

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Newsletter 7.3.24



The Season of Lent

Lent lasts for 40 days and we use this time to prepare for the tragic, then glorious events of Easter. During Lent, tradition in the Church encourages us to pray, give up something or do something extra and give alms to the poor. In this way we are making the best possible preparation for the most important season of the Church.

During Lent different classes will be joining the Parish for Mass each week. The children in Y4, Y5 and Y6 will also have the opportunity to go to confession. Our Mini-Vinnies will be leading additional prayer opportunities. Throughout Lent, the children will be praying the Stations of the Cross and in the final week of term – Holy week, we are planning reconciliation services in church and a KS2 liturgy based on the events of Holy Week.

We are planning a number of fundraising events over the next few weeks across the classes this includes our annual easter egg raffle and tickets will go on sale shortly - 20p each. We know that times are tough for families, so please give what you can. I would like to thank the staff in advance because they are the ones who very kindly donate all of the easter eggs.

Lent Fundraising – Disconnect to Re-connect

A letter was sent home last week regarding a special week called 'Disconnect to Re-connect' 18th - 22nd of March. During this week we are challenging you, to go without using devices at home. This will certainly be a challenge to the Grady household! Here is a link to some alternative ideas that we can do instead. <https://nophonesathome>
We are asking that all families take part and sponsor themselves just £1 (you can send in more if you wish) all donations will go in our Lent fundraising pot for the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal.

Invitation to prepare for First Holy Communion

A letter was sent home this week to our Y4 children who have made their First Confession inviting them to begin preparing for First Holy Communion. If there are any children in Y5 and Y6 who this also applies to they can also join. The initial parents meeting is on Wednesday 13th March in Church at 3.15pm. The date for the Sacrament is Saturday 18th May.

Key dates going forward

March

- 5th – Y5 @ MSM to see production of Matilda
- 6th & 7th Parent's Evenings
- 8th – World Book Day celebration
- 15th Feast day celebration
Children come dressed in green. Mass 9.30am
- 15th – PCSO Coe working with Y5 & Y6 – Knife crime
- 17th – St. Patrick's Day Parade. Millenium Square am final times TBA
- W/beg 18th – Y4 Y5 Y6 Confessions after morning Mass
- W/beg – 25th – Rec Y1 Y2 Stations of the Cross in school led by the Mini-Vinnies
- Y3-Y6 Stations of the Cross in Church
- 26th – School Band to attend concert @ Pudsey Civic
- 28th – KS2 Easter Liturgy 2pm – Parents welcome to join us
- 28th – School closes for the Easter holidays

April

- Monday 15th April – School re-opens for all pupils**
- 19th – Easter Mass 9.30am

Safeguarding /Health and Safety Information

Domestic Violence Support - Please click on this link if you are experiencing domestic violence and need help or support - <https://ldvs.uk/>

Mental Health Support (adults and children) - <https://www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk/>

Applying for Benefits and Financial support - <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/benefits>

Keeping you and your family safe online - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Website – See the website for latest school policies including the Child Protection policy 23-24 and Online Safety Policy 23-24.

Please ensure that you keep your 2 emergency contacts up to date and that you are contactable throughout the school day should your child become unwell.

Online Safety Support

Please check under the parent tab on the website or [click here](#) - it will take you to all the current resources. New resource recently uploaded – Top tips for managing screen time.

New Workspaces Have Been Named

School council have worked with Mrs Grady to judge the suggested room names put forward by the 7 classes for our lovely new workspaces.

Our new library will be known as the Golden Owl library. We were drawn to this name because the golden owl is the emblem of Leeds and also the owl is known for being wise. If we use the library and read lots and lots, we too will be wise!

Our other rooms will be known by the following names;

Pastoral room - St.Veronica's – the patron Saint of kindness and charity.

ICT room - St.Isidore's – the patron Saint of technology

Intervention room 1 – St. Brigid's the patron saint of poets and the former name of this school building

Speech and language room - St.Bernardine's – the patron Saint of communications and a link to our dearly missed friend and colleague Mrs Bernadette Longbottom.

Intervention room 2 – St. Martin's – the patron Saint of inclusivity, diversity and against prejudice.

St.Patrick's Feast Day Celebrations

The St.Patrick's day parade is fast approaching. The parade takes place on Sunday 17th March - 10am-12pm. We are sharing a float this year with St.Nicholas' primary school. We will also have a walking group. **Places on the float will be limited and once we have reached the limit any other attendees will join the walkers.** Whether you float it or walk it – it is a great day out and a lovely occasion to show that we are St.Patrick's and proud of it. Please wear school jumpers and cardigans and bring anything green, white and gold! I will send more information next week regarding meeting points and times.

Feast day celebration in school will take place on Friday 15th March beginning with Mass in Church at 9.30am followed by traditional Irish music in the hall at 10.15am. All parents welcome to join us. All children to come dressed in **green!**



Whole School Priorities

Reading

If pupils cannot read, they will not be able to access the curriculum, and will be disadvantaged for life. Education inspection framework: January 2019

World Book Tomorrow (Friday)

On world book day the children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please do not buy costumes – the most effective outfits are made at home with simple props and household items. We have events planned and every child will receive a token that they can redeem in book stores or supermarkets – this can be used to get a FREE book (from a special selection... see below) or £1 off any other title.



Family Learning opportunity – Resumes after Easter

The focus for the weekly sessions in the summer term will be on helping parents support their child's learning. The sessions will be more interactive and will involve creating resources to help your child. A flyer will come home shortly, please sign up if you can.



Sporting Success

We have had much to celebrate recently and we have shared this on our Twitter (X) feed.

<https://twitter.com/StPatricksLeeds>

A huge well done to all the children who have taken part and represented the school with pride and determination... whether we win or lose. We were crowned Inner-East athletics champions and we also recently came out as the winners of our heat in the Y4 skipping competition.



FOSP – Family Movie Night – Encanto

This was a super event and the feedback from parents has been very positive. It was lovely to see families coming together to enjoy a film and a few treats. We also raised £276.75 in the process. Watch this space for our next event. If any parents would like to help organise a fundraising event, please speak to Mrs Grady or Miss Owen; we are always open to new ideas.

RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education)

All 7 classes will this be taught RSHE this term. The RSHE curriculum is well embedded here at St.Patrick's and we feel confident that our pupils begin high school with all the knowledge they need in this area and the results of our annual pupil surveys tell us so. The focus of RSHE in primary schools is on the fundamental building blocks of positive relationships with a particular emphasis on friendships, family relationships as well as other types of relationships with other children and adults. Please click on the link to our website to view parental letters regarding RSHE and links to the resources that each class will be using during their studies.

<https://www.stpatricksleeds.org.uk/curriculum-rshe>

Key skills practice and website support

Keep practicing those key skills of Reading, Spelling and Maths each day at home. Your child's class curriculum was shared in September but can also found on the website

<https://www.stpatricksleeds.org.uk> under the Parent tab then Classes. A spring 2024 newsletter will shortly be uploaded on the website for every class. The website has links to different websites to support learning in all subjects and your child has passwords to access key resources such as TTRS. Remember to click on the globe in the top left-hand corner to explore the range of languages that the website can be translated into.



And finally...

Lent is a time where we are called to try to get closer to God. We are so blessed here to have the Church on our doorstep. We hope you are able to join us for one or more of the planned events before Easter. Good luck with the No Devices at home week – I think it's just what we all need!

Take care,

Mrs Grady

