

# 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 come towards the end of the first half of the Spring term, I wonder when Spring might actually appear! There are some signs it might be on the way: the first few snowdrops and crocuses are showing their colours so perhaps you can look out for them during the half term break?

Ash Wednesday falls within half term this year (18<sup>th</sup> February) and marks the beginning of The Church's season of Lent. Lent is a spiritual spring, a chance to clean up our lives and turn away from whatever unjustly steals our time and energy and return to the warmth of family and friends and, most importantly, Jesus. The ashes distributed on Ash Wednesday are signs of our conversion: our promise to transform the ash heaps of destruction into light of hopes and fires.

During Lent we do not sing or say 'alleluia' (which means 'praise the Lord.')

When we return to school, we will symbolically 'lock away' the Alleluia, which rests in a box on the altar to remind us of our journey through Lent and the anticipated return of this song of praise which awaits us at Easter. We will also be asking the children to complete Lenten challenges and your support with this is greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Parent Appointments on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Please remember that these appointments are **in person** and are held in the school hall. If you are yet to book in, please do so as soon as possible as this is an important opportunity to hear about your child's progress.

Wishing you a restful half term break,

Mrs Tong



## Dates for your diary!

**16<sup>th</sup> February – 20<sup>th</sup> February – Half-term**

**25<sup>th</sup> February – Y4&5 to Mass**

**26<sup>th</sup> February – Parent meetings @ 1:30-6:00**

**27<sup>th</sup> February – Bikeability for Y5**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> March – Scholastic book fair**

**5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day**

**12<sup>th</sup> March – Gremlin Dance Challenge**

**13<sup>th</sup> March – Inset Day**

**17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patricks Mass**

**26<sup>th</sup> March – Y3 + 4 Easter Play (2:30 + 6:00)**

**30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April – Half-term**

## Attendance Corner

Year Group	Attendance %	Days missed in the class
Year R	95.38%	123 days
Year 1	96.97%	83.5 days
Year 2	97.37%	77 days
Year 3	95.51%	131.5 days
Year 4	96.24%	121 days
Year 5	95.93%	123.5 days
Year 6	97.09%	87 days

### Attendance Ladder



# Safeguarding Corner

**Safer Internet Day 2026 takes place this week and the theme is ‘Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI’.**

Everyone’s talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it’s important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

This Safer Internet Day we are exploring the impact of AI on all of our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly.

The UK Safer Internet Centre have published some top tips for parents and carers:

- ✚ Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family’s online lives
- ✚ Understand where AI technology is being used and the impact it can have
  - ✚ Recognise what safe and responsible use of technology looks like
    - ✚ Stay informed with free resources
  - ✚ Know where to go for help if something goes wrong

[Here is a link](#) to further details on the top tips for parents, including some specific advice for parents of 3–7-year-olds.

Whilst the Catholic Church is actively engaging with the rapid development of AI, there are some ethical concerns and risks which link into some of the Catholic Social Teaching for us all to consider. Some examples of this are:

- The threat to worker and the potential to increase inequality.
- A belief that technology alone can solve all human problems.
- AI’s ability to generate ‘deepfakes’ and false information threatens social trust and democracy.
- The environmental impact as AI uses very high energy consumption so poses a risk to “our common home”.

*How are you modelling the use of AI to your child?*

*How are you ensuring that your child understands the impact of AI on them and others?*

## Staffing Changes

**Please be aware of the following staffing changes:**

Sadly, Mrs Ward, Miss Cheung and Miss Richardson will be leaving us soon.

Mrs Ward's last day is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February and Miss Cheung and Miss Richardson will leave shortly after half term. We thank them for their service and commitment to our community and to the children - they will be missed. We wish them every success with their new ventures.

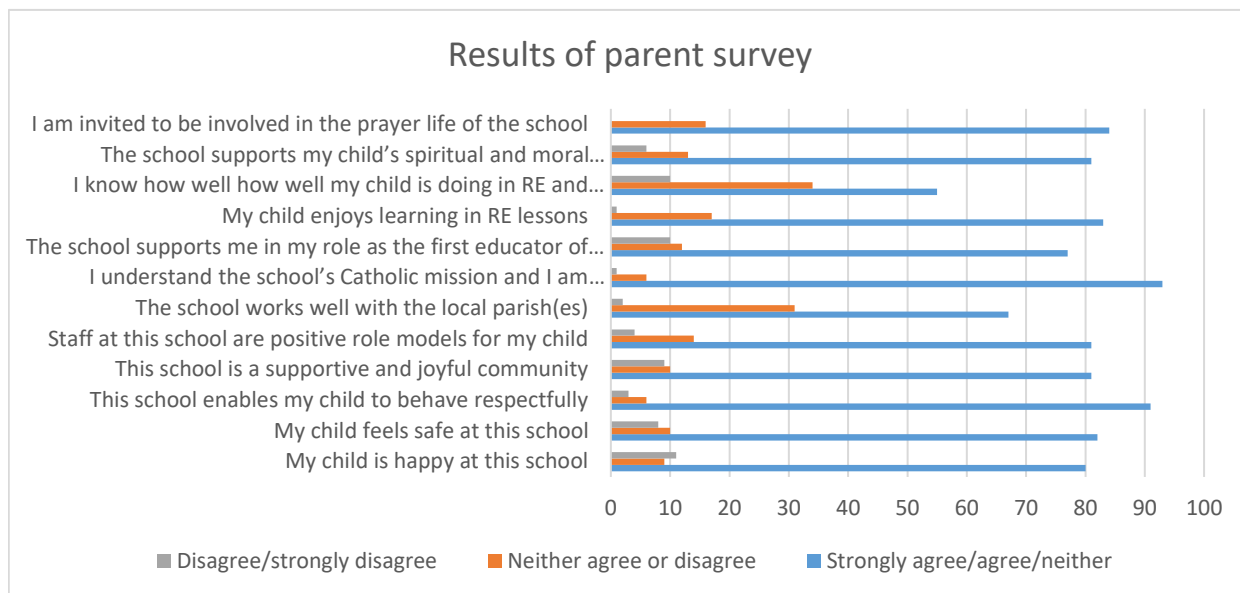
Congratulations to Mrs Cockerton (formerly Miss Evans) who works in Oak Class, Miss Nevil, who teaches in Year 3 and Mrs Tong, Headteacher, who are each expecting a baby during the summer term! Recruitment is underway and we will be in touch with those affected to share information about new staff over the coming weeks.

## Reminders

- Winter Uniform until after the Easter holidays
- Please use the Shamrocks email account to book breakfast and after school club - [shamrocks@st-patricks.hants.sch.uk](mailto:shamrocks@st-patricks.hants.sch.uk)
- If your child is not at the classroom door for 8.50am, you need to bring them through the main office.
- SMART Devices - For the safeguarding of all members of our school community, children are not permitted to wear smart technology devices into school. This includes items such as smart watches. Children are permitted to wear a basic digital or analogue watch, but this must not have any photographic or communicative functions and should not be valuable. If you are not sure whether a watch is suitable for school, please speak to the class teacher.

# Parent Survey

Thank you to all those who completed our recent parent survey. We received 89 responses and every class, Pandas to Year 6, were represented within the responses. Here are the results:



It was fantastic to read your many positive comments about the school and all that we do. Here are a selection of them:

- I am Catholic and super proud of the school.*
- Teachers and staff have been truly amazing.*
- The faith part of the school is very important to us.*
- You are the best!*

It is also useful to have received some constructive comments to help us improve. These comments largely fell into two categories, which also reflected the statistics of the survey.

Statement	Comments received	How we are addressing this
<b>The school works well with the local parish(es)</b>	<i>We really feel the local Catholic Church should be more involved with the school. We appreciate Mass is said at school and parents are invited which we very much appreciate but feel the church and the school are only linked up with this.</i>	We are aware that whilst our parish church is Our Lady Help of Christians, our families attend a mixture of churches, mainly across the two Farnborough parishes. We are always looking for ways to be aligned more closely with the parishes and work on shared initiatives. It is often about knowing the right people to contact! If your family is interested in helping us develop parish and school links and improving the communication, please contact the school office.
<b>I know how well how well my child is doing in RE and what they need to do to improve</b>	<i>It would be good to have a view of how my child is doing at RE so I can follow-up at home if required.</i>  <i>They should teach the kids how to read their Bible</i>	In the newsletter, you will now find a section about what your child will be learning in RE in the next unit(s). Your child's class teacher will update you on progress in RE at the forthcoming Parent Appointments.  For information, the children in EYFS and KS1 have passages from the Bible shared with them in age-appropriate language. Children from Year 3 upwards are taught how to locate Scripture in the Bibles and to read passages with increasing independence.

# Upcoming RE learning

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

	Key question	Key Scripture and ideas covered
Pandas		To know that Lent is a time when we get ready for Easter, with a particular focus on prayer and forgiveness. Healing of Blind man The Prodigal Son – importance of forgiveness to be ready for Easter Jonah and the Whale – God forgives us even when we don't follow him.
Year R	<i>How can we help others in Lent?</i>	Introduce the season of Lent and to know when it begins (Shrove Tuesday leading into Ash Wednesday) Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30) Jesus heals the Blind Man (Mark 10: 46-52) To know how to use their gifts to help others.
Year 1	<i>How can we use Lent to get to know God and Jesus better?</i>	To know that Lent is a particular time for prayer, focusing on the key messages from: Jesus welcomes the children (Mark 10: 13 – 16) Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4: 1 – 11) Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-0)
Year 2	<i>Why is Lent a time for repentance and forgiveness?</i>	To know the key themes of Lent To know that God will forgive us if we truly desire it, recapping known stories such as the Prodigal Son and the Lost Sheep. Focus on forgiving others through the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18: 23-35) Key prayers of forgiveness, such as lines from Our Father and the Penitential Rite at Mass.
Year 3	<i>Why is Lent a special time to show compassion?</i>	To understand that we are called to give alms during Lent and this comes from the examples Jesus gave us, such as the healing miracles. The Widow of Nain To know how to show compassion to others, using Matthew 9:35-38 (The workers are few). To learn the Act of Contrition
Year 4	<i>How can we use Lent to make more space in our lives for God?</i>	Jesus in the Wilderness to know how Jesus took time and made space in his life. Focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving in your own life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18 – Teaching on prayer, fasting and almsgiving</li> <li>• Luke 18:9-14 – Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector</li> <li>• Luke 21:1-4 – Widow's Offering</li> </ul>
Year 5	<i>Why is change a key theme for Lent?</i>	The Temptation of Christ (accounts from three Gospels) What is meant by "Repent and believe in the Gospel" Understanding how we can change and help others to change by focusing on St Paul's Letters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 13</li> <li>• Colossians 3: 12 – 15</li> <li>• Ephesians 4: 1 – 13</li> </ul>
Year 6	<i>How can we use Lent to change ourselves for the better?</i>	This unit focuses on almsgiving, with a focus on: Jesus' teaching on prayer, fasting and almsgiving – Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18 Tobit 12: 8-9 Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man The Beatitudes and how they still apply to modern life The Samaritan Woman at the Well

## Save your stamps for RNIB

Would you like to raise money for the Royal National Institute of Blind People?

Raising money for them is easy. All you need to do is collect used stamps that have been cut off a sent card/mail etc. and then send them off to the charity. They raise £20 for every kilogram of stamps they receive.

If you have any spare stamps floating about, please feel free to bring them into us, rather than chucking them away, and we will happily send them off to RNIB.

### Save your stamps for RNIB

Collect stamps for RNIB and make a difference to blind and partially sighted people.



Image of a wide collection of assorted stamps spread randomly on a table.

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### We raise £20 for every kilogramme of stamps we receive.

If you, your business or your organisation, receive cards and letters through the post, could you save the stamps to send to us?

Stamps are sold by weight and we'll turn them into much needed funds to help people living with sight loss.

Visit their website to learn more!  
<https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/do-your-own-fundraising/save-your-stamps-for-rnib/>

# Young Voices

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January the choir travelled to the O2 to join the Young Voices choir, the biggest children's choir in the world.

We were excited to be part of the whole experience, performing at the O2, having tea in our suites and then our parents arriving to watch the show in the evening.

Our highlights included joining in with Golden at the start of the concert and the Wicked Medley, as well as singing the Disco tunes and a medley of Pop songs. We had great fun!



As part of their Revelation learning, Y6 have been exploring the meaning of the Great Commission. They have discussed Jesus' command to 'go make disciples of all nations' and considered what it means for us today.

Here Monty, Ethan, Chandra and Joba share their thoughts on how we can all play a part in it through our words, faith and actions.

Learn from Jesus, Love like Jesus, Live like Jesus

The Great Commission is Jesus' order to his disciples to spread his word. We can live out the Great Commission in school, work and home. We can do this by showing love, respect and forgiveness in everything we do. This love and respect can be shown in different ways, such as, helping others such as new students in school, we can show respect to teachers and elders. We should stand up for others when they are being treated unfairly.

The Great commission shows that anybody can follow God.



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Learn from Jesus, Love like Jesus, Live like Jesus

Jesus calls us to follow the Great Commission and preach the word of God to others. We can do this by following the CST principles: courage, compassion, forgiveness and perseverance. We must prepare people for the second coming of Jesus, and be a good role model towards them. It is also important that we read the scripture and pray to God. We can fulfil the Great Commission by being a good friend towards everyone and protect the God's gift, the environment.



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Learn from Jesus, Love like Jesus, Live like Jesus

The Great Commission is Jesus' instruction to his followers to go and find more followers by sharing their love and kindness to others. ✓

How we could live out the Great Commission.

We can live out the Great Commission by showing others kindness in our daily actions. We could show this by welcoming someone who's new into your school, standing up for those who aren't being treated fairly and forgiving one another. Sharing news of God's love is also a way of showing how much he gave to us and by doing these things we could help to make the world a better place. ✓

Can you remember the Scripture reference?

Matthew 28:19

The Great Commission is to share God's love with one another. We can live out the Great Commission by showing God's love in school.

This could be welcoming new students, standing up for someone and being kind to people. When we help others and spread faith, we are sharing God's love and making a difference in the world.

# Bishop Philip Visit

When Bishop Philip visited our school, it was a special and memorable time for our whole community. He spent time with students and staff, sharing thoughtful words of encouragement and reflecting on the importance of kindness, respect and faith in everyday life.

During his visit, Bishop Philip also led a Holy Half Hour, which was a deeply moving and peaceful experience for everyone involved. The quiet time for prayer and reflection allowed students, staff and members of our community to pause from their busy routines and feel a sense of calm and closeness to God.

As part of the visit, Bishop Philip came around to our classrooms, where he took the time to ask us what we were doing. He listened with genuine interest as we spoke proudly about our learning. It showed us how much he cared about our education and our experiences, making his visit even more meaningful to us all.

Made by George, Jayden and Alfie





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**With grateful thanks**

Signed: *Gill Burgess*

Title: Relationship Manager

Date: December 2025

## Triangle Bookshop and Cafe

If you're looking for a local café, that also focuses on the Christian/Catholic faith, why not try the Triangle Bookshop and Café, located right here in Farnborough?!

It's a lovely little café and bookshop which is incredibly supportive of our local community and needs our custom to survive. It is open every day, except Sundays, and sells hot and cold drinks, food and snacks.

The bookshop sells items for both children and adults, focused on the Christian/Catholic faith as well as a wide selection of cards for various celebrations.

It is located in the Meads Shopping Centre, 64 Kingsmead, Farnborough GU14 7SL and this is a link to their website

<https://www.thetriangle.org.uk/>





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