

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 end of term and prepare to enter the sacred season of Easter, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what this time means for our school community. Easter is the heart of our Christian faith—a season of hope, renewal, and the promise that light will always overcome darkness.

During Lent, the children have embraced our Gospel values with joy and enthusiasm. Whether through acts of kindness, such as our Big Lent Walk, prayerful reflection like the Lent Reconciliation Services, or their commitment to learning, they continue to remind us of the love and compassion that Christ calls us to share with one another. We are truly blessed to walk alongside them on their journey of growth.

Next week marks Holy Week in the church: our school has taken time to pause and reflect on the story of Jesus' passion and death this last week as each class has completed Stations of the Cross around our grounds and Year 3&4 shared the Paschal story through their play. These moments of prayer and stillness have helped us all to deepen our understanding of God's love.

As we enter the holiday, I encourage you to enjoy time together as a family—resting, reconnecting, and celebrating the joy of the Resurrection. May this Easter be a time of peace in your homes and hope in your hearts.

In the first weeks after Easter, we will be wishing Mrs Cockerton and Miss Nevill well as they begin their maternity leave. Mrs Cockerton's role will be filled by Miss Higgins and Mrs Janusz from Pandas. We have appointed Mr Hughes to cover for Miss Nevill and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming him to our community from the beginning of May. Finally, Mrs Shuter is getting married over the Easter break so we will welcome her back under her new name of Mrs Hillman!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. I wish every one of you a restful break and a joyful Easter.

Mrs Tong

Safeguarding Corner

Conversations about children's use of smartphones and screen time is a hot topic for us all. The news report today says

"Children under the age of five should be limited to one hour of screen time a day, while under-twos should not be watching screens alone, new government guidance says." [BBC News report](#)

One of the recommendations is about the example we set as parents and adults. Here are some questions to get you thinking:

- If we're asking children to limit their screentime, do we limit ours?
- Are we really present in conversations with each other and the children? What about during drop-off and collection?
- How long can we go without picking up a device to scroll or just check?

You are invited to an online parent meeting **Let's talk about our kids and their tech**. Please see the attached details for more information.

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

PARENT TALK WITH KATE:

Farnborough Cluster Schools

DATE & TIME:

21st April 2026
7pm



Kate Mezger

Kate has spent over 17 years working with young people, including as Head of Philosophy & Religion at a large London day school and as a youth worker in local churches. She now promotes the SFC movement in both her workplace and her children's schools. With a strong interest in the impact of Ed Tech in education, she collaborates with groups sharing research and insights on this topic.

Having seen rising levels of anxiety and apathy among young people, Kate is passionate about empowering parents to speak up and make informed choices about technology in their children's lives. She believes real change will come from parents uniting to educate and support one another. Kate has three children aged 11, 9, and 5.

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming.

Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Kate unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgmental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.





Dates for your diary!

26th March – Y3 + 4 Easter Play (2:30 + 6:00)

30th March – 10th April – Easter holidays

14th April – Easter Mass

16th-17th April – Y4 on residential

23rd April – YR on school trip

27th April – Y5+6 Book Looks

28th April – YR + KS1 Book Looks

30th April – Y3+4 Book Looks

1st May – Crowning of Mary Mass

15th May – Ascension Mass

25th – 29th May – Half-term

Attendance Corner

Year Group	Attendance %	Days missed in the class
Year R	95.41%	158 days
Year 1	96.69%	116 days
Year 2	97.49%	90 days
Year 3	95.76%	159.5 days
Year 4	96.53%	141 days
Year 5	96.06%	153.5 days
Year 6	97.25%	110 days

Attendance Ladder



Upcoming RE Learning

Our next unit is Easter. Here is what your child will learn about:

	Key question	Key Scripture and ideas covered
Pandas		This unit focuses on the Resurrection of Jesus. It should allow children to respond to the story of the resurrection. It should draw out the excitement and joy of Easter and reflect the Easter is the most important season of the Church.
Year R	<i>Why is Easter a time for hope and joy?</i>	Children will explore how Jesus' disciples feel after his death on the cross. They will then share what happened at the first Easter and compare how the disciples felt after Jesus' resurrection. The children will understand why Easter is linked to hope and new life and think about how they can bring this hope and joy to others.
Year 1	<i>What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus?</i>	By recapping the Easter story, the children will realise how Easter can change people and what it means to be a witness. The children will then understand what it means to bear witness and finally, what it means to be a witness for Jesus. They will then make links to their own lives by describing who is bearing witness to the Risen Christ today.
Year 2	<i>How can we share and use what we learn about Easter to help others?</i>	The children will recall their prior knowledge about the Easter story and then make links to what this means to have faith by looking in further detail at the account of the empty tomb. The children will look at Thomas in more detail to know that people responded in different ways to the Resurrection of Jesus. Finally, they will understand how light (and particularly Jesus the Light of the World) can strengthen us in times of doubt and know that we are called to share our faith with others.
Year 3	<i>Why is it good to find the time to share a meal?</i>	After recapping the Easter story, particularly the Last Supper, children will look at times when Jesus appeared to his disciples, especially through the story of 'Breakfast on the Shore'. They will know what happened at this encounter, why Peter was asked to "Feed my sheep" by Jesus and to therefore identify the messages from this story for us today. Linking to their preparation for First Holy Communion, they will understand that chances to share a meal with Jesus are very special and important to our faith.
Year 4	<i>Where does the Easter journey take us?</i>	The children begin by reflecting on their own journey through Holy Week and Easter and then think about how a journey is a chance to change the way we act and think. There is then a focus on the accounts of the Ascension within the Bible and children <u>explore</u> how the Easter story and the Ascension altered the disciples' journey through life. Finally, they link this to their own journey to be a witness to Christ and think about who can inspire and support them on their own journey of faith.
Year 5	<i>How can the Easter Triduum guide and inspire us?</i>	To understand the Easter Triduum, breaking it down into Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil Mass. From this, children should know that the Easter Triduum inspires us to change.
Year 6	<i>Why is the Resurrection such an important event for Christians?</i>	After recapping what happened at Easter, the children will identify what the different Gospels tell us about the Resurrection of Jesus. Focusing on Thomas, they will explore the idea of Is it ok to doubt? Finally, they will explore what Christians mean by eternal life and understand how a Christian funeral is a time of hope, linked to the feelings that surround the Resurrection for Christians.

PSHE

Over the course of the Summer term, children will continue their PSHE learning through our Catholic 'Life to the Full' scheme. All year groups will cover the topics of: keeping safe, religious understanding and living in the wider world. If you would like further information about what these modules include for your child, please refer to the Ten:Ten Summer coverage document on our website: <https://www.st-patricks.hants.sch.uk/pshe-rse/>

Inset Days 2026/27

The following inset days have been agreed:

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Monday 16th November 2026
Thursday 25th March 2027
Monday 28th June 2027
Tuesday 29th June 2027

Theatre Production

As a whole school we watched the Secret Garden theatre production. Watching the hidden garden slowly come alive on stage was a memorable moment for all the children. It was a wonderful shared experience that inspired our imaginations and left all the children smiling.



World Book Day

It was wonderful to celebrate World Book Day and see the children's creative ideas for our 'Dress as a Word' day. The children enjoyed their visit to St. Patrick's Word Bank, adding their chosen words to our word wall.

We were so lucky to have author and illustrator Simon Murray visit our school as part of the World Book Day celebrations. Everyone engaged brilliantly in the workshops and created wonderful characters inspired by his book *Icky Doo Dah*.

A big thank you to everyone who purchased books from our Scholastic Book Fair and an extra special thank you to the PTA for organizing the Book Swap—it was a fantastic way to share the joy of reading!



Gremlin Competition

On 12th March Miss Parry's dance group competed at the Gremlin dance challenge at the Princes Hall. The theme this year was icons in which they performed a powerful piece about Emmeline Pankhurst and her suffragettes in getting women the right to vote. They performed amazingly and Miss Parry is very proud of them! The award we got was best performance in character as well as 3rd place overall! Well done dancers you are incredible!



Y3 Butser Trip

We visited Butser Farm where we got to experience life like Stone Age people. We got to eat lunch in a round house, made chalk carvings and we made jewellery like rich warriors wore. Year 3 really enjoyed playing Stone Age board games as well as waving at the animals.



St Patrick's Day



As a school community, we celebrated St Patrick's Day with lots of special activities. The School Council organised a scavenger hunt around the school grounds, hiding clues and information about St Patrick. We also gathered for a school Mass, where Father Michael led the celebration and members of the School Council took part by doing the readings, leading the bidding prayers and bringing up the offertory.

To share kindness with others, we created special messages of courage on shamrocks and sent them to Frimley Park Hospital and Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice for staff and patients. In the afternoon, we were treated to a fantastic Irish dancing performance, which included two members of our own school. Everyone really enjoyed the day.

Written by Red House Captains

Parish Mass

During Lent, Key Stage 2 attended Parish Mass together, taking time to reflect, pray and grow closer to God. We listened to the readings and joined in with the prayers, thinking about how we can be kind, make good choices and follow Jesus' example during this special season.

Overall, it was a peaceful and meaningful experience that we all enjoyed. It was also nice to be there as a whole group. We would like to thank Father Michael and the parishioners from Our Lady Help of Christians for welcoming us.

By George, Alfie and Jayden - Y6 Chaplains

Great Fire of London Workshop

Great Fire of London Workshop Inspires Year 2

Year 2 pupils stepped back in time as Drama Hut delivered an engaging Great Fire of London workshop. Meeting Thomas Farriner of Pudding Lane and learning from Samuel Pepys' diary, children explored life before and after the fire.

Through drama, they created freeze-frames, acted out key events, and even became the fire using movement and song. They also discussed Pepys' writings and debated how the fire changed London.

The children thoroughly enjoyed this immersive experience, bringing their learning to life in a memorable and creative way. Well done Monkey Puzzle Class!



Bikeability



This term Year 5 participated in Bikeability. We had great fun riding our bikes and learning lots of new skills to make sure we were able to ride safely on the roads!

Oliver Production

Year 5 were kindly invited watch Farnborough Hill`s production of Oliver. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and thought the performance was amazing! We were then lucky enough to participate in a workshop run by Mr Adams (head of music at Farnborough Hill) and some of the cast of Oliver. We learnt one of the songs and had a fantastic afternoon!



What if you could explore your SEND Local Offer in person, on one day?



Join us at an event near you to find out about your local special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support.

Our Discovery Days offer a welcoming space for families to explore the wide range of local services and support available. They provide the chance to speak directly with the teams who work with children and young people with SEND, helping families access timely information, early support, and meaningful connections within their community.

Families can expect

- Opportunities to meet professionals from key SEND services
- Information stands from charities, providers, and community organisations
- General support and advice for children and young people aged 0 to 25
- Signposting to early help, assessment pathways, and inclusive activities
- A welcoming, relaxed environment where families can explore at their own pace

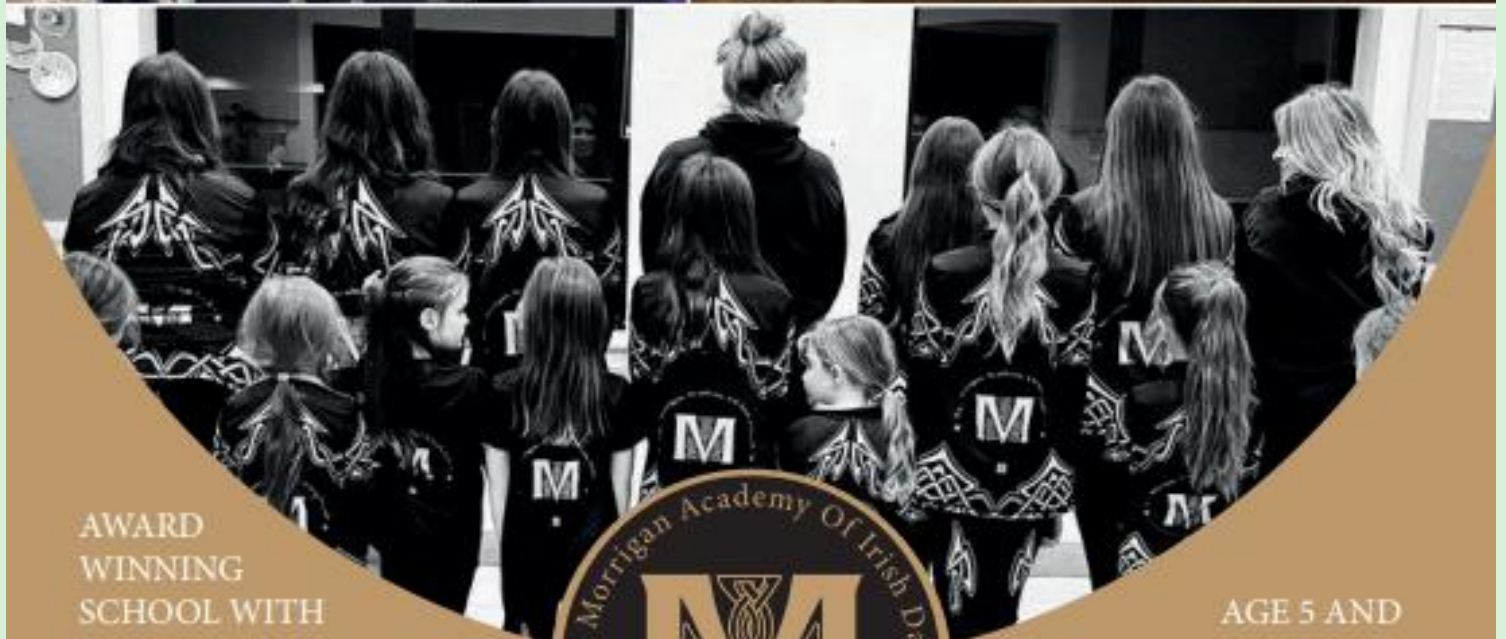
connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/localoffer

Calendar of events this spring

Lyndhurst Community Centre , Main Car Park, Lyndhurst SO43 7NY	Friday 20 March	2pm to 6pm
Leigh Park Community Centre , Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park, Havant PO9 5BG	Saturday 21 March	10am to 1pm
Andover Community Church , Charlton Rd, Andover SP10 3JH	Thursday 26 March	2pm to 6pm
Farnborough Library , Pinehurst Roundabout, Farnborough GU14 7JZ	Tuesday 14 April	2.30pm to 6pm
Hampshire County Council HQ , Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UJ	Monday 20 April	1pm to 5pm
Xperience Youth Centre , 70 Trinity St, Fareham PO16 7SJ	Tuesday 28 April	12pm to 4pm
Gosport Discovery Centre , High St, Gosport PO12 1BT	Thursday 30 April	2.30pm to 6pm
Alton Maltings Centre , 2 Maltings Close, Alton GU34 1DT	Thursday 7 May	2pm to 6pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre , Potters Walk, Basingstoke RG21 7LS	Tuesday 12 May	2pm to 6pm
Pavilion on the Park , 1 Kingfisher Rd, Eastleigh SO50 9LH	Friday 15 May	2pm to 6pm
Petersfield Festival Hall , Heath Rd, Petersfield GU31 4DZ	Monday 18 May	2pm to 6pm

To find more details on these events, or for further information on the Hampshire Local Offer, visit connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/localoffer or scan the QR code.





AWARD
WINNING
SCHOOL WITH
OPPORTUNITIES
TO ATTEND
COMPETITIONS
AND EVENTS



AGE 5 AND
UPWARDS

NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY

Irish Dance Classes

Mondays - FLEET

Beginners - 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Advanced - 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Fleet United Reformed Church, GU51 3AF

Thursdays - FARNBOROUGH

Beginners - 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Advanced - 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Hawley Memorial Hall, GU17 9BW

The Murrigan Academy of Irish Dance

Classes are taught by Hollie Bell

info@themurriganacademyofirishdance.com

www.themurriganacademyofirishdance.com

COME ALONG FOR A FREE TRIAL