



Newsletter

Sports

St. Patricks has a long tradition of being passionate about sports and encouraging the children to enjoy all what sport has to offer. Sadly, we seem to live in times when children play sports on an Xbox instead of actually going outside and kicking a football. We feel that it is becoming increasingly even more important that we encourage the children to get involved in sport. Some children don't ride a skateboard – they play on a virtual one on their console. I bet many of the parents don't know that Mr O'Donnell was a keen skateboarder in his youth and was often seen 'nosegrinding' around Thornaby on his wheels! Mr Conwell (The Cat) often tells the children about his acrobatic saves and goalkeeping prowess, when he was the alleged number one goalie in Boro!

Sport is good as it gives the children good memories. Sport brings fantastic opportunities for children: to learn to compete, to accept winning and losing and to play with their friends at something that develops them in many ways.

To help children get involved in sport, we offer many free clubs for the children so they get these opportunities. Sadly, some children need to develop a sense of commitment and perseverance as they start clubs then drop out shortly after. Commitment and perseverance are important not only in sport, but in many other things too. Some of the children have been given the opportunity to learn to play musical instruments – this is a fantastic opportunity and one that they need to seize and to commit to. **They cannot think that it's ok to try something a few times and then just give up.** My own children play the piano and I know there were many times when they wanted to give up and my wife and I simply didn't let them. Now, it's fantastic to see how much they enjoy it and how accomplished they are (even though it can be quite noisy). This is exactly the same with sport. Children need to realise that they have to commit to something and stick at it if they want to become good at it.



All the other schools I know, charge pupils to take part in after school clubs and I think we have to be careful that this is something that we don't take for granted and then, in turn, the children don't value the opportunities they are given. As a result, they may not commit as things are given too easily to them, and then they don't appreciate what is on offer.

Please consider the clubs we offer and encourage your children to take part. I don't think some parents are aware that we have a free Gymnastics club every Wednesday. If you want your children to attend please let us know. The gymnastics club has always been successful and we would like the children to realise how important it is. **Mr Robinson, the coach, would love to train the children and give the children the opportunity to compete in local and national competitions again.**

Please take a look at the list of clubs we offer and encourage your children to join.





Clubs running this half term.

	Clubs	Year groups
Monday	Netball	KS2 mixed
Tuesday	Football	Year 2 and 3 mixed
Wednesday	Football	Year 4,5 and 6 mixed
Wednesday	Gymnastics (Robert Atkinson)	Year 2 upwards mixed
Thursday	Cricket	KS2 mixed
Friday	Dance Fuzion	KS2 mixed

Sporting successes so far...

The children have had a fantastic year in competitions so far. **We have won cluster events in rugby, swimming and basketball which meant the children went on to compete against schools throughout Stockton!**

Our younger children took part in a gymnastics competition for the first time and came home with two bronze medals and a silver for individuals, as well as a bronze medal in the group performance. What an achievement.

Our football team continue to amaze us! **They are unbeaten in the local league and have just won the Tees Valley Football finals beating schools from Redcar, Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Stockton. They should now progress onto the regional finals.**

With the netball season just beginning we have our first match tonight, so fingers crossed our winning streak continues!

Thank you for your continued support

M Ryan

PS Say your prayers for the Boro so they go up!

