



Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School a Catholic Voluntary Academy

Westbury Street, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6NE

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr M Ryan BA (Hons) NPQH

Head of School: Mr J Conwell BA (Hons) NPQH



Forming lives ready to face the future

Happy Easter (Almost)

Lent

Our journey through Lent is almost at an end. I would have to say that it has been an extremely rewarding time and a time of great preparation. My thanks to all of the parents for supporting your children on this important journey towards Easter. The staff have worked incredibly hard to make this a meaningful time for your children and some of the Holy week services I can only describe as inspirational.

Easter is now almost upon us. We are the Easter people! A time of hope and resurrection for all of us. I hope you enjoy the Easter weekend with your families.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday	6.30pm	Christ The King
Good Friday	12.00pm	Christ The King
	3pm	St. Patrick's
Saturday Easter Vigil	6pm	St. Patrick's
Easter Sunday	9am	Christ The King
	10.30am	St. Patrick's

When we return next week, we will be holding a service in the hall with our children to decorate the cross and turn it into a cross of hope and life. We do this by decorating it with fresh flowers. **On Wednesday could you please provide your child with some fresh flowers to help us decorate our cross.** This is an important service for our school as it symbolises hope and new life to the children. Thank you for your support.

It is important to realise that as a Catholic school our faith underpins all of our work and for us celebrating Easter in this way is at the heart of all that we do.

First Holy Communion

My thanks to the many parents (and grandparents) who are supporting their children as they prepare for their First Communion, both by attending mass and attending the Catechist meetings at school. The people who benefit of course are your children! Thank you for all you give to them and the example that you show. You were an absolute credit to them at the beautiful Reconciliation service.

Uniform

A polite reminder that school uniform stipulates that all children wear a tie for school. This is not optional. Children need to be reminded to look after uniform and to take responsibility for it.

PE uniform also stipulates a plain white T-shirt – nothing else. Can parents please ensure your child always wears the correct uniform for school .

Thank you for your support as I know the vast majority of children come to school dressed immaculately and they look proud to be so smart.

Attendance

I am delighted that the school is improving its attendance. This can only happen with the support of parents. I know you are trying hard to ensure that your child attends school regularly. We cannot teach children who are not at school and children who miss lessons regularly simply fall behind with their learning.

I know that we are heading towards the summer where holidays may be requested. **We are now part of a new Academy Trust and the policy for attendance reflects the high expectations of pupils and parents. School cannot simply grant holidays in term times unless they are exceptional circumstances.**





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These circumstances are:

- a recent serious illness/bereavement of an immediate family member;
- a member of the Armed Forces whereby they need to undertake a tour of duty which conflicts with school holidays;
- restrictions on police leave, where a police officer has specific duties in relation to a national event which conflicts with school holidays.

The request should be made providing at least one month's notice and a separate application is required to be completed for each child.

Evidence may need to be provided with each application and each parent will be informed in writing within 10 school days of the application being received

Where the decision is made not to grant leave of absence in term time and the leave is taken without prior approval, or without application, each parent may be informed in writing of the decision to refer the matter to the local authority.

Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, says:

"If a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, their parents are guilty of an offence".

If the reasons for your child's irregular school attendance are not satisfactory, then the Local Authority may take legal proceedings against you for failure to comply with the Law. This may result in:

- A Penalty Notice payable up to £120 fine
- Prosecution under Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996 where if convicted you may be fined up to £1000.
- Prosecution under Section 444 (1a) Education Act 1996 where if convicted you may be fined up to £2500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

We obviously want to work with parents so that they are not issued with fixed penalty notices.

School Dog

We are currently researching the possibility of this as we would like a school therapy dog. Obviously, this will not be a dog who can freely roam the school. This will be a trained therapy dog. Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills, through contact with a suitable, calm dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with animals. By having a school dog we want to encourage those children who are vulnerable, or those less confident at reading to have a friendly audience and look forward to reading as a treat. You're not having my dog, Charlie's staying at home!!! If we get a dog Paddy will be his name. I think this will be a fantastic opportunity for the children. Watch this space...

God bless

Mr Ryan

