



Newsletter: 3rd July 2026

Dear Families,

Moving Up and Moving On

As St Patrick's, we are proud to be a small, nurturing school where every child is known and valued. One of our greatest strengths is the strong relationships built across the whole school community, with staff taking the time to understand and support each child as an individual.

This week, we held our **Moving Up Afternoon**, providing children with the opportunity to spend time with their new class teacher and become familiar with their new classroom environment. This is an important step in helping children feel confident, secure and excited about the year ahead. During the afternoon, pupils began to learn about the routines, expectations and opportunities that September will bring. It was wonderful to see children demonstrating curiosity, enthusiasm and a positive attitude as they embraced this change.

For many, this experience helps to ease any worries about transition, replacing them with excitement and anticipation. Our staff carefully plan this time to ensure that every child feels supported, reassured and ready for the next stage of their learning journey.

It was also wonderful to see our new Reception pupils again. This time, they were very brave as they stayed, and played, without their grown-ups. They already look right at home!

Our Year Six pupils have spent two very enjoyable days at St Bede's familiarising themselves with their new school. They are more than ready for the new challenges which await.

Mr Gray's Visit

Mr Gray, the executive headteacher, who will be taking up post in September, has been to visit school today. He has a chance to meet with staff and pupils and he was heartened with the warm welcome he received.

We hope you have a lovely weekend! Come on England!
From All at St Patrick's



General News

End of Year Reports

End of year reports have been issued today. I am sure they will reflect the hard work, progress and enthusiasm your child has shown throughout this year.

We are incredibly proud of all that the children have achieved and the positive attitudes they have demonstrated in their learning.

There are no set appointments for parents' or carers' meetings this term; however, if you would like to come into school to discuss your child's report, or any aspect of their learning, please contact the school office to arrange a convenient appointment. We are always happy to meet with you.

End of Year Disco

Discomania hit St Patrick's on Sunday as families came together for a fantastic afternoon of fun, laughter and dancing. Organised by our wonderful Friends of St Patrick's (FOSP), the event was very well attended and it was lovely to see so many children, parents and carers enjoying time together.

There was something for everyone, from dancing and games to a brilliant tuck shop that proved very popular throughout the afternoon. Events like these play such an important role in bringing our school community together and creating lasting memories for our children.

A huge thank you to FOSP for their hard work in organising another successful event and to everyone who attended and supported the day. Your time, enthusiasm and continued support are greatly appreciated. What a wonderful afternoon!



General News

BWCET Celebration of Sport – Gateshead Stadium

Our Year Five pupils had a fantastic opportunity to take part in the BWCET Celebration of Sport at Gateshead Stadium this week—a memorable experience for everyone involved.

The day brought together pupils from across the trust to celebrate participation, teamwork and a love of sport. Our children were able to enjoy a wide range of activities designed to promote confidence, resilience and physical wellbeing.

Throughout the event, the children demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, encouraging one another and showing great determination as they tried new challenges. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved, whether competing in activities or cheering on their peers.

Events like this are a valuable opportunity for children to build new friendships, develop skills and experience the excitement of being part of a larger sporting community. Our pupils were a credit to St Patrick's, representing the school with pride, positivity and respect at all times.

We are very grateful to BWCET for organising such a well-run and inspiring event. The children returned full of excitement and with lasting memories of a very special day.

General News

Year Four Trip to Centre for Life

Year Four pupils enjoyed a brilliant trip to the Centre for Life this week where they had the opportunity to participate in a States of Matter workshop, explore all the exhibits linked to their learning in science and visit the planetarium. A great day was had by all! As ever, our Year Four children proved themselves to be brilliant ambassadors for our school with their excellent behaviour. Mrs Moore said a number of members of the public came up to her to compliment her on the wonderful attitude and helpfulness shown by pupils.



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

Non-Uniform Day and Sweets Galore

Thank you, so much, for all the kind donations of sweets and treats that you have sent in this morning, which the FOSP will be raffling at their stall at the parish summer fair on Saturday 11th July.

Uniform Pop-Up Shop

Thanks, also, FOSP for washing (and ironing) the lost property and making it as good as new to sell at the pop-up shop this week.

There are plenty of items still available if any families want to see what is available ahead of the new term.

World Cup Match and School Attendance on Monday Morning

As many of you will be aware, the forthcoming World Cup match is scheduled to take place in the early hours of Monday morning. We know that there will be considerable excitement around the match and that some families may be considering allowing their children to stay up, or get up early, to watch it. We fully understand this. I understand staff may be a little tired on Monday morning too!

The significance of major sporting occasions such as this and the enjoyment that they can bring to families and communities is not lost on us. However, we have been instructed by our trust to clarify that school will be open as normal on Monday morning and all pupils are expected to attend on time.

Following government advice to schools, we do not have the flexibility to authorise absence, delay the start of the school day or make alternative attendance arrangements because of the timing of the match. A late night or early start to watch the football would not, in itself, be a reason for absence from school. We therefore ask parents and carers to plan carefully so that children are able to attend school as usual.

We are sure that our pupils will enjoy the excitement of the World Cup, and we will of course recognise that many may arrive on Monday morning eager to talk about the match! Our aim is to work in partnership with families so that children can enjoy this special time while also maintaining the attendance and routines that are so important for their education and wellbeing.

Thank you, as always, for your support and understanding.

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 & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to produce or copy-paste fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 10-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – swiping other things, like one text to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the last five months alone, police received an average of 57 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Smart actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the JISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

July Wellbeing Activities

30 Family Wellbeing Activities to Celebrate Summer

- 1 Host a barbeque for family and friends.
- 2 Read a book outdoors.
- 3 Create some outdoor nature art.
- 4 Have a water fight outdoors!
- 5 Make a homemade Eton mess.
- 6 Go fruit picking.
- 7 Do yoga outdoors.
- 8 Plant carrots and lettuce.
- 9 Draw a summer picture for a loved one.
- 10 Go on a rainbow nature scavenger hunt.
- 11 Create a summer scrapbook.
- 12 Make junk model boats to sail on your paddling pool.
- 13 Head to an adventure playground.
- 14 Make a playlist of summer feel-good songs.
- 15 Row a boat.
- 16 Press fresh flowers.
- 17 Tidy an area of the house.
- 18 Have a sunflower growing competition.
- 19 Head to the library and find books about.
- 20 Make ice lollies.
- 21 Go camping.
- 22 Play rounders in the park.
- 23 Write a postcard and send it to a friend or neighbour.
- 24 Go to the cinema on a rainy day.
- 25 Write a summer adventure story.
- 26 Visit a museum.
- 27 Tie-dye a t-shirt.
- 28 Discover a castle.
- 29 Make paper aeroplanes.
- 30 Play tennis.

Take a Brain Break

Find a comfortable place to sit. Breathe in for a count of three and out for a count of five. Do this three times and then, with the next breath you take in, close your eyes if you feel comfortable doing so. Continue to focus on your breathing for as long as you need until you begin to feel calm, settled and relaxed. If your mind wanders and you start thinking about other things, notice this and then simply come back to focusing on your breath.



Take a Brain Break

Go outside or look out of a window. Find a comfortable place to sit and look up at the sky. Take time to really notice what it is like. What is the colour? How does it make you feel? Are there any clouds? If there are, can you see any shapes or pictures within them? Spend as long as you need just watching and noticing until you feel calm, settled and relaxed.



Strawberry and Quinoa Bars

Ingredients

- 2 ripe bananas
- 2 medium eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla extract
- 100g cooked quinoa
- 150g rolled oats
- 30g raisins
- 1 cup of fresh strawberries (or you could use another fruit, such as blueberries or raspberries)

Equipment

- oven
- traybake tin
- baking paper
- large bowl
- fork
- wooden spoon
- knife
- fridge or freezer
- airtight container or freezer bag

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C-180°C fan/gas mark 4.
2. Then, line a traybake tin with baking paper.
3. Place the bananas into a large bowl and use a fork to mash them.
4. Add the eggs and vanilla extract and mix well.
5. Next, add the cooked quinoa, oats and raisins and mix again.
6. Stir in the chopped strawberries.
7. Put the mixture into the traybake tin and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes until firm to touch.
8. Leave to cool and then cut into squares.



Keep the squares in a fridge inside an airtight container for up to three days.

Alternatively, freeze in a suitable bag or container for up to six weeks.

Head Teacher's Awards

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

Reception/ Nursery	Being Ready To Learn	Georgia	For her good progress in Maths.
Year 1	Being Respectful	Sydney	For always using manners with adults and children in school.
Year 2	Being Respectful	Toby	For being polite, well mannered, and always tries his best.
Year 3	Being Responsible	Eva	For always keeping her workspace and classroom tidy.
Year 4	Being Ready to Learn	Raegan	For putting effort into all of her work this week and working hard to improve scores.
Year 5	Being Ready to Learn	Anya	For always wanting to know more about the subjects taught, in class.
Year 6	Being Responsible	Joe	For being such a super buddy!

Class Teacher Special Mention Awards

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

Reception/ Nursery	Whole Class	For their amazing attitude and behaviour during the visit from Crazy Creatures.
Year 1	Edie Mae	For her time and care when producing work this week.
Year 2	Sophie	For thoughtful work about the treasures in our world.
Year 3	Addie	For always working collaboratively with her peers and making positive contribution to group activities.
Year 4	Lyla	For being such a kind member of our class, always offering to support to anyone who needs it.
Year 5	All of Year 5	For representing the school at the Celebration of Sport.
Year 6	Phoebe	For being so organised during our Y6 leavers' preparations.



Summary of upcoming events

Sunday 5th	St Patrick's families join parish for Mass 9am. All welcome.
Monday 6 th – Thursday 9 th	Y6 Bikeability Cycle Training Programme
Monday 6 th	Y6 Joint Leavers' Mass and Celebration at St Patrick's Church 6pm.
Monday 6 th	Y5 <i>Celebration of Learning</i> event 2.45pm-3.15pm. Y5 Parents/Carers Welcome. 3.20pm - Meet the New Teacher Session with Miss Parry
Tuesday 7 th	Little Acorns Meeting 9-10.30am. Led by Caroline Daly SEND & Inclusion Advisory Team. Invited carers
Tuesday 7 th	Y4 <i>Celebration of Learning</i> event 2.45pm-3.15pm Y4 Parents/Carers Welcome. 3.20pm - Meet the New Teacher Session with Mrs Oswald
Wednesday 8 th	Y3 <i>Celebration of Learning</i> event 2.45pm-3.15pm. Y3 Parents/Carers Welcome. 3.20pm - Meet the New Teacher Session with Miss Mrs Moore
Thursday 9 th	Special Whole School Event
Friday 10 th	End of Year Thanksgiving Mass in St Patrick's church 10am. All welcome.
Friday 10 th	Y1 <i>Celebration of Learning</i> event 2.45pm-3.15pm Y1 Parents/Carers Welcome. 3.20pm - Meet the New Teacher Session with Miss Clish

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

Parent/Carer Information

Summer Holiday Clubs – Kalma Life

Kalma Life are running Fun & Food holiday clubs at Bloemfontein Primary, South Stanley Junior and Moorside Primary Schools this summer. Children aged 5–11 can enjoy crafts, games, STEM activities, outdoor adventures and more, with breakfast, lunch and drinks provided.

Sessions run from 9am–3pm and are FREE for children with a Fun & Food ticket (£10 per day for all other families).

To book, visit www.kalmalifeuk.co.uk/gatesheadwest or contact emma@gatesheadwest.kalmalifeuk.co.uk / 07581 359585 for further information.

The poster is titled "SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS" in large, bold, pink letters. It features several colorful callouts: "Physical Activity" in a teal box, "Breakfast, Snack & Lunch provided" in a purple box, "Fun Workshops" in a pink box, "Arts, crafts & games" in a yellow box, and "Mindfulness Exercises" in a pink box. There are three circular photos: one of a boy and a girl outdoors, one of two girls in a gym, and one of a boy wearing a mask. The Kalma Life logo is in the bottom left, and the "FUN & FOOD" logo with the Durham County Council crest is in the bottom right.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Physical Activity

Breakfast, Snack & Lunch provided

Fun Workshops

Arts, crafts & games

Mindfulness Exercises

KALMA LIFE
YOGA FOR YOUR MIND, BODY & SOUL

FUN & FOOD
Holiday activities with healthy food

Durham
County Council



SUMMER 2026 CRAFT FAIR

Hosted by
Stanley Family of Catholic Churches



OVER 20 CRAFT STALLS



**SATURDAY
11TH JULY**



**12:30pm-
3:30pm**



**ST. PATRICK'S
CHURCH
DIPTON**

Raffle, Tombola, Children's area, Tea Room, Face Painter,
Highland Cows and 1961 Fordson Dexter Tractor
Children's Cup Cake Competition

**STANLEY FAMILY OF
CATHOLIC CHURCHES**



CUP CAKE COMPETITION

**SATURDAY
JULY 11**

**AT ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH,
DIPTON**



**FREE
ENTRY**

**Open to children
aged 4 to 11**

**BRING TWO CUPCAKES
OF ANY FLAVOUR
AND ANY DECORATION**



**PRIZE FOR BEST DECORATION
AND BEST FLAVOUR**

**REGISTRATION OPEN FROM
12:30PM - 1PM**