



St Patrick's
Catholic Primary School

An outstanding Catholic School



Newsletter: 3rd November 2023

Dear Families,

Our new after-school clubs are now fully underway, with much enjoyment and a high level of participation across year groups. I would like to volunteer for the role of taste tester at baking club - a hard job, but someone has to do it! There are still a few places left in some of the clubs. Please contact the school office if your child would like to be involved.

Consett Fire Service did a wonderful job in school today re-iterating the importance of staying safe around fire and fireworks. As we approach bonfire weekend, if you plan to enjoy fireworks, we would advise you to attend a local organised firework display where you can have great fun, safe in the knowledge that all the right measures have been put in place for your family.

Have a safe weekend, everyone. We hope the Biblical rain stays away!

Mrs Gardner and Mrs Burgess



Reminders

After school club payments due

For anyone who signed up for after-school clubs for the autumn half term, the final registration details and payments should now be available on your child's Arbor account under 'Activities'. Please log on to register your child's place. If there is a payment associated with the club, this will be available once your child's registration is complete.

Remembrance Day

Next Friday, we will hold a 2-minute silence in school at 11am to remember those who have died in past wars and pay respect to our Armed Forces community, past and present.

Our Y5 and Y6 pupils will lead us all in a Remembrance Day liturgy at 2.30 p.m. in the hall. All are welcome.

Next week, to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Year 6 pupils will be selling poppies at break times. Children may bring in money to purchase items.

- Poppies (Suggested donation 50p)
- Zip Pulls (Suggested donation 50p)
- Reflectors (Suggested donation 50p)
- Silicon Wristbands (Suggested donation £1.00)
- Snap Bands (Suggested donation £1.50)

November Wellbeing Activities

I am loved.

I am thankful.

Acts of Kindness November Calendar

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

1
Share something you are grateful for with a friend or family member.

2
Help tidy your classroom or home.

3
Donate books or toys to a local charity.

4
Offer to help someone.

5
During a family meal, ask everyone to share the best part of their day.

6
Write a note to someone to show them that you care.

7
Write a thank-you note to someone who helped you.

8
Tell a joke to make someone laugh.

9
Introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before at school.

10
Help prepare a meal with your family.

11
Be kind and take time to reflect.

12
Draw a picture and give it to someone special.

13
Give someone a compliment to help them feel better about themselves.

14
Wish the first person that you see an amazing day.

15
Do something nice for someone who is special to you.

16
Help a teacher without being asked.

17
Find a positive quote and share it with someone.

18
Play a boardgame or do a puzzle with your family.

19
At the end of the day, write or draw one great thing that happened.

20
Set yourself a goal to achieve today.

21
Share your toys with a friend or sibling.

22
Recycle.

23
Make a card for someone special.

24
Encourage someone that you see is struggling.

25
Be a friend to someone in need at school.

26
Teach someone something you are good at.

27
Do a chore to help someone in your family.

28
Do something that you love to do.

29
Write down something you are grateful for.

30
Ask your teacher how their day is going.

Calm Down Jar Sensory Bottle

You will need:
A jar or bottle, Glitter, Glitter glue, Gel food colouring, Warm water

Method

1. Add the water to your jar until it is approximately a third of the way up.
2. Add the glitter glue into the warm water and whisk together, until combined.
3. Add a few droplets of the gel food colouring. (Keep in mind to use this sparingly as too much colouring will make the glitter harder to see.)
4. Lets get glittery! Add as much glitter as your heart desires. You can add chunky bits of glitter or fine glitter, or both!
5. Top up your jar with the rest of the warm water, keeping a small gap near the top.
6. Shake, shake, shake!

Remembrance Day



Poppy Day Biscuit

Ingredients

300g plain flour
200g butter
100g sugar
Optional splash of milk

Equipment

Mixing bowl
Wooden spoon
Baking tray

Decorating

Chocolate buttons
Icing sugar
Red food colouring
Water

Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C and grease a baking tray.
2. Place the flour, butter and sugar into a bowl and mix together. If it seems a little dry, add a splash of milk to loosen the mixture.
3. Form the dough into a ball and place on a lightly floured surface. Roll out the dough to your required thickness.
4. Use a circular cutter to press out the biscuits.
5. Place in the oven for 10-15 min until they start turning golden or brown around the edges.
6. Place on a cooling rack until completely cooled.
7. Meanwhile, mix red food colouring with your icing sugar and a little water. Mix until you get a thick icing to spread easily but not so it will run off the biscuit. Add more icing sugar if the mixture is too runny, or more water if it is too thick.
8. When the biscuits have cooled, use a teaspoon to carefully spread the icing on the biscuit. If possible, try and make a poppy shape.
9. Place a chocolate button in the centre of the poppy.
10. Let the icing set a little before eating. Enjoy.

Online safety

We will give regular updates throughout the year regarding the need for vigilance with online safety. Please alert us to any concerns you may have.

Please see the following guidance and advice from National Online Safety regarding the online gaming platform Roblox.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom; it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS
These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODERs. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

PUBLIC SERVERS
Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES
Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS
Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING
Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS
If your child has genuine friends who they play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING
If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS
At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with others safely in the digital world.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.thevargemag.com/2020/07/21/2133343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parcels-fortnite>

School Matters!



We will continue to demonstrate the highest expectations in terms of attendance and punctuality – working closely with parents, carers and other agencies where attendance is a concern. Our target for attendance is: 97+%

This week's attendance is: 90.28%

Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
100%	88.33%	88.42%	88.64%	90.56%	88.33%	91.67%



We love reading at St. Patrick's! Developing a love of reading and reading for pleasure are extremely important factors in children's educational success. When children read regularly, they develop greater general knowledge and vocabulary, their reading is more fluent and they have improved attention spans. Reading is key to unlocking the rest of the curriculum and is an indicator of future success in further education and employment.

We ask that your child reads at least 3 times per week at home and that this is recorded on Boom Reader. If you require any support, please contact the school office.

Head Teacher's Angel Wings Awards

The following children have received a head teacher's Angel Wings certificate this week:

Reception	Being Ready to Learn	Harlow	For always trying her hardest during phonics.
Year 1	Being Respectful	Harry	For always being respectful to his friends and adults in our class and around school.
Year 2	Being Ready to Learn	Raegan	For trying her best in all subjects and carefully completing her work.
Year 3	Being Ready to Learn	James	For listening carefully and trying hard to complete tasks. James has shown a great attitude to learning this week.
Year 4	Being Respectful	Zara	For always saying 'please' and 'thank you' to adults and her peers.
Year 5	Being Respectful	Ruby	For always listening in class and trying her very best.
Year 6	Being Ready to Learn	Taylor	For joining in lessons and showing a good attitude to learning



Class Teacher Special Mention Awards

The following children have received a Class Teacher Special Mention certificate this week:

Reception	Isabelle	For being a brilliant friend to all Reception children.
Year 1	Jay	For doing really well with work in phonics.
Year 2	Ailish	For her excellent work in maths (addition and subtraction using tens and ones).
Year 3	Darci	For being a lovely friend and a caring member of our class.
Year 4	Ella	For making steady progress in her times tables facts.
Year 5	Freddie	For always contributing to class discussions and for asking questions to consolidate his learning.
Year 6	Max	For taking responsibility for his own learning.



Parent/Carer Information

Fr Shaun's Induction Mass

Fr Shaun's Induction Mass will take place this evening **Friday 3rd November at 7pm at St Joseph's**. There will be a gathering in St Joseph's school afterwards with light refreshments. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

DURHAM DADS & MALE CARER CONFERENCE

This is an event you won't want to miss!

An inspiring day listening to Durham dads/male carers and Key Note speakers talking about their experiences and how together we can be more father inclusive.

The event is for all partners supporting Durham's children, young people and families.

Friday 17 November 2023

09.00 – 15.30

Central Durham Location

Lunch and refreshments provided.

Please register your interest at strongerfamilies@durham.gov.uk and more information on the format of the day and how to book will follow.

Summary of upcoming events

Friday 10 th	Remembrance Day silence 11am
Friday 10 th	Remembrance Day Liturgy led by Y5/Y6 2.30pm in school. All are welcome.
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Make A Noise About Bullying
Wednesday 15 th	Rec-Y6 Parents' Evening 1pm- 6pm in school
Thursday 16 th	Open the Book Assembly 2.30pm in school. Parents/Carers Welcome.
Friday 17 th	Children in Need (Non-uniform)
Monday 20 th	Y6 SATs Parents' Meeting 3.20pm in school
Wednesday 22 nd	Reception – Heights, Weights and Vision Y6 – Heights and Weights
Monday 27 th	Y1 Phonics Parents' Meeting 4pm in school

[Please click here to view our Diary of Events for
the rest of the Academic year](#)