayerful throughout.



### Sports News



Proud times! The Sportshall athletics team are Leeds NE champions!

## Warburtons

Warburtons have been in school to support the Y4 Science curriculum. The children learnt all about the process of making bread and had a go themselves. A great morning was had by all.



## Knife Crime Education workshop

Y6 worked with PC Beaton learning all about how to stay safe and how to alert adults when they feel unsafe. They learnt that most everyday objects can be used as a weapon if the intent is there.

