



Newsletter: 10th July 2026

Dear Families,

Thank you!

I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful celebrations that have taken place to mark my retirement. I feel blessed that I have had the chance to work in incredible schools over the years. I am overwhelmed by the wonderful, thoughtful gifts, cards, best wishes and the effort everyone has made to make this so special. My leaving assembly and Mass here at St Patrick's were simply perfect! Thank you for your incredible hard work putting that together!

As we head into the final week of term, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone who has been part of this wonderful school community throughout my time here. To our pupils, past and present, thank you for bringing such joy, energy and inspiration to each day. It has been a privilege to watch you learn, grow and flourish. Your achievements, kindness and enthusiasm are what make St Patrick's such a special place.

To our dedicated staff, both past and present, thank you for your unwavering commitment, professionalism and care. Your hard work and dedication to the children and families of our school have been truly remarkable. I have been fortunate to work alongside such talented and compassionate colleagues, and I will always treasure the friendships and memories we have made together. After our many successful inspections and external visits to endorse the fantastic work you do, a quote always sticks in my mind, staff here, without fail, 'go the extra mile'. No-one can ask for more than that!

To our families, thank you for the trust, encouragement and support you have shown over the years. The partnership between home and school is at the heart of our success, and I am deeply grateful for the confidence you have placed in us to guide and nurture your children.

To our governors, past and present, thank you for your wisdom, guidance and steadfast support. Your commitment to the vision and values of St Patrick's has helped shape the school into the thriving community it is today.

For all the support I have received from the parish priests, parish, trust and diocese over the years, I am truly grateful.

St Patrick's is a wonderful school. It is a place where faith, learning and family come together. I feel incredibly proud to have been part of its journey and privileged to have served this community. Although it is time for me to begin a new chapter, I leave with countless happy memories and with immense gratitude for everyone who has played a part in making St Patrick's such a special place. I am confident that the school will continue to go from strength to strength, and I look forward to following its future successes.

Thank you for the kindness, support and friendship you have shown me over the years. Our school lives, whether as a pupil, or a teacher, shape us. The memories we create, the lessons we learn and the relationships we build stay with us long after we leave the classroom.

I look forward to enjoying our final week together - hopefully celebrating England ready to bring it home!
With sincere thanks and every best wish,
Mrs Burgess



General News

End of Year Celebrations

Our end-of-year celebration events kicked off this week and will continue into next week. It has been wonderful to see just how much the children have enjoyed their year at school. There have been so many happy memories to share, countless achievements to celebrate many special moments that reflect the hard work and resilience of our pupils.

It is always a joy to look back on the year and recognise how far our children have come. From the confidence they have gained, to the friendships they have built and the progress they have made in their learning, every child has something to be proud of. It is particularly rewarding for children themselves, staff and families to see just how much they have grown and developed over the course of the year.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us, firstly for the celebration events and then for our 'Meet the New Teacher' sessions. Your support and partnership play such an important role in your child's educational journey. These opportunities help children feel confident, secure and excited about the next stage of their school life, while also allowing families to make those important connections with the staff who will be supporting them next year.

New challenges, opportunities and experiences now await each child. We know they will embrace these with the same enthusiasm, positivity and determination that they have shown throughout this year.

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and I am sure everyone is looking forward to celebrating even more successes in the year ahead.

General News

Faith in Action Award

We are very proud of our Year 6 pupils for achieving the **Faith in Action Award**. This national Catholic award recognises young people who put their faith into action through service, leadership and helping others.

Throughout the year, Year 6 have shown compassion, supported charitable causes and demonstrated Gospel values in their daily lives. Congratulations to all of our pupils on this well-deserved achievement and for being such positive role models within our school community.

Thank you, Mrs Asumadu-Aboagye for your great work with Year Six, this year and thank you, to Evie, from YMT for coming to present the certificates and pin badges at Mass this morning.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2027

Sacramental preparation (First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) is organised through Stanley Family of Catholic Parishes (St Joseph's, Stanley and St Patrick's, Dipton). Preparations are taking place behind the scenes to prepare for next year.

All information will be shared through the Family of Parishes newsletter on how to sign up for those who are eligible. Parents and carers are encouraged to make a commitment to start attending Sunday Mass regularly. The Mass times are 9.00am at St Patrick's, Dipton and 11.00am at St Joseph's, Stanley.

For any further information please contact the Stanley Family of Parishes office based at St Joseph's, Tuesday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm.

General News

Crazy Creature Visit

Crazy Creatures recently visited St Patrick's and it was wonderful to see how enthusiastically our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils embraced the experience. The children were fascinated by the wide variety of animals and creatures they encountered and listened attentively as they learned interesting facts about each one.

For many children, it was an opportunity to get up close to creatures they had never seen before. With great care and courage, they were able to touch and even hold a range of animals, including reptiles insects and arachnids.

It was lovely to see children overcoming their initial nerves, showing curiosity and respect and growing in confidence as the session progressed.

The excitement, awe and wonder on the children's faces were truly unforgettable. Experiences such as these help to bring learning to life, encouraging children to ask questions, develop their understanding of the natural world and create lasting memories with their friends.

A huge thank you to the Crazy Creatures team for delivering such an engaging and educational experience. It was certainly a highlight of the term and one that our youngest pupils will be talking about for a long time to come.

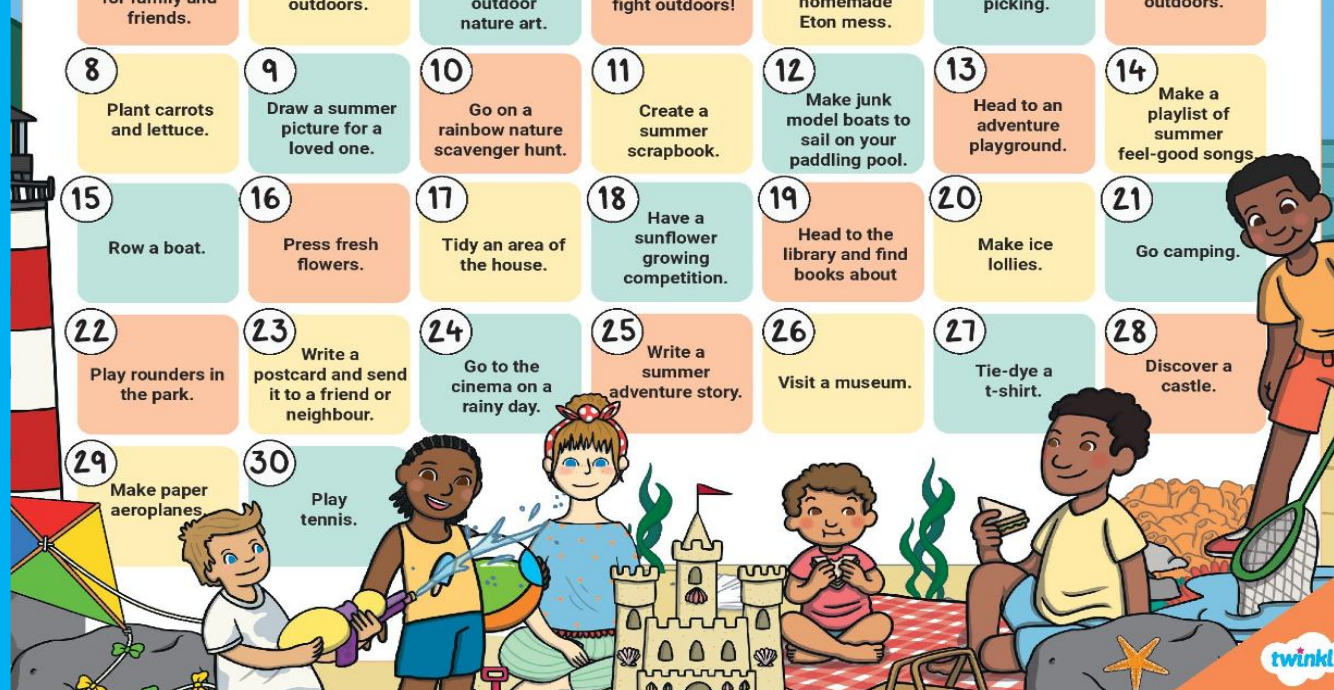


Parish Newsletter

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.

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

- Preheat the oven to 160°C-180°C fan/gas mark 4.
- Then, line a traybake tin with baking paper.
- Place the bananas into a large bowl and use a fork to mash them.
- Add the eggs and vanilla extract and mix well.
- Next, add the cooked quinoa, oats and raisins and mix again.
- Stir in the chopped strawberries.
- Put the mixture into the traybake tin and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes until firm to touch.
- 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	Lydia	For her beautiful singing this week.
Year 1	Being Ready to Learn	Niamh	For working hard to produce her best work.
Year 2	Being Respectful	Jory	For being a kind and caring member of our class.
Year 3	Being Responsible	Hannah	For always completing homework on time and bringing items to school.
Year 4	Being Responsible	Charlotte	For a fantastic attitude to all areas of school life. Charlotte is definitely ready for Year 5!
Year 5	Being Ready to Learn	Harriet	For always working hard in class and showing maturity.
Year 6	Being Responsible	Amber	For being such a fantastic help during our celebrations this week.

Class Teacher Special Mention Awards

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

Reception/ Nursery	Whole class	For completing their Secret Mission this week.
Year 1	Whole class	For their amazing effort this week in the play and class celebration.
Year 2	Darren	For being such a lovely friend to others.
Year 3	Evie	For being a cheerful member of our Year 3 class.
Year 4	Oliver	For such mature contributions to our lesson about money and spending choices.
Year 5	Lily-Rose	For showing enthusiasm this week, in class.
Year 6	Erin	For such beautiful singing during our celebrations and Mass.



Summary of upcoming events

Saturday 11 th	St Patrick's Church Summer Craft Fair 12.30pm-3.30pm
Monday 13 th	Y2 <i>Celebration of Learning</i> event 2.45pm-3.15pm. Y3 Meet the New Teacher with Mrs A at 3.20pm
Tuesday 14 th	Reception <i>Celebration of Learning</i> event 2.45pm- 3.15pm Y1 Meet the New Teacher with Miss Westlake at 3.20pm
Wednesday 15 th	Y6 Leavers' Ceremony 4pm in school.

**Friday 17th School closes for Summer
holidays**
**School re-opens to pupils Thursday 3rd
September 2026**



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**