



# Newsletter: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Families,

## **Learning is Fun at St Patrick's**

This week at St Patrick's, something truly special happened—our incredible Year 6 pupils stepped into the shoes of their teachers and took charge of learning across the school!

Working in small teams, our oldest pupils planned and delivered engaging maths lessons to younger classes, displaying not only their strong subject knowledge but also their maturity, responsibility and leadership.

It was a joy to see them inspire others while building their own confidence as role models.

What made this experience so uniquely St Patrick's was the sense of community, care and encouragement shown throughout. Our Year 6 "teachers" supported, guided and celebrated every child they worked with—truly living out our mission of following in Christ's footsteps through service and example.

Areas covered across the school:

*EYFS: Counting and ordering numbers*

*Year One: Recognising coins*

*Year 2: Crossing tens when adding*

*Year 3: Telling the time to the minute*

*Year 4: Shape revision*

*Year 5: Adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators*

The pride on both sides of the classroom was wonderful to see—our younger pupils loved learning with their Year Six teacher who rose to the challenge brilliantly. Well done!

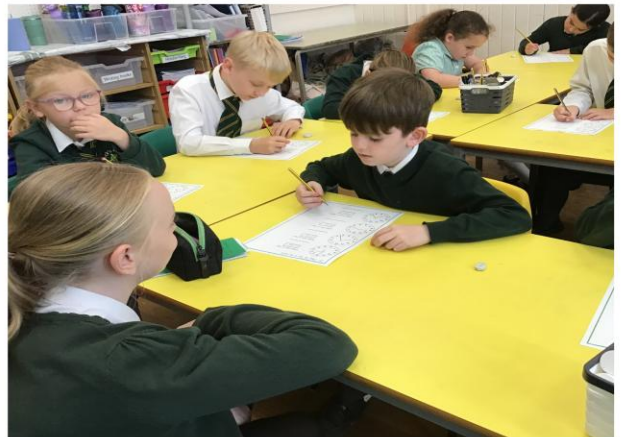
We hope you have a lovely weekend!



From All at St Patrick's

# General News

## Year Six teachers at work!



# General News

## End of Year Disco

The Friends of St Patrick's (FOSP) are delighted to be holding an end-of-year disco in the school hall on **Sunday 28th June from 1:00pm–3:00pm**.

The children will be coming home today with an attendance slip for the event. Please complete this and return it to school next week in a named envelope, enclosing the slip along with the correct payment for tickets.

Tickets will be sent home with children on Wednesday 24th June. Please note that spaces are limited and tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

This promises to be a fantastic afternoon of fun, games, music and dancing with a DJ and refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please see poster below from the Friends of St. Patrick's for more information.



The poster features a vertical decorative strip on the left with silhouettes of dancers and colorful flowers. The main text is in a playful, bubbly font. A globe is on the right, and the Friends of St. Patrick's logo is at the bottom right.

# END OF YEAR DISCO

Tickets £1.50 per child and is open to siblings.  
One free Adult per family (1 additional adult ticket can be purchased at £1)

Unlimited juice will be included with  
Other refreshments available to purchase

 St Patrick's School Hall  
 June 28th 1:00Pm - 3:00pm

Party Games DJ Fun

Everyone attending must have a ticket (including adults) children must be accompanied by an adult.

Limited tickets available will be on a first served basis! Tickets must be purchased no later than Tuesday 23rd



# General News

## Phonics Screening Check at St Patrick's

This week, all of our pupils in Year 1 have completed the Phonics Screening Check, an important milestone in their early reading journey.

The Phonics Screening Check is a short, child-friendly assessment designed to see how well children can decode words using phonics—the method we use to teach children how letters and sounds work together.

During the check, pupils are asked to read a selection of real and “nonsense” (alien) words to show that they can apply their phonics knowledge confidently and independently.

### **Why is it so important?**

At St Patrick's, we know that reading is the key to unlocking the whole curriculum. The Phonics Screening Check plays a vital role in ensuring that every child:

- Develops strong early reading skills;
- Can blend sounds to read unfamiliar words;
- Builds confidence and fluency as a reader;
- Is well-prepared to access learning across all subjects.

Strong phonics knowledge underpins everything—from understanding stories to solving problems in maths and exploring the wider world.

Most importantly, the check helps us as a school to:

- Identify any pupils who may need additional support;
- Provide timely intervention to ensure no child is left behind;
- Continue to nurture a lifelong love of reading.

Huge thank you, to Miss Westlake, Miss Nixon and all other staff who have given their time and energy, above and beyond, to support pupils and lead interventions. We are incredibly proud of how well our pupils approached the check this week—with positivity, resilience and growing confidence. They truly embodied the St Patrick's spirit, giving their very best and supporting one another along the way.

Well done to all of our young readers—you are building skills that will last a lifetime.

We extend our thanks to families for working with, in some cases, drilling those phonics sounds at home! Your perseverance is much appreciated.

We ask that this robust approach continues and, even though the statutory phonics checks are now complete, please continue to read at least three times a week with your child and record on our Boom Reader app as well as practise any sounds sent home from school.

## 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.

# General News

## **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check at St Patrick's**

This week, our Year 4 pupils have shown great determination and focus as they completed the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)—an important part of their mathematical journey.

The MTC is a short, online assessment designed to check how fluently children can recall their times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ . With 25 quick-fire questions, it encourages pupils to develop accuracy and speed—key skills that support their wider learning in maths.

### **Why the MTC matters**

At St Patrick's, we place a strong emphasis on building solid mathematical foundations. Knowing multiplication facts confidently helps children to:

- Tackle more complex areas such as division, fractions and problem-solving;
- Work with greater speed and accuracy in lessons;
- Build confidence in their mathematical ability;
- Fluent recall of times tables is essential not only for success in upper Key Stage 2 but also as pupils move on to secondary education.

### **A St Patrick's approach**

What made this week special was the resilience and positivity shown by our pupils. Our Year 4 children approached the check with maturity and determination, demonstrating the hard work they have put in throughout the year.

Well done, Year 4 - you have risen to the challenge brilliantly. We are extremely proud of your efforts and you have shown that with practice, perseverance and high expectations, every child can succeed.

Thank you, Mrs Moore: you have been meticulous in your preparation and determination to ensure every child knows their tables. Thank you, also, to families. I am sure you have spent many a night chanting tables too! Keep up the good work. This effort will stand your child in good stead as they move into Year Five.

### **Times Tables Rockstars**

All children from Year Two upwards have access to Times Tables Rockstars. Accessing this app is a fun and exciting way to develop speed and accuracy with tables and we would encourage all pupils to make full use of this tool.

# 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.

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.
- 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.
- 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS**

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.
- 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.
- 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.
- 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.
- 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

# June Wellbeing Activities

## Positive Affirmations June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3 I am helpful.	4 I can do hard things.	5 I can make a difference.	6 I am free to be myself.	7 I am confident.	1 I am unique.	2 I am curious.
10 I am kind.	11 I ask for help.	12 I like challenges.	13 I am a good friend.	14 I believe in myself and my abilities.	8 I always try my best.	9 I am thankful.
17 I learn from my challenges.	18 I am a good listener.	19 It is ok if I make mistakes.	20 I stand up for what I believe in.	21 I am patient and calm.	15 I am honest.	16 I make good choices.
24 I see the good in myself and others.	25 I am open and ready to learn.	26 I believe in my dreams and goals.	27 I am loved.	28 Today is going to be a great day!	22 I can try again.	23 I am generous.
					29 I am worthy.	30 I am creative.

Try your best today as that is always good enough.

It's okay to make mistakes. They are just stepping stones to success.

## Strawberry Scones

### Ingredients

- 225g self-raising flour (plus extra for work surface)
- 50g cold butter, cubed (plus extra for greasing and serving)
- 25g caster sugar
- 50g sultanas (optional)
- pinch of salt
- 120ml milk, plus extra for brushing
- strawberry jam for serving
- strawberries to garnish

### Equipment

- mixing bowl
- knife
- round cutter
- wooden spoon
- baking tray
- rolling pin
- ruler
- pastry brush
- cooling rack

### Method

- Preheat your oven to 200°C-200°C (fan/gas mark 7).
- Grease a baking tray with butter.
- Put the flour and salt into a mixing bowl and add the cubed butter.
- Gently, rub the mixture together with your fingertips until it looks like breadcrumbs.
- Carefully, stir in the sugar and sultanas (optional).
- Gradually, add the milk to the mixture and stir well.
- Coat the work surface with a light dusting of flour. Pour the mixture out onto the floured surface and knead it with your hands until the dough is quite stiff.
- Roll out the dough until it is roughly 2cm thick. Press the cutter into the dough to cut out individual circles. Repeat with any remaining dough.
- Gently, spread out the scones on the greased baking tray, allowing a gap between them. Then, brush them with milk.
- Bake in a hot oven for 12-15 minutes. Leave to cool on the cooling rack.
- Carefully, cut the cooled scones in half and add a layer of butter and strawberry jam to each half.
- Wash the strawberries and chop off the green stems. Cut the strawberries into slices and add them to the top as an extra garnish.
- Enjoy!



## Head Teacher's Awards

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

Reception/ Nursery	Being Ready To Learn	Nico	For his amazing progress in phonics this week.
Year 1	Being Ready To Learn	Arthur	For working hard to take pride and care in his work this week.
Year 2	Being Ready to Learn	Evie	For working hard to learn number facts.
Year 3	Being Responsible	Harry	For always bringing items to school and completing his homework on time.
Year 4	Being Ready to Learn	Logan	For always completing work to a high standard.
Year 5	Being Ready to Learn	Melissa	For researching Shakespeare in her own time.
Year 6	Being Responsible	Lydia	For single-handedly teaching a fantastic lesson on fractions to Year 5!

## Class Teacher Special Mention Awards

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

Reception/ Nursery	Joseph	For trying to join in with classroom tasks.
Year 1	Poppy	For working hard this week on her number bonds to ten.
Year 2	Harlow	For being a friendly and cheerful member of our class. Harlow starts the day with a smile!
Year 3	Jay	For always greeting everyone with the warmest and most cheerful "Good morning!"
Year 4	Whole Class	For working so hard on the Multiplication Tables check this week.
Year 5	Arya	For always being kind and considerate in class and in the yard.
Year 6	Erin	For such a fantastic, supportive teaching style when teaching maths to Year 2.



## Summary of upcoming events

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Residential Visit to Newby Wiske Hall Adventure Centre, Northallerton
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/Y6 Golf Festival at Beamish Golf Club am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Y1/Y2 Multi-Skills Festival at Greenland Primary School am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Fire Safety Assembly
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/Y6 Girls' Football at Greenland 4.00pm–5.00pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Sports Day 1.30pm

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

## Parent/Carer information

### SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton, is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

If you are concerned that a child is being harmed or neglected, call: 03000 26 7979.

If the child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

We expect all staff, volunteers and visitors involved in any aspect of school life, to share this commitment.

At St. Patrick's, we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Designated Lead – J Burgess, Headteacher

Deputy Designated Lead – E Parry, Assistant Headteacher and Year 6 Teacher

Deputy Designated Lead – J Clish, Year 2 Teacher and SENDCO