

Newsletter

Where's the time gone? I can't believe it's the end of the half term already. I have never known seven weeks to go so quickly. It has been a really positive start to the year and the school is working really well and the children have been a credit to you. Thank you.

Can I just say a big thank you to our many supportive parents who have helped the children settle in to school so well since September. You are always supportive with uniform, homework and simply in the day to day support of your child to help them learn and to be happy in school.

Parents Settling in Meetings

Foundation Stage have already had their meetings – thank you to the parents who came to the meetings. Quite a few parents have asked for guidance on our early phonics teaching so they can support their child better at home. Some information has been prepared for you. If you think it would be beneficial to have a parent's workshop where we can show you how we teach phonics and give guidance please let us know and we can arrange this for you.

Parents Meetings for KS1 and KS2 will be in the second week back after half term – week commencing Monday 7th November

House of Commons Invitation

I am very proud to tell you that the school was invited to the House of Commons in recognition of the outstanding work the school does in training teachers for Leeds Trinity University. For many years Miss Hobson has been the lead professional in the school with responsibility for training teachers and in recognition of her work she represented the school. Miss Hobson leads in this area as she herself is an outstanding teacher and her work in training teachers is of the very highest standard. Our thanks to her.

School Direct Teacher Training Opportunities – Train to be a Teacher

The school is now accredited by UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) to train teachers through the School Direct teacher training route. This means that graduates, who want to train to be teachers, can apply through UCAS to train as a teacher to gain their PGCE and Qualified Teacher Status at St. Patrick's. We are the lead school in a Catholic partnership of 9 schools in delivering teacher training across Teesside and North Yorkshire. Miss Hobson and I are the lead professionals in the partnership. What we want to do is give our children here in school today a pathway into teaching and hopefully they will be the future teachers in our Catholic schools.

If you know anyone with a degree who would like to train as a teacher they can find more information here: <http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/courses/institute-of-childhood-and-education/pgce-school-direct>

European Languages Day

Thank you for all your support in this wonderful day in school where the children learn about another country and look at another language. Well done to Mrs Ryan for organising such a fantastic day.

Homework

On each class page on the school website there is a section explaining homework routines. Thank you to the many parents who support the school and their child with homework.

Show Racism the Red Card Day

On Friday we will be supporting this important initiative. Can you please send your child into school wearing red – this means all red or just something red. Could you please provide them with a small donation to support this charity? During the day classes will be looking at this important topic at an age appropriate level so all children understand its importance. The sad part of racism is that it is not something we are born with, it is something that is taught and something that people learn from others. What we need to do is to help all children realise the damage it causes and the pain it brings to the victims of racist behaviour.

Harvest Festival

Our Mini Vinnies will be leading our service on Wednesday where we consider and pray for all those in our community who experience hardship. Could the children please remember to bring in tinned foods or dried foods so we can give these to our local community to offer them some help.

CCTV

Over the half term holiday the school will be increasing its security with the installation of CCTV cameras in and around the school. We see safeguarding as our main priority and this will help us and the children feel safe at all times. Sadly, over the summer holidays, we were the victims to a number of attempts to get into the premises during the night and this will give us added security.

Outdoor learning Area – EYFS

I am pleased that the outdoor learning area (the barn) for our younger children is now finished and the children have access to fantastic outdoor learning provision all year round. The children love being in there and it is a pleasure to see them accessing outdoor learning throughout the day.

Visitors to the School

Other schools have been visiting St Patrick's to see the standards of the work and the learning atmosphere here within the school. My thanks to the children and the staff for simply being themselves. It is important that we don't take for granted all of their hard work.

Have an enjoyable holiday with your families and once again thank you for your support.

Best wishes

Mr Ryan

Head teacher