



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Learn from Jesus, Love like Jesus, Live like Jesus

A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the joyful celebration of Christmas, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout this term. It has been a time filled with learning, growth, and moments of faith that remind us of the true meaning of this season.

Christmas is a time of hope, peace, and love—a time when we reflect on the gift of Jesus Christ and the light He brings into our lives. In our school, we have seen this light shine brightly through the kindness, generosity, and enthusiasm of our children. From Advent liturgies to nativity plays, their joy and faith have been truly inspiring.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff for their hard work and commitment, and to you, our families, for the encouragement and care you give every day. Together, we continue to nurture a community rooted in Gospel values.

As we prepare to celebrate with loved ones, let us keep in our prayers those who may be lonely or in need this Christmas. May we all find ways to share the love of Christ with others.

On behalf of everyone at St Patrick's, I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 5th January, refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

God bless you and your families this Christmas,

Mrs Tong



Dates for your diary!

22nd December – 2nd January – Christmas holiday

6th January – Epiphany Mass @ 10:30am, at the school – everyone welcome!

19th January – KS1 + EYFS Book Looks @ 3:00-3:30

20th January – Y3/4 Book Looks @ 3:00-3:30

22nd January – Y5/6 Book Looks @ 3:00-3:30

6th February – Y3 School Trip

16th February – 20th February – Half-term

26th February – Parent meetings @ 1:30-6:00

2nd March – 6th March – Scholastic book fair

5th March – World Book Day

Attendance Corner

Year Group	Attendance %	Days missed in the class
Year R	90.33%	90.5 days
Year 1	96.99%	58 days
Year 2	96.26%	52 days
Year 3	97.08%	58.3 days
Year 4	96.95%	67.5 days
Year 5	95.85%	92 days
Year 6	96.51%	76 days

Attendance Ladder



Safeguarding Corner



School WhatsApp groups

Are you part of a parent WhatsApp group at your child's school? These groups can be useful for sharing information and reminders, but it is important to use them thoughtfully. Here are some tips on how we can ensure they remain positive and respectful:

1. Be considerate –we know messages can sometimes be misinterpreted so carefully think about what you share. These groups should not be used to share criticisms of the school, staff or other parents and children. Any concerns should always be discussed with the school directly.
2. Don't spread rumours – avoid sharing any gossip within the group.
3. Protect privacy - do not share photos or videos of other children.
4. Think before you send – be mindful of the time and if the message is necessary for everyone.

Our children watch how we communicate, so let's model healthy, online communication to them.

WhatsApp Channels

Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. If your child is using WhatsApp, then you should be aware of WhatsApp Channels. Channels are a one-way broadcast tool used by companies and individuals to send updates to followers. WhatsApp Channels can be found on the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will not be age appropriate and may include adult content.

You cannot switch off access to channels and there is no age rating associated with the channels so you would have to access them to know what the content truly is. Klicksafe highlight what you should be aware of:

<https://www.klicksafe.eu/en/news/was-sind-whatsapp-kanale-und-wasmuessen-eltern-beachten>

Find out more about WhatsApp channels in general here:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/549900560675125>

Staffing Update



On behalf of the governors, I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Cole has been successful in securing the Deputy Headteacher post at St Patrick's. Since September 2024, Mrs Cole has been Acting Deputy Headteacher so this will appear like a limited change to much of our community: Mrs Cole will continue to teach Year 6 on a Tuesday and Wednesday. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her every success in her "new" role!

Clothes Donations



This is a reminder that we have a clothes and shoes bin here at the school for any donations that you may have! It is regularly emptied and taken to those who need it most. The donation bin is located inside the school, just to the side of the pedestrian gate.

Christmas Mass Times



Our Lady and St Dominic's

Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm Children's Mass
 - Midnight

Christmas Day

- 9am
- 10.30am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Christmas Eve

- 9.30am Weekday Mass
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass for
Christmas

Christmas Day

- 9.30am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

Saturday, 21st December after the 10am Weekday
Mass

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Advent Reconciliation Service

At the beginning of December, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in our Advent reconciliation Service. This is an important part of preparing for Christmas, where we all had the chance to examine our conscience and think about those things that have happened for which we need to say sorry.

After an initial liturgy led by the priests, all children had the opportunity to visit a range of prayer stations, which encouraged them to think about:

- A time when they had upset a friend
- Times when they had forgotten to say thank you to God for something good
- Times when they had pushed God out of their lives

Those children who have made their First Holy Communion had a chance for individual confession and to receive absolution from one of our priests.

Our thanks go to Fr Michael, Fr Pat, Fr Peter, Fr Anthony and Fr Tom for spending the morning helping us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.



Knellwood Care Home

Last week, our Chaplaincy team visited Knellwood Care Home to deliver Christmas stockings to the residents. At St Patrick's, we understand the importance of giving to others, showing acts of kindness and supporting people in our local community.

The children were a true credit to our school — they were polite, friendly, and thoughtful throughout the visit. Even the rain couldn't dampen their spirits as they walked all the way to the care home with smiles on their faces! It was a lovely reminder of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference especially during this season of Advent. Thank you all for your generous donations which made this possible.



Y5 Winchester Trip

Year 5 recently enjoyed a trip to Winchester Science Centre. We really enjoyed the workshop where we built our own rockets! We were then luckily enough to enjoy a show in the Planetarium and then explore the centre!



Pandas Singalong

The Pandas nursery class put on a wonderful Christmas singalong performance. They did an amazing job, singing with such confidence and big smiles throughout. It was absolutely lovely to watch and really got everyone into the festive spirit. The children should be very proud of themselves for such a great performance. 🎄 🐼



Oak Class - Nativity

Oak Class did a fantastic job during their Nativity performance, and we are incredibly proud of every child. They showed great confidence on stage, learned their lines and songs so well, and supported one another throughout the performance. Oak Class truly demonstrated our charism values, especially courage in performing in front of an audience and perseverance in practising and giving their best. Well done, Oak Class, you were wonderful!



KS1 Nativity

KS1 put on a truly fantastic Nativity performance in the form of *Prickly Hay*.

I'm sure you will all agree that the children did an amazing job learning the songs, actions, and lines for the play. They showed wonderful resilience and perseverance, bravely standing up on stage and performing with such confidence and enthusiasm.

We would also like to say a huge thank you for your continued support from home. Until next year, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



KS2 Advent Liturgy

This Advent, our Key Stage 2 pupils from Years 3 to 6 shared the true meaning of Christmas through two thoughtful Nativity performances this week.

The children sang a selection of traditional and modern carols, creating a reverent and festive atmosphere. Each pupil played their part with dedication, whether acting, singing or narrating, and their teamwork and commitment shone throughout. It was heart-warming to see the children support one another and perform with such confidence, maturity and faith. The two performances were a wonderful reflection of our school's Catholic values and a meaningful way for our community to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. We are very proud of all our children, parents and staff involved.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy 2026.



Christmas lunch and jumper day!



Message from the PTA

Thank you to all who have joined us one way or another with all our PTA fundraising activities throughout the month of December!

We loved organising the Christmas Fair, seeing the children's eyes light up as Father Christmas walked into our school hall! The atmosphere was electric and the feedback even greater!

The KS1 and KS2 advent performances have also been a highlight where we've seen many familiar faces pass through the school, while selling raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper and vouchers to many fantastic locations, as donated by several kind companies.

And to finish off on Monday afternoon, we had our last Teatime of the year, but a first of many more to come in 2026!

We'd also like to thank Dylan Fowdar for donating the school's festive Christmas Tree, and to Elizabeth Stratford and Will Wilkinson for the Nativity hay bales.

After a very successful festive period, we've raised a total of £2,002.10, which is an incredible amount and wouldn't have happened without your continued support!

So, thank you to all at St Patricks! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a fantastic start to the New Year!

St Patricks PTA



Mary's Meals

At the start of Advent, our School Council members confidently led an assembly to promote the important work of Mary's Meals. They explained how Mary's Meals provides a nutritious daily meal to children in some of the world's poorest countries, helping them to attend school, concentrate in class and build a brighter future.

The School Council also introduced the Pocket Money for Porridge campaign, encouraging children to donate a small amount of their pocket money to help fund a simple but life-changing meal of porridge. Their message was that even a small donation can help feed a child for a whole school day, showing how small acts of generosity can make a big difference. As a school, we raised **£90** to support the wonderful work this charity does. This means 900 meals for hungry children.

Thank you all for your generosity.



<https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/CSCcommunications/School%20Communications%20attachments/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FCSCcommunications%2FSchool%20Communications%20attachments%2FQuick%20access%20mental%20wellbeing%20resource%20for%20parents%20and%20carers%20over%20the%20winter%20holidays%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FCSCcommunications%2FSchool%20Communications%20attachments&p=true&ga=1>

Support to help Young People with their



Mental Wellbeing (including Bereavement)



Guidance, tools, and tips

[Crisis, Self-Harm and Suicide – CAMHS](#)

[Self-harm support hub](#)

[Mental Wellbeing Hampshire](#)

[Mind's Info for young people](#)

[Parent and Carer support – CAMHS](#)

[Autistica – Tips Hub app](#)

Kooth: [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

[ZSA suicide awareness training courses](#)

Support services

[NHS 111 Mental Health triage](#)

[SHOUT](#) text HANTS to 85258

[Help in a crisis: Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Foundation Trust](#)

NE Hants: [Get help in a mental health crisis: Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Papyrus: [Papyrus UK Suicide Prevention | Prevention of Young Suicide](#)

[Therapeutic support services](#)

[Cruse Support After Suicide Service](#)

Project Iris: [Project Iris: Growing Hope | Inclusion Education](#)

ChatHealth: [ChatHealth : Hampshire Healthy Families](#)

Young Minds Parent Helpline: [Parents Helpline | Mental Health Help for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)

[Children and Young People's Safe Haven – Havant & East Hants Mind](#)

Sasha's Project: [Facebook](#)

Events (in person)

[How To Cope When Your Child Can't Event – Winchester 2026 – CAMHS](#)

Anxiety – understanding and strategies to help, Basingstoke: [Events – CAMHS](#)

Local online and in person events: [Local Support Groups and Events for Parents/Carers » Winchester](#)



Come and visit our brand new Children's Library!

at Farnborough Library!



Farnborough Children's Library has recently undergone refurbishments to their Children's Library area at Farnborough Library.

They currently run the following activities on a weekly basis;

Rhymetime for pre-school children - Mondays 10am and 10.45am and Thursdays at 2pm.

Storytime - Friday 10.30am, followed by a Family Chatabout, which is a stay and play session.

Construction Club- Saturdays 2pm -4pm.

Saturday Family Fun - these craft and games sessions are additional fortnightly sessions funded by the Household Support Fund.



St. Peter's Church, Farnborough

We Are Hiring!

CARETAKER

We are looking to appoint a Caretaker. The Caretaker will play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth running of the facilities at St. Peter's Church.

To find out more, go to **[St Peter's Vacancies](#)**

**SUBMISSION DATE UNTIL:
SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY
2026**

