



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess Head of School: Mrs L Gardner

We follow in Christ's footsteps

Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas 2023

As we have now entered the second half of the autumn term, we are turning our attention towards thinking about Christmas in school and all the lovely events that come with it! We are mindful there is an ongoing cost of living crisis and we are increasingly mindful about keeping costs down wherever possible. However, as always, if you have any concerns around making payments for any events that do have a costing, please contact the school office where you will be able to speak in confidence to one of our staff and we can discuss arrangements for this. Please add the dates below to your calendar and we look forward to welcoming you all into school over the Christmas period.

Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime

The whole school will visit the Empire Theatre, Consett on **Tuesday 5th December** to watch the pantomime performance of Jack and the Beanstalk.

We ask for a contribution of **£13.45** towards entrance and travel costs. Payment can be made in instalments on your child's Arbor account under the 'Trips' section. Consent for your child to attend the trip will also need to be given with the initial payment.

Pupils are to come to school dressed in full school uniform on the day. The trip will take place within the normal school day and normal lunch time arrangements will apply. Children can bring a small snack e.g. crisps or a chocolate bar and a non-fizzy drink in a small bag. Please ensure there are no nuts in the snack product as we are a nut free school.

School Christmas Lunch

Our delicious Christmas lunch will be served on **Wednesday 20th December**. There will be traditional roast turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast and creamed potatoes, seasonal vegetables and gravy, followed by a selection of Christmas desserts. There is also a vegetarian option available.

If your child currently has packed lunches but would like a Christmas lunch on the day, please complete the form below. **Please note, you do not need to complete this form if your child is already on school meals.**

Christmas Lunch Form

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To allow for the kitchen staff to order provisions for the day, **we need to know final numbers by Friday 24th November**. If you require a list of food allergens, please contact the school office.

Please note that Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, along with any KS2 FSM eligible children will be eligible for a free Christmas lunch under the current Government Universal Free School Meal Scheme and payment will not be required. If your child is not eligible for a free school meal a charge of £2.65 will be added to your child's Arbor account under the 'meals' section.

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will take place on **Thursday 21st December**. Children can dress in party clothes for the full day, but please be mindful that they will still be outdoors over playtimes and the lunchtime period so will need sensible footwear and warm clothing. It is wonderful to be able to organise so many activities over this exciting time, however, we do appreciate Christmas can be very demanding financially. With this in mind, there will be no cost to parents this year for Christmas parties, as school will cover the cost of these.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on **Friday 1st December 1pm-4pm in school**. This is shaping up to be a very exciting event for our whole school community! More detailed information will follow.

Whole School Christmas Movie Drive-in

Our first Christmas Movie Drive-in will take place on **Wednesday 6th December 4pm-5.30p.m.** Pupils can return to school in their pyjamas and dressing gowns with a 'drive-in' vehicle of their choice. This could be a car made from cardboard boxes or a sledge decorated with tinsel. The children will watch a Christmas movie in the hall with everyone else while they get to enjoy a hot chocolate and snack. The price of this is £3. All money raised will go towards supporting the Y6 residential next year. Please see this week's newsletter for examples and ideas for the drive-in.

Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day/Non-Uniform

We are taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 8th December**. Children may come to school in non-uniform wearing their most festive jumper to mark the occasion. Last year, we asked families to send in any Christmas jumpers that they no longer needed on the lead up to this event. This year we would like to do the same, with our 'Eco-Warriors' pupils running a Christmas jumper stall at the school fayre in time for Christmas Jumper Day. Please send any pre-loved Christmas jumpers to school with your child.

As a school we are supporting children who are living through the worst imaginable times, including poverty, crisis and hunger. Please help us to support better starts for children across the globe by donating £2 through our fundraising page: [St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton - Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day Fundraiser 2023](#)

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Staff Gifts & Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

If you were considering sending gifts for staff, we ask that, instead, you consider making a small contribution (suggested donation of £2) that we will send to Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal. Money will go directly to those families who need it during Christmas time. We hope that together we can make a difference to those families who are struggling the most. If you would like to do this, please send it as cash with your child in to school.

Christmas cards

Last year, our pupils raised the point that most Christmas cards cannot be recycled. They were concerned over how many contributed to landfill. Therefore, our 'Eco-Warriors' group met together and made the decision that every child in school would receive one card made by individual pupils on behalf of all our friends at St. Patrick's. Please do not send any additional Christmas cards into school. Thank you for supporting the children in their decision on this.

Christmas Nativity, Performances, Liturgies and Mass

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	
Y5/Y6 Advent Liturgy	Monday 4 th December 2.30pm in school	Y5/Y6 Parents/Carers Welcome
Y3/Y4 Advent Liturgy	Monday 11 th December 2.30pm in school	Y3/Y4 Parents/Carers Welcome
Rec/Y1/Y2 Nativity	Tuesday 12 th December 9.30am in church	All Parents/Carers Welcome
Rec/Y1/Y2 Nativity	Wednesday 13 th December 1.30pm in church	All Parents/Carers Welcome
Y3/Y4 Christmas Performance	Thursday 14 th December 9.15 a.m.in school	Y3/Y4 Parents/Carers Welcome
Y5/Y6 Christmas Performance	Friday 15 th December 1.15 p.m. in school	Y5/Y6 Parents/Carers Welcome
Y1/Y2 Advent Liturgy	Monday 18 th December 2.30pm in school	Y1/Y2 Parents/Carers Welcome
Whole School Christmas Mass	Friday 22 nd December 1.30pm in church	All Parents/Carers Welcome

Kind regards,

Mrs Burgess & Mrs Gardner

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