



Welcome

from the Head of School

During the season of Advent we have taken time to reflect on the first term and the challenges and celebrations we have experienced as a community.



Our year group advent liturgies on the themes of hope, joy, love, peace and charity, provided an opportunity to remember the real meaning of Advent and prepare for how we can support others this Christmas.

In November, we received one of the first Ofsted remote visits, when we shared the work that has taken place since Covid-19.

The visit was extremely positive and they thanked the St Patrick's family for contributing to this important national work and providing pupils with the best possible learning experiences in school and at home. The letter is on our school website.

We wish you all a special and joyful Christmas and we look forward to the pupils' returning in January.

Mrs Deborah Law,
Head of School

Respectful Events Mark Armistice Day



Remembrance Day was a special event, with all year groups involved in honouring those who have fallen in conflict.

When school chaplaincy coordinator Mrs Fisk heard there would be no Remembrance Parade in Thornaby this year, she decided to take matters into her own hands.

Liaising with the History Department, each pupil in Year 7 was given the name of a soldier from the Yorkshire Regiment to research.

The men were from Thornaby and are remembered on the Cenotaph on Acklam Road. The pupils discovered a wealth of information about these brave men who gave their lives in the Great War.

Pupils were surprised at some of the ages of the men who fell, the youngest being just 17.

Taking all the research to their RE lesson, the pupils then designed a memorial wooden cross.

The crosses were planted in our memorial garden throughout the week,

with the final group of Year 7s planting their crosses on Armistice Day to the sound of the Last Post, which was played by head of music Mr Davenport.

The whole school fell silent during a virtual school liturgy led by our year 7 house captains.

The liturgy included poetry, reflections and prayers to honour the dead. Year 8 and 9 pupils stood still in reflection over their break time, holding a poppy above their head as a sign of respect.

Year 10 and 11 pupils did a similar act of remembrance to a cadet salute by some of our Year 10s.

Staff were so proud of the respect all pupils showed while remembering the servicemen and women who have fought for our freedom.

A video montage of the day can be viewed on our school website, Twitter page and Facebook.

Bringing Hope To Our Community During Advent



Pupils celebrated the arrival of Advent with virtual liturgies on the topics of hope, peace, joy, love and charity, led by our house captains.

Our world desperately needs hope right now. We asked each form to create their own Christmas hamper, which we will deliver to a vulnerable person living in our community.

We also think about our brothers and sisters around the world, asking pupils to donate £1, which will go towards the purchase of a World Gift for those living in poverty abroad.

Crafty Pupils Are A Hit With Christmas Shoppers

Creative Year 7 pupils attended the school's weekly Elf Workshop to make Christmas



crafts and raise much-needed cash for Alzheimer's Research, Cancer Research and CAFOD.

They produced crafts from foraged wood collected from local woodland and the reindeers, snowmen, Christmas trees and hedgehogs proved a hit with shoppers at our charity stall, kindly provided by Thornaby Market. We have raised £330 for far and hope to reach £500.

Pupils also created hanging decorations which will be distributed to parishioners who have been unable to attend Mass, in a collaboration with Christ the King Church and Christ the King Primary School.

Presentation Shows How To Stay Safe Online



PCSO Eric Barrett gave Year 7 and Year 8 pupils a presentation about staying safe online.

Social media and online gaming are hugely popular entertainment platforms for our young people.

As young people spend more time online, PCSO Barrett said it's vital they understand the law and how to keep themselves safe.

The presentation used real-life stories and news clips of young people who have become vulnerable due to their online activities.

Sports Leaders Could Be Future PE Teachers

Our Year 10 Sports Studies group impressed on the third part of their Sports Leaders module.

Having helped organise and officiate events in our primary schools last year, it was their turn to go solo.

They had to write up a lesson plan and risk assessment for an activity of their choice and deliver the lesson.

They excelled with their football, dance, basketball and gymnastics lessons – we've definitely found a few future PE teachers!



Celebrating European Day Of Languages

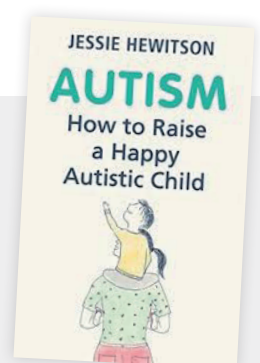


St Patrick's celebrated the European Day of Languages along with the other three secondary schools in the trust.

Classes were invited to take part in a tutor group quiz and a design a t-shirt competition and had fun answering questions about language origins, traditions and much more.

St Patrick's Catholic College and St Patrick's Primary School also took part in a national competition to design a foreign language Christmas card.

Raising Happy Autistic Children



"Encouraging your child to behave in a non-autistic way will not increase their chances of being happy and successful – being accepted for who they are and supported with the things they find challenging will." – Jessie Hewitson, mothers of an autistic child and author of *Autism: How to Raise a Happy Autistic Child* (Orion Spring).