

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Newsletter 17th June 2020

Our Virtue to Live by is : Honesty

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body." (Ephesians 4:25)



....for we are all members of one body." (Ephesians 4:25)

We are the church.

We are members of one body of Christ and, as such members of one another.

If I attack or abuse my brother or sister in Christ, I attack or abuse Jesus.

Much has happened in the world since my last newsletter and unfortunately none of it good. The brutal murder of George Floyd remains at the forefront of news headlines and rightly so. The people have spoken – there has been a call to action to tackle accountability and racism within the police and we need look much wider and engage in discussions about racism in all its forms. Some of these discussions can be uncomfortable and upsetting but we must face up to this issue with honesty and openness. We believe that we are all made in the image and likeness of Christ, therefore we all have a part to play in ensuring that each of us is treated with respect and given the same opportunity to succeed as the next person, irrespective of skin colour or where we come from. The responsibility that this happens lies firmly with each one of us.

I know the Y6 pupils in school have been having open discussions in class and these need to continue. We are currently reviewing our curriculum and as a staff we need to make sure it reflects the community we serve. If you as a parent would like to be part of our curriculum review then please come and talk to me about this. We would love to have your input.

Live Mass Stream– Leeds Cathedral

Weekdays *10.30am*

Sunday *11am Mass*

To participate live visit : <http://www.leedscathedrallive.org.uk/>



Sacrament Preparation Programme 19-20

Last week would have seen Y4 making their First Holy Communion. An occasion, along with the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Y3, that I was very much looking forward to sharing with you as families. I know too that Canon Eugene and the Parish catechists are most upset that the planned Sacraments have not taken place, as they too had worked hard to prepare the resources in readiness for them taking place. We have been told that we will be sent further information from the Diocese at the start of the autumn term regarding the Sacramental preparation programme being recommenced.

Safety and welfare of pupils and staff

As you will all be aware we opened school to a greater number of pupils in compliance with the government order to bring back priority year groups. We had to undertake a detailed risk assessment, this was then approved by the governing body before the priority year groups returned – this is a very stringent document and currently life in school is different both for pupils and staff.

Reception and Y6 started on 1st June and Year 1 on 8th June. We continue to support our key worker families and have done since lockdown began on 23rd March. Many parents have taken the decision not to send their child/ren back at this time, whilst others have decided that it was the right time to return. We will be continuing with our current arrangements until 29th June.

Last weekend we heard the very sad news that a family member of a pupil coming into school had a positive diagnosis of Covid and is currently being treated in hospital. The family member did not live with the child. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family as this time. I have taken advice from Public Health and made contact immediately with the staff and pupils in that bubble. Going forward I need to make it very clear that if your child is coming into school and a family member is diagnosed with Covid, then you must inform us, even if there has been no direct contact with the pupil in school. We all have a part to play in keeping our school community safe and we need to foster open and honest relationships. I not only have pupils to protect but also staff and their families. We have a number of staff who have conditions that make them vulnerable and many family members undergoing treatment that make them extremely vulnerable. Whilst we are told that it is believed that the risk of infection between children is low, the risk to adults remains.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at St Patrick's who in the face of this risk have rolled their sleeves up and returned. Those who have been unable to return because they are not allowed to, are supporting school in many ways and for this we are truly grateful.

Week Beginning 29th June – This will signal the end of the 4 week plan we put in place for our priority year groups. We will shortly be getting back in touch with the parents in these classes to discuss the schools position for the last 3 weeks of the summer term. Currently, we do not have capacity to take in additional year groups, as we do not have the teaching rooms to be able to maintain the government's social distancing policy.

I am currently engaged in meetings with both the Diocese and Leeds City Council about the plans for September. As soon as I know what the plans are, I will share them with you. We desperately want to welcome our pupils back through the doors of St.Patrick's but we must follow all instructions to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

As things stand and in line with the policy from the local authority and the Diocese we will not be opening in the summer holidays. Since February half-term St.Patrick's school has only closed on weekends and for 3 bank holidays plus one other day to prepare the school prior to wider opening on 2nd June. We have been working every day supporting families in need of childcare and we have kept online learning updated for every class. We have many challenges ahead to plan the education for our children in 20-21 and this will need very careful consideration and planning by both staff and governors.

Key documents - uploaded on the School Jotter mobile app;

- Key contacts and resources for families; sent 7th April on the mobile app. It contains key contacts and information to keep all the family safe and well during this time. Please take the time to read it.
- Food support; poster from Leeds City Council signposting families in need; sent 17th April on mobile app.
- Volunteer support for vulnerable families; poster advertising the offer of volunteer support for vulnerable families; sent 17th April on mobile app.
- Key information about the Coronavirus in different languages to support EAL families. Please click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLggQFjpTLgplq0r7-nFO9mT6j8Yk2vKBt>
- Online safety information for parents/carers and children. Please click on the link <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>. Please see the latest information for parents that I am uploading with this newsletter. Please take the time to read it.

Domestic Violence

There is help and support for anyone who is suffering abuse at this time. Do not suffer in silence. <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/domesticviolence/Pages/default.aspx>

Vulnerable and SEND pupils

We continue to have regular contact with all our children who have an EHC plan in school, to make sure their needs are being met. I have included an updated link from Leeds City Council to their local offer page regarding SEN pupils. This website provides information and advice around SEND needs and the support available at the present time.

<https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/search/list?query=COVID19>

FSM Meals

From the draft of this newsletter to its publication the government have changed their position on the voucher scheme. I was told to prepare for it finishing and to look for alternative provision. This is why I went with the hamper system provided by Catering Leeds. I will now return to the Edenred system from week beginning 22nd June. As you are well aware this system comes with its issues and I would urge you to keep a track of your codes. I do not have any control over this system. I can see when a voucher is live and when it is redeemed. We have had issues with parents stating they have not received the voucher when it is showing redeemed. Please follow the instructions to redeem that were sent previously by email.

A Very Fond Farewell

It is with a mixture of sadness and happiness that we wish farewell to two much loved members of staff. Mrs O'nions and Mrs Dickinson have both decided to retire in the summer. Although I am delighted for them, that they both get to spend some quality time with their families and will be doing all the things they love... all of the time, I know they will miss the children and staff terribly. On a personal note, both members of staff have made me feel extremely welcome since I arrived and I have loved getting to know them. Both members of staff are St.Patrick's through and through. I am hoping that they won't be strangers and will call often to see us (when it is safe to do so). A big thank you and God bless you all for all your hard work and dedication to St.Patrick's school.

New Arrival – We welcome Miss Micklethwaite to the teaching team in September. She is very excited to meet you all and we are delighted to welcome her. We are finalising the staff plan for next year and I will let you know as soon as this is finished.

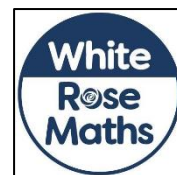
Ms J Hainsworth who was teaching part-time in Y1 will not be returning in September. We wish her well in her teaching career.

Learning at home – We only have a small percentage of pupils back in class therefore the majority of pupils remain at home accessing their learning. Staff are still busy setting weekly tasks on the VLE. I will asking staff this week for the numbers of pupils who are going on the VLE, Oxford Reading Tree and Timestables Rockstar (KS2). It is really important that if you have the technology and I am told that most people do have access, that your child is completing the age appropriate work. Setting aside time each day and making sure children are in good routines is really important. Please contact your child's teacher if you are having any problems and we will help you. I have included all the links below.

VLE - You can access the VLE from the main school website under the pupil tab. Every pupil was given login details before we closed. If you have misplaced them, then please phone the office or email at the address below and someone will contact you. Teachers are setting activities weekly for each child to complete. Try to upload some completed work to the VLE or send it to office@stpatrickleeds.org.uk and I might just feature it in the newsletter!



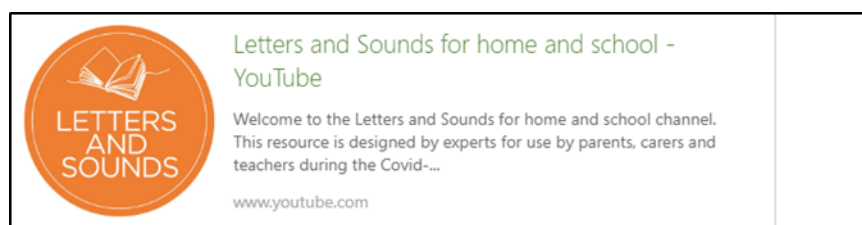
White Rose Maths Hub are currently sharing resources for the summer term, for every class on their website. Please click on the link below for daily activities <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/summer-term/>



BBC education have launched their educational programme. The lessons for every age group, consist of videos, quizzes, podcasts and articles as well as some famous faces delivering the lessons. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>



Daily Phonic Lesson - Follow the link below for government funded phonic resources. The channel includes a daily lesson for Reception and Yr1



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw

News from the Classes'

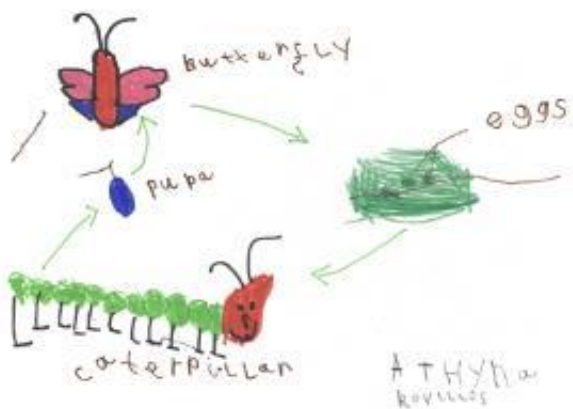
Reception - Mrs Moxon

Well done to all those children who have been working hard on the VLE. There has been some wonderful work completed throughout May all around Mary our Mother and lots of you have tried really hard to learn to pray the rosary. Thank you to all those families who sent photographs of your Mary altars.

Dinah and Yafiet

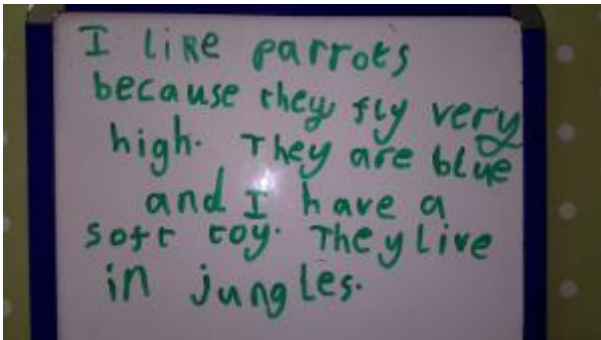


I have received some super work on mini beasts too linked to our stories, The Hungry caterpillar, What the Ladybird heard and The Snail and the Whale. Well done to all of you for completing the tasks. Athyna's life- cycle of a butterfly. Zachary's snail. He looks so happy! Owen's Very Hungry Caterpillar. Owen also did some fantastic sequencing of numbers too. Keep up the hard work!



Y1 – Ms Harvatt/Mrs Newton

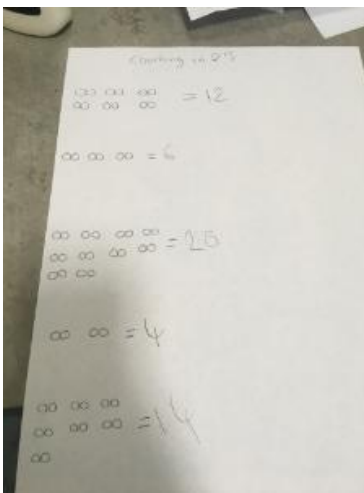
A shout out to Elileojo and Efrata who have moved up a level on Oxford Reading Buddy this week. Huge well done to you both. You have worked so hard to achieve this. Keep up the excellent effort. Who will be next?



Vincent's wonderful sentences! What a superstar home learner!
Also, well done to Lily for her continued hard working attitude to her home learning. I have been so impressed!

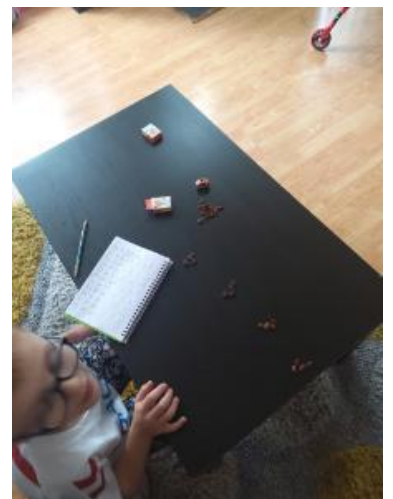
Y2 – Miss Ingram

Everyone is working really hard and sending lovely pictures of the work they are doing. Kunda is working through the Oxford reading buddy at amazing speed reading between 10 and 20 books each week. Wow!



Oliver has been doing great counting in 2's!
We love the use of circles.

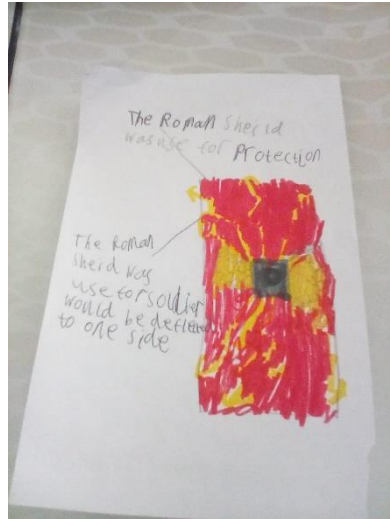
Sean being very busy at
his work station



Y3 – Mr Hope

I was delighted to receive this picture from Bramwell S. recently. He has earned his Blue Peter Badge. A Blue Peter badge is a special award given to people who appear on the show, or in recognition of achievement.

I was also thrilled to receive Josef K's Roman Shield research. By using the VLE, Josef was able to tell me the purpose of a Roman Shield and even the tactics that Romans used in their battles.



Keep up the great work Year 3. I am checking Oxford Reading Buddy on a daily basis – keep reading Year 3.

Mr Hope

Y4 - Mrs Webster

Year 4 continue to be very hard working and are emailing lots of examples of their wonderful work.

On Times Tables Rock stars – Year 4 have the top three places on the School leader board!

1st -Daniel is a Rock Hero

2nd- Amy is a Rock Legend

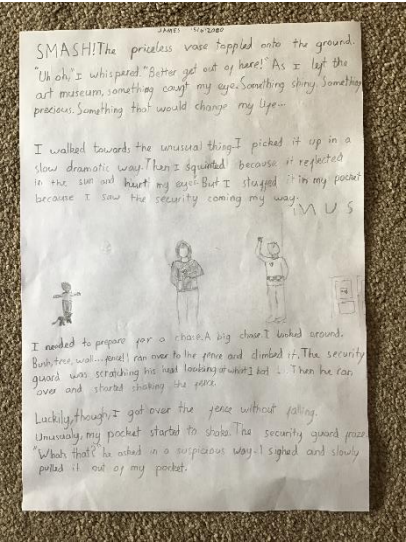
3rd Natnael is also a Rock Legend

Snit and Ojorne, Stewart, Irwin, Chloe and Misha are also moving up the leader board.

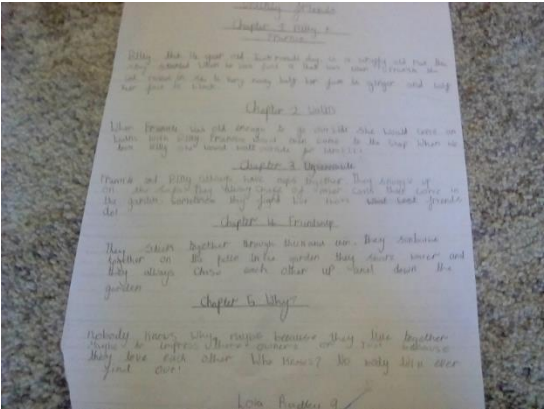
Ojorne has been a superstar on Oxford Reading Buddy and has moved up another level. I would really like to move every pupil up a level- get reading Year 4!

Isabelle and Oliver have been researching Ramadan and are keeping a diary of all the work they have completed!

James has been working hard on his English and his art work.

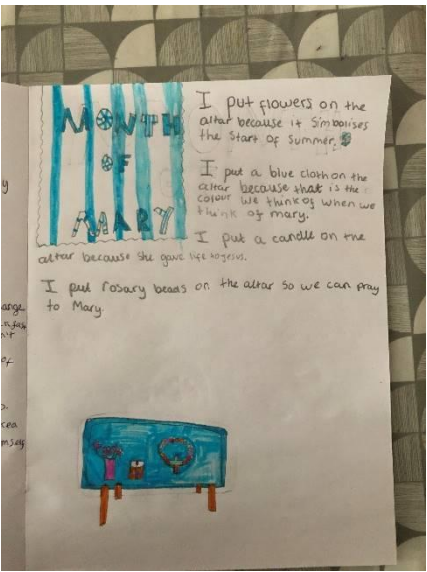
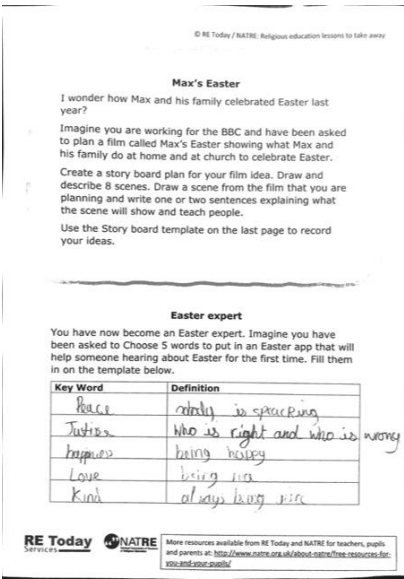


Kayla has been using her DT skills and has made a wonderful bird house.



Lola has written a story called Unlikely Friends.

Esther and Lacey have been producing lovely RE work.



Keep up the excellent work Year 4! Take care everyone

Y5 – Mrs Beattie

Mrs Beattie and Mrs Grady have been really impressed with the amount of work completed by Leyre and Alex. You are both working super hard and sharing so many great examples on the office@ email address.

Geography work completed by Leyre

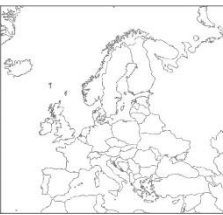
Food Miles

Leyre 19 May

Food Item	Where It Comes From	Food Miles
Tomato	South American	5292
Lettuce	Ancient Egypt	3816
Potatoes	Peru	6051
Peppers	Mexico	5389
Carrot	Asia	4842
Cucumber	India	4688
Orange	China	4873
Celery	Switzerland	498
Peaches	China	4873

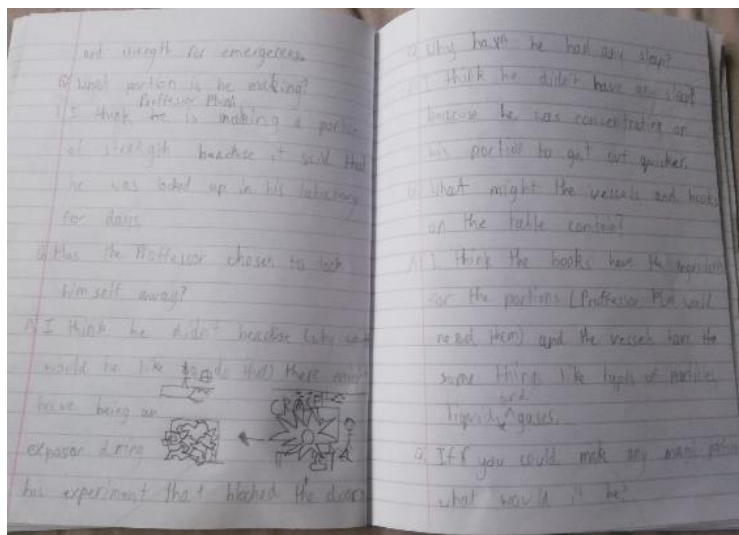
How far has all the food in your shopping travelled?
40,322

It's about 25,000 miles around the Earth.
Has your shopping travelled that far?



Food Miles

Writing by
Alex all about
Professor Plum!



A special well done to a group of children who are working especially hard to improve their reading – Etomi, Klaudia, Alex, Ethan and Jacob. Great to see you engaging and working hard.

Take care everyone

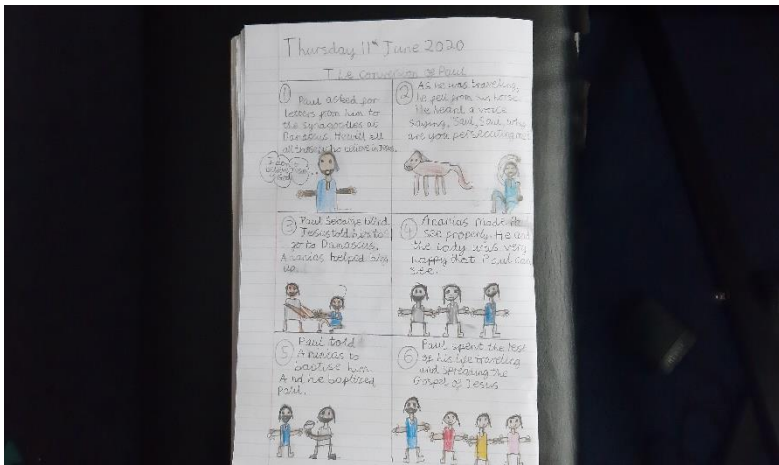
Y6 - Miss Owen

Please check your child's VLE email. I email every day with a timetable of work. They have at least 4 lessons to do each day. This hopefully helps them keep routine and gives structure to their learning.

Well done to Rachel who logged on to Reading Buddy most recently. Unfortunately I have to report that a lot of children in year 6 who are still on the reading scheme have not made full use of Reading Buddy, as I have been saying in my emails to the children. It is an amazing opportunity to work through the scheme, take the quizzes and move onto the next level, so that you can start High school as a free reader, ready to attack their library.

I am happy to say the majority of students have accessed the activities on the VLE, however again unfortunately there are some children who have not done any of the activities set 😞.

I must give a special mention to Kaitlyn Diego, who has completed all tasks set on the VLE as well as the daily tasks set by me. She has produced some wonderful work of which she should be very proud.



Kaitlyn's comic strip version of the conversion of St. Paul.

Well done to Dwayne and Destiny who have logged on to Timestable Rockstars this week. This is an amazing fun way to learn your tables and unfortunately once again I have to report that there are some students that have not accessed this amazing resource at all or not for a long time. The best thing you can do to prepare for school is to learn your timestables off by heart. I only wish I had had such an entertaining way to learn them.

Parents if your child can leave year 6, knowing their timestables and having completed the reading scheme, this really will be a good foundation on which to start high school.

Rainbow Moments – Signs of hope and peace

I would like to say a big thank you to you as parents for the lovely messages of support that we have received in school lately. You recognise that for us that this is a very challenging time and that all the staff at St. Patrick's have done and continue to do their best by you as families – supporting and serving you.

Covid unfortunately is not going to disappear in the near future and we now have to find ways to live with it and minimise the risk for all of us, as we try to return to daily life. Some adjustments are proving easier than others and reopening buildings including schools to greater numbers is one of the biggest challenges.

We also recognise that you, our families have many pressures and burdens to bear currently. Please continue to talk to us – we will try our very best to help.

***With my warmest wishes,
Mrs Grady***

