



Newsletter: 25th October 2024

Dear Families

Thank you, for all your support this half term. I know I keep saying this, but it has been an incredibly busy start to our new school year.

Our pupils have, as ever, been a delight. They have settled beautifully with their new teachers and are fully engaged in their learning. Staff and pupils have all been working incredibly hard. You are going to be delighted with the progress and standards of work you see when you join us for the parents'/carers' open evenings in November and December.

You have a long letter to read, which we have issued today, listing the wonderful array of Christmas activities we will be celebrating next half term.

[Christmas Letter](#)

In sharing this information now, we hope to give you plenty of notice, in what we appreciate is an expensive time of the year.

[New Reception Starters September 2025.](#)

Please continue to spread the word about our fantastic school and all the things we offer at St Patrick's. We want to encourage as many parents/carers as possible to visit our school with a view to joining our community in September 2025, for our new Reception intake, or earlier, as we have some spaces in some of our year groups. We encourage families to join us who are Catholics, who follow other faiths or who are not aligned to a particular faith. Our ethos, here at St Patrick's, ensures we are welcoming and inclusive.

To all our existing families, remember we have extended our breakfast club opening hours to 7.40am - 8.45am (every morning) and we encourage as many families as possible to make use of our after-school wraparound provision, which is available from the end of the school day until 5.30pm (Mon - Thurs) and 5.15pm on Friday.

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces>

[Staffing Update](#)

Mrs Clarke will be leaving us on November 15th to take up a new position in a health centre nearer to where she lives. We will all be very sad to see Mrs Clarke go. She has been an absolute joy to work with over the last six years. Whatever issues or questions arise, Mrs Clarke deals with these with patience and positivity. She is known in school for her beaming smile and laughter as well as her fantastic work ethic. Mrs Clarke, we hope to give you a lovely send-off but, for now, we want to thank you for all you have done for the pupils, staff and families connected to St Patrick's. You will be greatly missed!

We hope you all have a lovely half-term break and that you have a chance to rest and recharge.

Thank you, again, for your on-going support.

Kind regards
Mrs Burgess

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.

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children: it's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
16+ 18+
Age varies by platform

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up – meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO

A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 80 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being stored: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines – but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRNACY FIRST

Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments – although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams – and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert

Rhodi Smith is Head of Digital Learning at Thomas's Kensington, London. Recognised in the EdTech 50 UK Awards Yearbook 2022 for his efforts in the digital transformation at Cubitt Town Primary School and Tower Hamlets, he is also a Google for Education certified trainer and guest lecturer at University College London on the integration of technology across the curriculum.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.tvl.org.uk/media/233/3nc2/distribution-of-captures-of-live-streamed-child-sexual-abuse-final.pdf>



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October Wellbeing Activities

I am loved.

I am thankful.

Acts of Kindness October Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 Write down something you are grateful for.	3 Donate books or toys to a local charity.	4 BOO! During a family meal, ask everyone to share the best part of their day.	5 Offer to help someone.	6 Give someone a compliment to help them feel better about themselves.	7 Play a board game with your family.	1 Share a favourite memory with a friend or family member.
9 Write a thank-you note to someone who helped you.	10 Encourage someone that you see is struggling.	11 Set yourself a goal to achieve today.	12 Do a chore to help someone in your family.	13 Write a note to someone to show them that you care.	14 Wish the first person that you see an amazing day.	8 Tell a joke to make someone laugh.
16 Share your toys with a friend or sibling.	17 Find a positive quote and share it with someone.	18 Introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before at school.	19 Help tidy your classroom or home.	20 Be kind to yourself and do something special for you.	21 Recycle.	15 Make a card for someone special.
23 Do something nice for someone who is special to you.	24 Help prepare a meal with your family.	25 Help a teacher without being asked.	26 Teach someone something you are good at.	27 SPOOKY Draw a picture and give it to someone special.	28 Do something that you love to do.	22 Do a puzzle with your family.
30 Ask your teacher how their day is going.	31 Be a friend to someone in need at school.					29 At the end of the day, write or draw one great thing that happened.

Calming STRATEGIES

take a deep breath

count to ten

draw or doodle

read a book

hug a cuddly toy

listen to calm music

drink some water

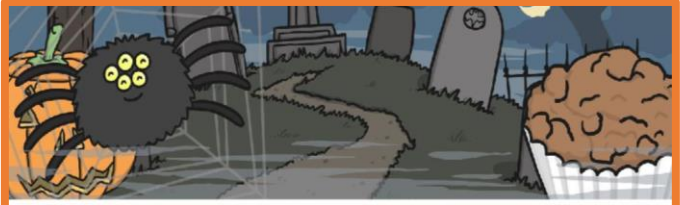
play with playdough

build a tower with blocks

make a yoga pose

blow bubbles

sing a song



Spider Chocolate Crispy Cake

Ingredients

100g chocolate – dark or milk.

60g butter

3 tbsp golden syrup

90g crispy rice cereal

Small marshmallows for eyes

Lace sweets for legs and mouth

Black icing (from a tube if possible)

Equipment

Mixing bowl

Wooden spoon

Cake cases

Microwave

Spoon

Method

1. Melt the chocolate slowly in the microwave, 10 seconds at a time, stirring each time.
2. Add the butter, making sure it melts.
3. Add the syrup and then the crispy rice cereal, mix well.
4. Make into balls and put into cake cases.
5. Using a little black icing, attach 8 legs and marshmallow eyes.



Head Teacher's Awards

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

Reception	Being Ready to Learn	Charlie	For being able to retell the story of Rosie's Walk.
Year 1	Being Respectful	Robin	For showing lovely manners to all staff in school.
Year 2	Being Respectful	Jay Junior	For showing lovely manners and always listening when others are talking.
Year 3	Being Respectful	Emiryn	For always saying please and thank you to both adults and her peers.
Year 4	Being Ready to Learn	Phoebe	For always approaching everything she does with enthusiasm and a smile on her face.
Year 5	Being Ready to Learn	Mary-Jane	For becoming more confident during maths lessons.
Year 6	Being Ready to Learn	Hannah	For always using beautiful manners.

Class Teacher Special Mention Awards

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

Reception	Faith	For persevering with art activities resulting in beautiful work.
Year 1	Isabelle	For her hard work with her tricky words this week.
Year 2	Charlie	For lovely writing about Baptism.
Year 3	George P	For always contributing to whole class and group discussion.
Year 4	Arya	For being a thoughtful, kind member of the class.
Year 5	Zara	For always being a sensible and mature member of the class.
Year 6	Lyra	For a fantastic rhyming story.



Summary of upcoming events

School re-opens Monday 4th November

Monday 4 th	Consett Fire & Rescue Fire Safety Talk
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th	Shoe Box Appeal - Boxes to be complete – aiming for 3 boxes per class
Wednesday 6 th	Y3 Hancock Museum Trip
Friday 8 th	Family Breakfast 7.40am-8.40am – Parents/carers are encouraged to join children for breakfast. Normal costs apply for pupils. Adult £3 (please bring correct change on the day)
Monday 11 th	Remembrance Liturgy 9am led by Y6. All welcome.
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Choose Respect
Friday 15 th	Road Safety Assembly

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

Parent/Carer Information



North East-Central, School Aged
Immunisation Service

Has your child missed their flu vaccine?

It is not too late to protect them!

Our community clinics are:

- **28 October 2024 – Chester le Street Family HUB – 9am to 4pm**
- **29 October 2024- Bishop Auckland family Hub – 9am to 4pm**
- **1 November 2024 – Brandon Family Hub – 9 am to 4pm**

**To book onto a clinic please call
0333 3583 397, option 3, option 2**

Monday – Friday 9AM – 5PM

Service provided by:

