



Newsletter 10th October 2025

Dear Families,

Outdoor Prayer Space

As we mentioned in an earlier edition of our newsletter, Mrs Asumadu-Aboagye and the Mission Team have created a simple, yet beautiful, prayer area near our main reception. This is a busy walkway and our pupils pass this spot many times a day. From time to time, we hope they take the opportunity to pause, take a breath and say their own prayer or perhaps just enjoy a moment of calm.

We all have different reasons to pray and we hope this reflective space gives our pupils another opportunity to connect with God.

This area is not just for our pupils, however, if you feel you want to stop and spend a moment in this space, you are very welcome.



Carry Faith Home – Share the Rosary with Your Family!

As October is the month of the Rosary, we plan to send home a Rosay Prayer Bag with each pupil from next week. If you feel able, please say this together.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Burgess

General news

The Importance of Reading

At St Patrick's, we believe that reading is more than just a skill—it's a doorway to knowledge, imagination, empathy and lifelong learning. While we nurture a love of reading in school, the magic truly comes alive when families read together at home.

Why Reading at Home Makes a Difference

1. Builds Stronger Bonds

Sharing a book creates special moments between children and their parents or carers. It's a time to slow down, connect and enjoy each other's company—away from screens and distractions.

2. Supports Academic Success

Research shows that children who read at home perform better in school. It strengthens comprehension, concentration and critical thinking—skills that benefit every subject.

3. Boosts Language and Vocabulary

Children who are read to regularly are exposed to a wider range of words and sentence structures. This helps them become more confident speakers, writers, and thinkers.

4. Sparks Curiosity and Imagination

Books open new worlds. Whether it's a story about a faraway land or a tale of everyday life, reading fuels curiosity and encourages children to ask questions and dream big.

5. Encourages a Lifelong Love of Reading

When reading is part of daily life, children are more likely to see it as a joy rather than a chore. This positive attitude can last a lifetime.

Every week, children take part in a variety of reading activities within school. It is, however, essential that children also read regularly at home. It is expected that all children read to an adult at home at least three times per week and that this is recorded on Boom Reader so that we can keep a record to ensure that children are reading regularly at home. Reading at least three times weekly will help children keep up with year group expectations.

We are keen to support all parents and carers to help their children to achieve their potential. If you would like any help with ways to support your child with reading, please get in touch.

General news

Safety updates

To help ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children before the school day begins, we kindly ask parents and carers to follow these important guidelines:

- Pupils should wait in the school yard before the bell rings and walk through the yard to the main entrance.
- Please avoid using the main roundabout walkway up to the church when arriving on site. Instead, use the pathway adjacent to the school yard.
- Children should not wait or play near the entrance or ramp and steps to the church before the bell rings.
- Keep children under close supervision before school starts and at the end of the school day to ensure their safety.
- Whilst yard equipment is available for children to enjoy during playtimes and lunchtimes under staff supervision, it is not to be used before or after school, including while waiting for siblings. This applies to play equipment in both the main yard and EYFS yard.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe and calm start to the school day for everyone.

Lost Property

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name. Lost property is becoming increasingly difficult to manage, and unfortunately, staff do not have the capacity to regularly sort through unlabelled items.

Labelling uniform helps us return belongings quickly and reduces the amount of lost property we accumulate. Even a simple name tag or permanent marker on the label can make a big difference.

We appreciate lost items of clothing must be very frustrating for you too (not to mention expensive) so labelling clothing will help both home and school.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Arbor

Please log in to your Arbor account and check the 'Notices' section to complete any pending consents. It is essential that we hold this information on record. If consents are not completed by Monday, Mrs Thornton will be in touch to follow up.

We also kindly ask that you take this opportunity to review and update your child's information, including emergency contacts, dietary requirements and any medical conditions.

Parish Newsletter

Parish Newsletter Please click [here](#) to view this week's parish newsletter for St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's parishes. Here, you will find news about upcoming parish events and news.

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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising: this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DfE, Brandon O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

I am
loved.

October Wellbeing Activities

I am
thankful.

Acts of Kindness October Calendar

Monday

2 Write down something you are grateful for.

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

16 Share your toys with a friend or sibling.

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

30 Ask your teacher how their day is going.

Tuesday

3 Donate books or toys to a local charity.

10 Encourage someone that you see is struggling.

17 Find a positive quote and share it with someone.

24 Help prepare a meal with your family.

31 Be a friend to someone in need at school.

Wednesday

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

11 Set yourself a goal to achieve today.

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

25 Help a teacher without being asked.

Thursday

5 Offer to help someone.

12 Do a chore to help someone in your family.

19 Help tidy your classroom or home.

26 Teach someone something you are good at.

Friday

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

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

20 Be kind to yourself and do something special for you.

27 Draw a picture and give it to someone special.

Saturday

7 Play a board game with your family.

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

21 Recycle.

28 Do something that you love to do.

Sunday

1 Share a favourite memory with a friend or family member.

8 Tell a joke to make someone laugh.

15 Make a card for someone special.

22 Do a puzzle with your family.

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

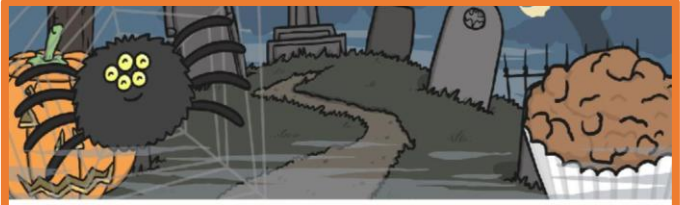
play with
playdough

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	Joshua	For his fantastic contributions during our work' on ' Five Minutes Peace story.
Year 1	Being Ready to Learn	Lilah	Being ready to learn on the carpet every lesson.
Year 2	Being Ready to Learn	Harlow	For always listening and showing an interest in all our learning.
Year 3	Being Ready to Learn	Charlie	For confidently reciting the poem, From the Railway Carriage.
Year 4	Being Ready to Learn	Darcey	For joining in with lessons and producing beautiful, thoughtful pieces of work.
Year 5	Being Ready to Learn	Evie	For successfully working on some tricky calculations this week.
Year 6	Being Ready to Learn	Phoebe	For contributing more to lessons, answering questions and sharing ideas.

Class Teacher Special Mention Awards

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

Reception	Charlotte	For always approaching activities with beautiful smile.
Year 1	Joey	For his super work in Math this week when writing number sentences.
Year 2	Everley	For being such a kind, helpful and friendly member of our class.
Year 3	Leo	For trying hard in Reading Plus lessons.
Year 4	Ailish	For trying her best in all of her work this week, joining in and working independently.
Year 5	Millie	For working very hard on her spellings.
Year 6	Mary-Jane	For super work this week on long division.



Summary of upcoming events

Monday 13 th	Reception Parents' Phonics Support Session 3.30pm
Monday 13 th	Y5 Emmaus Village Residential Parent Information Session with Mrs Oswald 2.50pm
Thursday 16 th	Whole School Autism Assembly with Chloe Dickinson (pupils only)
Thursday 16 th	Autism Workshop with Chloe Dickinson (class based)
Thursday 16 th	Reception Parents' Baseline feedback appointments pm
Friday 17 th	SEN drop-in session with Miss Clish SENDCo 2.30pm-3.15pm
Tuesday 21 st	Y5 Dipton Manor Care Home Visit pm
Tuesday 21 st	Reception Parents' Baseline feedback appointments pm
Thursday 23 rd	Reception Parents' Baseline feedback appointments pm
Thursday 23 rd	Open the Book Assembly 2.30pm. All welcome.
Friday 24 th	Autumn disco – £2 donation in aid of Fr David Smith's charity Muhoroni Community Project, Kenya Pupils can wear non-uniform EYFS/KS1: 1pm – 2pm KS2: 2pm – 3pm

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