



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

North Road, Flint Hill, Dipton, Stanley, Co. Durham, DH9 9BB. Tel: 01207570316
E-mail: stpd@stpd.bwcet.com Website: <https://stpatricksdipton.bwcet.com/>
Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess
We follow in Christ's footsteps

Friday 25th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carer

Christmas 2024

As we have now come to the end of our first half term, we are turning our attention towards Christmas, and all the lovely events that come with it. Please add the dates below to your calendar as we look forward to welcoming you all into school over the Christmas period.

We are mindful that Christmas is a costly time and look to keep costs down wherever possible.

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.

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

It was lovely to see Mr Thompson, and Chloe, one of our former pupils, return to school after a gap of a few years, to deliver a presentation on the Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal.

Rather than asking individuals to bring in shoeboxes, we are asking our pupils to work as a team. By combining our efforts across classes, we aim to produce 2 to 3 boxes per class. Staff are also getting involved with donations.

This week, we have allocated suggested items to each pupil. If you feel able, we ask that you send that item in with your child by **Tuesday 5th November**. Of course, if you wish to send in additional items from the list, they would be very gratefully received. Any surplus will be used to compile extra shoeboxes or will be donated to a local foodbank. If you have any spare empty shoeboxes, please send them into school.

Cinderella Pantomime

The whole school will visit the Empire Theatre, Consett on **Wednesday 4th December** to watch the pantomime performance, Cinderella.

We ask for a contribution of **£13.30** 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 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. a packet of sweets 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.**

As we will arrive back to school at around 1pm on the day, our children on school meals will have a cold buffet for their lunch rather than a hot meal.

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St Patrick's Christmas Fair

St Patrick's Church Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 23rd November 12.30pm-3.30pm**. With over 15 craft stalls, tombolas, bake & preserves sale, raffle, pre-loved children's clothes rail and a children's area with games, it is set to be a brilliant day. Santa will also visit the children between 1pm-2pm. Money raised on the day will help raise funds for our parishes.

If you have any pre-loved baby or children's clothes that you would like to donate, please drop them into school **before Friday 15th November** and we will pass them on to the organisers. Chocolate donations for the tombola will also be gratefully received.

There will be a small choir performing on the day and the children of St Patrick's have been invited to join. If your child would like to take part, please contact the school office for further information.

Y5/Y6 Carol Singing at Dipton Manor Care Home

On Tuesday 3rd December, our Y5 and Y6 pupils will be joining the residents at Dipton Manor Care Home for carols. Our children will be walking to and from the care home in what is a very special occasion for all involved.

Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day/Non-Uniform

We are taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on **Thursday 12th 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 need in the lead-up to this event. Please send any pre-loved, Christmas jumpers to school with your child by **Friday 15th November**. Please ensure these have been washed so they are available for 'sale' for a small contribution by our eco warriors. Their stall will be available in school from 2.50pm - 3.10pm from Monday 18th November to Wednesday 20th November. Any spares will be sold at St Patrick's Christmas Fair on Saturday 23rd November.

By taking part in this Christmas Jumper Day, we are supporting children who are living through very challenging conditions. 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 2024](#)

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will take place on **Wednesday 18th 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. The cost for the party will be **£2.00** (as we intend to supply all our pupils with a party treat to take home). Children should bring in their cash donation on the day, please.

All children on school meals will receive a buffet-style lunch on the day. This will include chicken nuggets, Quorn nuggets, pizza, sausage roll and a selection of desserts. Please note, the usual £2.85 fee will still apply if you normally pay for school meals.

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If your child currently has packed lunches but would like a buffet style lunch on the day, please complete the form below.

[Christmas Party Day Buffet Lunch Form](#)

To allow for the kitchen staff to order provisions for the day, **we need to know final numbers by 9am Friday 22nd November. Lunch orders will be closed after this time.**

There will be no charge for pupils in Rec, Y1, Y2 and any children from KS2 who are eligible for means tested FSM's. Please do not complete the form if your child is already on school meals.

School Christmas Lunch

Our delicious Christmas lunch will be served on **Thursday 19th 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. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper on the day instead of a school cardigan/jumper.

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](#)

To allow for the kitchen staff to order provisions for the day, **we need to know final numbers by 9am Friday 22nd 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 **£2.85** will be added to your child's Arbor account under the 'meals' section.

Christmas Nativity, Liturgies and Mass

<u>Event</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	
Christmas Nativity	Reception, Y1 & Y2	Tuesday 10 th December 1.30pm in church	All Welcome
Christmas Nativity	Reception, Y1 & Y2	Wednesday 11 th December 9.30am in church	All Welcome
Advent Mass	Whole School	Friday 13 th December 9.30am in church	All Welcome
Liturgical Dance	Y3 & Y4	Monday 16 th December 2.15pm in school	Y3/Y4 Parents/Carers Welcome
Carol Service	Y5 & Y6	Tuesday 17 th December 2.15pm in school	Y5/Y6 Parents/Carers Welcome

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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

Previously, 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 have previously 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.

We have covered a great deal of information here. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any queries.

Thank you, as always, for the wonderful support you show our school.

Kind regards
Mrs Burgess
Headteacher

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