



Out and about at last!

Lifting restrictions has allowed us to get out and explore places across our region and beyond... like Halifax and Sunderland! Year 1 enjoyed a trip to Coulby Farm to see the new facilities and animals. When they returned to school, they became designers and designed their own leisure farms with animal enclosures and playgrounds. Year 3 became Romans for the day at Danelaw as they practised their combat skills in the gladiator arena and Year 2 stepped back in time at Beamish and enjoyed the Botanical Gardens in Durham. Year 5 became culture vultures at Sunderland Empire Theatre and enjoyed the stage version of their class novel- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Year 6 enjoyed visiting the Eureka Science Experience to find out more fascinating facts and exhibitions linked with the science about the human body which they had discovered in the classroom. More great days and nights out are planned for 2022!



We will remember them...

This November, 2021 marks 100 years since the nation's collective Remembrance traditions were first brought together, and the annual Remembrance Sunday. It is also a time for us to remember not just the victims of war but also all members of our community that have gone before us. It is a long standing tradition that St. Patrick's Primary has joined the Thornaby Community in remembering deceased loved ones. Hundreds gathered at our local cenotaph to pay respects and to give thanks for their ultimate sacrifice. We also created our own field of remembrance in our school grounds and marked our own two minute silence and listened to The Last Post. For our tomorrows... they gave their todays.



Laudato Si - caring for God's creation

Looking after our planet is very much a global issue and responsibility and is very much part of our curriculum. As a Catholic school, this is very much close to our heart as we believe that we must look after God's creation and planet. Pope Francis has written a letter addressed to every person on this planet, asking us all to protect our common home, the earth. In his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis speaks openly about the devastating effects the ecological crisis has on people and the planet. He says that climate change is real, urgent and it must be tackled, asking us to remember that the climate is "a common good, belonging to all and meant for all". We tackle climate change by doing the simple things that we can-switching off lights, not wasting water, recycling and reusing things and looking after living things-especially our class tortoise-Ernie!





Sporting Success

St. Patrick's is full of sporting superstars! More and more of our children are now able to rejoin their clubs outside of school to compete at high levels. We have gymnastic giants, judo judokas and dancing divas. All winning a haul of medals to be brought into school to celebrate. Our school teams have also been in action as they competed against other schools from across the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust. KS2 children were able to compete in football and cross country and other sport competitions are planned for 2022.



How Great thou Art!

We have some amazing artists at St. Patrick's. Pupils always look forward to developing their skills and this Autumn term has seen some fantastic painting, sketching, claywork and textiles work. Our young artists looked at different artists and art forms from around the world and the local area for inspiration. Year 6 headed for Ghana and the work of Kwame Akoto Bamfo and created head sculptures made from clay. Our youngest artists recreated nature compositions inspired by Andy Goldsmith.



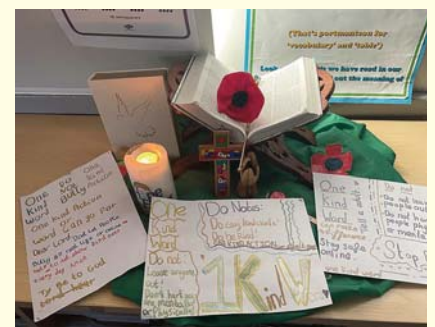
Anti Bullying Week

Important lessons and messages were taught during our week dedicated to Anti-bullying. The theme was "One Kind Word". Children explored how kind words can have a positive impact on how people feel about themselves and how destructive put downs can be. In a society that so often judges and is critical of each other, lessons learned this week were invaluable to what kind of person we want our pupils to be now and into their futures.



Junior Road Safety Officers

This year we have taken part in Stockton Council's Junior Road Safety Officer scheme. The scheme will run over the academic year with some of our pupils working as Junior Road Safety Officers. The aim being that they will raise awareness of road safety to pupils, parents, teachers and the local community through the promotion of different road safety themes. The JRSO's will provide a vital link between the road safety team and school. We want safer roads around our school.





All are welcome

We have also been able to safely welcome parents and visitors back into our school building. We held our very popular European Languages Day where visitors came and enjoyed a bite to eat in our continental café while listening to choirs from around the world. It is always a great event enjoyed by our children and parents. It gives our children an opportunity to learn about another European culture and practise speaking different languages. Our French waiters and waitresses showed off their hospitality skills and different languages could be heard from room to room- from Madrid to Rome and from from Oslo to London.



Early Years Fun

Our youngest learners have been busy of late and have never stopped since September- especially looking at and learning from things around them. They have been on a Bear Hunt- and actually found one in our prayer garden, discovered what min-beasts are lurking in our school grounds and recently what the weather does to things around us-it froze our toys! It was freezing cold but they wrapped up warm for the occasion.



We are called to serve others

This term we have been involved in many local and national causes. We have continued to collect and support Thornaby Foodbank and teamed up with Little Sprouts to donate toys and books for Christmas. We took part in Race for Life and raised £1033.14p for Cancer Research and also raised £349.49p for Children In Need. We even packed up some of our reading books and sent them to schools in parts of Africa. This just shows what a generous and thoughtful school community that we are blessed to belong to.



Advent begins

Each week in Advent, we will light a candle on our Advent Wreath where we will pray for Hope, Peace, Love and Joy for each and every home in Thornaby. **Christmas blessings from us all here at St. Patrick's.**

