

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 reach the end of November, I am struck by how much has already been achieved since September. Everyone at school has been working hard and you can read about some highlights from each class later in this newsletter.

Advent begins on Sunday; this is a time of preparation where we get ourselves ready for the coming of the Christ child. We have already begun collecting for our stocking appeal -please bring any further donations in by 5th December.

As usual, we are very lucky that our PTA will pay for Christmas lunch for all children and adults across school on 17th December. Mrs Cole has been working with the school council to think about how we can carry on this generosity to our global family. This year, we are asking that the children bring in a bit of their pocket money on that day to give to [Mary's Meals](#): just 10p means that they can serve a school meal to a child in countries such as Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Thank you for your support in helping your child look through their piggy bank and find a small amount of money that can change someone else's life.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Tong

Safeguarding Corner



We have been made aware of a pop-up that is appearing on Roblox, encouraging children to download an app called pollybuzz (or pollyfuzz in some spelling cases). The app seems quite simple where children are asked questions, and it generates an Artificial Intelligence 'friend' – this starts off quite innocently but then begins to show extreme content (including suicide, self-harm and pornography).

You might want to remind your child about not clicking on pop-ups in games and to report anything that is worrying or inappropriate to a trusted adult.

Roblox has parental controls and instructions of how to put these on can be accessed via this link: [Parental Controls Overview – Roblox Support](#) . As a reminder, parental controls will stop some pop-ups but not all so how are you supervising your child when they are using online technology?

Jubilee Year of Hope celebration day!

Last Sunday ,the Year of Hope came to an end - the last year has been an enriching time for us all, when we have reflected on how we are Pilgrims of Hope and brought hope to others and stood in solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the world. Although, our world is in need of God's gift of hope, I'm sure our children will continue to be Pilgrims of Hope in the years to come.

The children made postcards to bring hope to other people's lives: the younger children brought these home to deliver to someone in their life who needs a little bit of hope and the older children have written postcards which have been left in our local churches to bring hope to our wider Farnborough community.

Here are some ideas of how you can be continue to be Pilgrims of Hope as a family at home:

- Create a "Minute of Hope" video together and add to the digital legacy of this Jubilee Year <https://minutesofhope.com/>
- Give or ask for a gift that will help someone else this Christmas <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/all>
- Donate to a local charity or spend some time bringing hope into someone else's life



Dates for your diary!



5th December – Reconciliation

9th December – Y5 Trip

10th December – Year R Nativity @ 2:30pm

11th December – KS1 Nativity @ 9:15am and 2:30pm

15th December – Pandas singalong @ 2:00pm

16th December – KS2 Advent Liturgy @ 2:30pm and 6pm

17th December – Christmas lunch and jumper day

22nd December – 2nd January – Christmas holiday

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

Attendance Corner

Year Group	Attendance %	Days missed in the class
Year R	90.29%	145.5 days
Year 1	97.99%	31.5 days
Year 2	96.72%	55 days
Year 3	98%	33 days
Year 4	98.13%	34.5 days
Year 5	96.9%	55.5 days
Year 6	97.27%	50.5 days

Attendance Ladder



Outcome of the PSHE Consultation

We would like to pass on our thanks and gratitude to those parents and carers who took the time to complete our PSHE consultation earlier this term. 92% of the respondents agreed that they are comfortable with the Catholic ethos of the programme and they trust the school's judgement in delivering this.

The vast majority of the responses either agreed or strongly agreed with the curriculum coverage outlined in the consultation. The exception to this was in reference to Upper Key Stage Two content relating to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) where 31% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that this should be taught. Therefore, this will not be included in the curriculum for Year 5 and 6. In Key Stage One and Two, your child's class teacher will inform you prior to commencing any element of the sex education curriculum.

All children commenced their Ten:Ten PSHE lessons after October half term and are currently working through Unit 1 and 2 of Module 1. If you would like any further information, please log into the Ten: Ten online Parent Portal. It also contains:

- An overview of the programme, Life to the Full
- Guidance for parents on the content of lessons
- Activities that can be undertaken at home to support the delivery of the programme

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

Username: st-patricks-gu14

Password: wall-tree

Disco

The children had an absolutely fantastic time at the KS1 and KS2 school discos last week! From the moment the music started, they were up on their feet dancing, and having fun! It was so lovely to see them enjoying themselves with their friends, showing off their best moves, and making brilliant memories together. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the discos such a highlight of their week, any support the PTA receives from the Community is always hugely appreciated!

Food Bank

A huge thank you to all our families for their generous donations to the Farnborough Food Bank. Your kindness helped us provide a range of much-needed items and the School Council certainly worked hard to sort, pack and load the van ready for collection.

This effort is a wonderful example of faith in action and reflects the Catholic Social Teaching principles the children have been learning about, showing how our community can make a real difference to the lives of others.



What's been happening in Class?

Oak Class

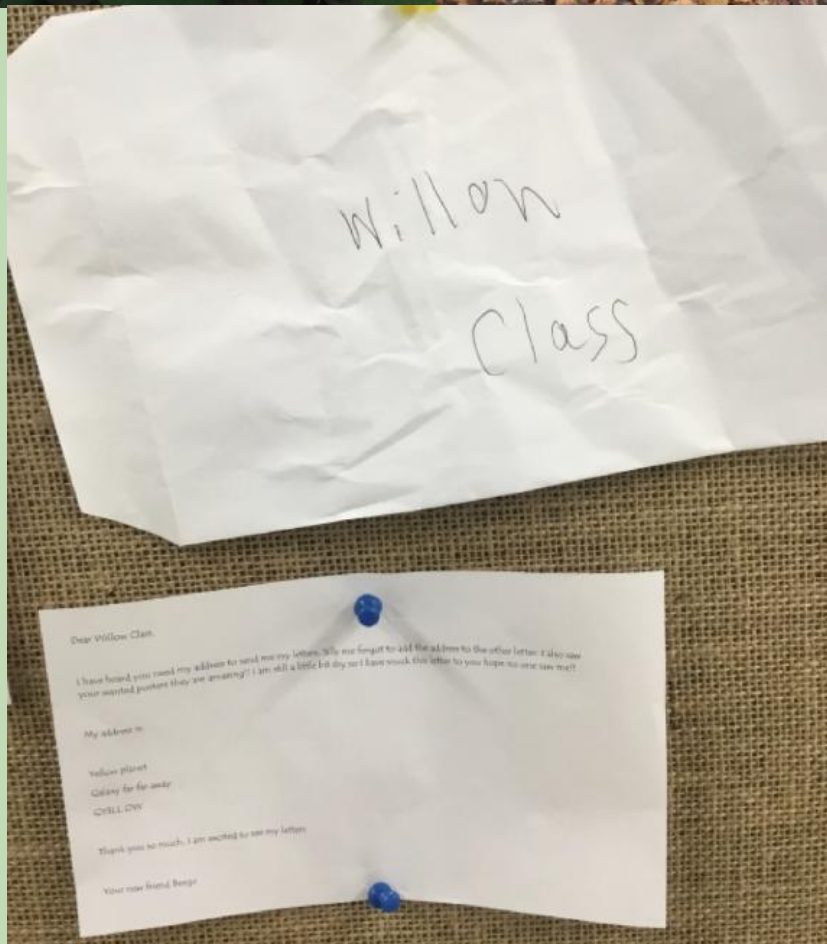
Oak Class have had a busy and exciting term! In Maths, they have been exploring the part-whole method, while in RE they learned about Catholic Social Teaching and being kind, inspired by *The Smartest Giant in Town*, which also featured in their Drawing Club activities.

The children enjoyed a magical winter walk in the snow, noticing the frosty landscape. Now, they are learning about Advent and preparing for their performance of *A Little Nativity*, with lots of singing and festive cheer!



Willow Class

Year 1 have been learning all about Beegu. We had an alien drop a letter off to our classroom asking for help. We made wanted posters and put them up around school and everyone helped us look for Beegu. We did some amazing writing all about Beegu and posted her letters.

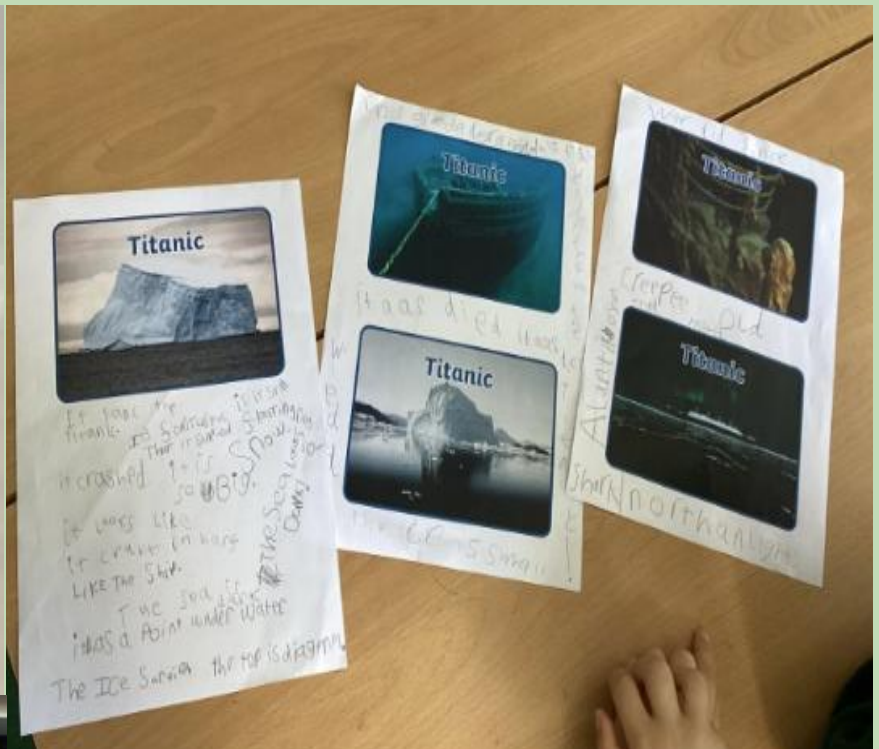


Monkey Puzzle

As the autumn term comes to an end, I asked Year 2 what their highlight has been — and there was no hesitation! Our history topic, the Titanic, has completely wowed the class.

What started as a simple introduction has turned into a wave of excitement and curiosity. The children have loved finding out all about the famous ship. They can now remember so many brilliant facts — like the Titanic being built in Belfast, that it was as long as three football pitches, and (to everyone's surprise!) that there were only two toilets on board!

Their enthusiasm has been amazing. They shared their ideas confidently in class, and many even went home to make their own fantastic Titanic models — from Lego masterpieces to illustrated creations. Their creativity and hard work have really shone through.



Horse Chestnut

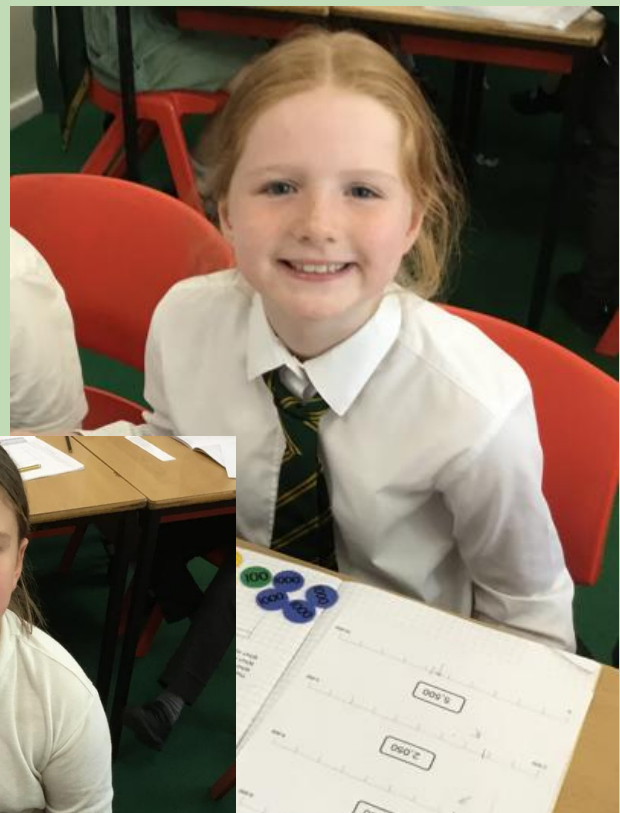
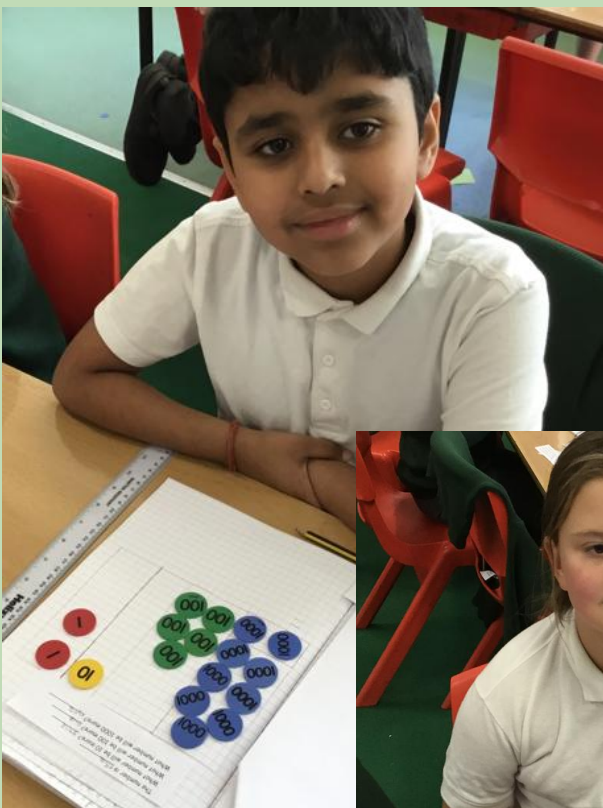
In Year 3, we have been learning about river processes in Geography. We have looked at the physical features of a river as well as how they change over time.

In history we have been looking at the Neolithic period and how people lived. We made our own paint and created art work, looked at their home and the types of materials that were available to build and use as tools.

Maple Class

In Year 4, we have really enjoyed doing maths. We have been improving our skills and confidence by using place value counters and partitioning.

We are working on 4-digit numbers in subtraction and addition currently.



Silver Birch Class

Since October half term, the children have really enjoyed learning all about space in their science lessons. In particular, they have been learning all about our solar system, the planets and the lunar phases. We're excited to round up all this knowledge on our upcoming school trip!

The class have also absolutely loved playing dodgeball in their PE lessons. It's great to see how each child gets involved, whether they're showing off their quick reflexes, cheering on their teammates, or celebrating a great throw. Dodgeball has become a sure highlight of the week, giving them a chance to build confidence, stay active, and enjoy a fun challenge together.

Sycamore Class

This term has been an exciting and memorable one for Year 6. Their residential trip to PGL on the Isle of Wight was a highlight, filled with adventure, teamwork and new challenges. From the ferry crossing to the giant swing, climbing, and water activities, the pupils showed great courage, enthusiasm and support for one another, making it a truly unforgettable experience.

Back at school, Year 6 played an important role in our Remembrance Day service, showing maturity and respect during the readings and the two-minute silence. Alongside this, pupils across the year group have produced excellent work in all subjects, demonstrating creativity, hard work and a positive attitude. It has been a wonderful term full of growth, achievement and pride for our school community.

The children particularly enjoyed exploring war poetry and producing thoughtful reports on the role of women during the First World War. In RE, our focus on Catholic Social Teaching has encouraged us to reflect on where help is needed both locally and around the world and to consider the ways we can make a positive difference. The children also created fantastic artwork inspired by the messages in the late Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*.



Earlier this month our school community gathered together for an Act of Remembrance. Each class created a beautiful wreath, which was laid during the service as a symbol of respect. We were also grateful to have a pupil from Farnborough Hill play the Last Post, adding a poignant moment to the occasion. This annual commemoration is always a special and significant event in the St Patrick's School calendar, offering us all a chance to reflect, remember and honour those who have served. Well done to our Year 6 pupils shared their thoughtful poems, prayers and readings.



Families of Faith

★ December ★

Prayer Corner



An Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are waiting for Jesus to be born.

Help us to be full of hope and to share your love with everyone we meet.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!
Amen

Prayer at bedtime

Bless me Lord as this day ends

Bless my family and all my friends.

Keep me safe throughout the night.

And wake me with the morning's light.

Amen

Good News from the Gospel

7 Sunday – Matthew 3:1-12 "Prepare the way of the Lord." Activity: tidy an area to make space for Christmas and donate old toys to charity.

14 Sunday – Matthew 11:2-11 "The blind receive their sight and the lame, walk." Activity: show your support to a charity of your choice.

21 Sunday – Matthew 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child and they shall call his name Emmanuel." Activity: Make a baby Jesus decoration to put onto your Christmas tree.

28 Sunday – Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23 "Arise and take the child and His mother and go into the land of Israel." Activity – take your decoration on a journey – to family or friends, church or on a nature walk. Take a photo to share at school with your class.

Family in Faith Action

Why not make an advent wreath together with greenery from plants and candles. Light one each week.

Week 1 – Hope (Prophecy Candle)

Represents hope of the world for the coming of the Messiah. Make your Advent wreath as a sign of waiting for Jesus to come to us.

Week 2 – Peace (Bethlehem Candle)

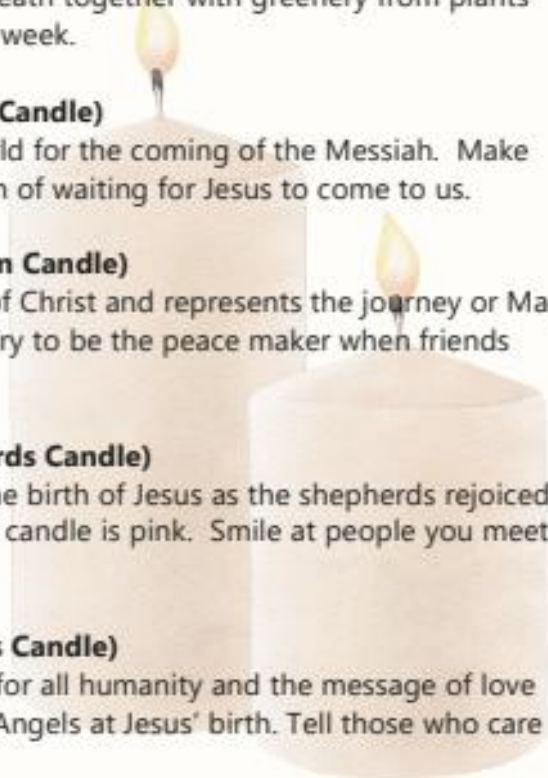
This symbolises the peace of Christ and represents the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Try to be the peace maker when friends quarrel.

Week 3 – Joy (The Shepherds Candle)

This represents the joy of the birth of Jesus as the shepherds rejoiced upon hearing the news. This candle is pink. Smile at people you meet to bring joy to them.

Week 4 – Love (The Angels Candle)

This symbolises God's love for all humanity and the message of love and peace delivered by the Angels at Jesus' birth. Tell those who care for you that you love them.



Saints to Inspire

6 December – St. Nicholas

Saint Nicholas was a bishop known for his generosity. In the Middle Ages people began leaving gifts and money in shoes as a way to copy his kindness, especially for the poor. In many European countries today, children still put out their shoes and receive sweets, nuts, fruit or small toys on the morning of December 6th.



Why not donate some of your own shoes you have grown out of to charity

13 December – St. Lucy

Saint Lucy was known as the "Bearer of Light." She wore a crown of candles to bring food to people in hiding with her hands free to carry the food. In Sweden today, children still sing a song dedicated to St. Lucy. A girl dresses as St. Lucy with a wreath of candles on her head and is accompanied by children dressed as gingerbread figures. This symbolises the bringing of light and treats to ward off the darkness of the long winter nights. The 12th December is known as Gingerbread House Day.

Why not try making your own gingerbread man or house!

