



Parish Partnerships

We continue to grow in faith alongside our parish. Each week, our parish and school community gather together to worship at Mass. Parishioners always comment on how uplifting it is to have classes at Friday Mass. Their prayers and singing are always welcomed and parents and carers are encouraged to share in the celebration. Special thanks must go to Fr. Pat for bringing the school and parish community together.

Members of the parish also visit school to share in prayer and take a great interest in what the children are learning. The children like to spend time with them learning about their faith as well as listening to the "older generation". Some of them actually came to our school as parishioners many moons ago! We are very grateful for the time that they give so generously to our school community.



We did remember them...

At this time of year, we always pause to remember all those that have gone before us - especially those who gave their lives in war and conflict to bring about peace. This year, we were involved in lots of different acts of remembrance. On Remembrance Day itself, the whole school fell silent while children laid home-made poppies to remember loved ones that had passed away in recent times and especially in the last year. Our choir also sang hymns at a gathering at the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust service where the Bishop of Middlesbrough and Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti from Rome attended. The choir sang beautifully. A special thanksgiving message was given to the Archbishop to pass on to Pope Francis from the children of NPCAT schools. And we were well presented at the Thornaby cenotaph too when our children and families turned out. Year 6 pupil Callum Dodds was given the honour of laying the school wreath. A touching moment.



Celebrating local artists

The Arts and creativity is a very important part of our curriculum offered at St. Patrick's and we have some very talented artists indeed. We want our pupils to have dreams and aspirations to become artists of the future. We held an Arts Week where we arranged for a variety of local artists to meet with the children and share their journeys to success and fulfilling their dreams.

Children met up with local artists Eve Sprighall, Anna Rees who is a Theatre Set designer, Andy McKeown from the world of sculpture, and finally Joe Hammill and Dany Lowe from the music industry. The children enjoyed asking them questions about their work and it has hopefully given them some inspiration to follow their interests and dreams.



Marathon Man Dan

Congratulations to school governor Dan Woodgate who completed the Amsterdam marathon. Dan has completed four marathons in total and now looking forward to competing in the London marathon for the second time. Good luck Dan!





Early Years Excellence

There is a long standing mantra at St. Pat's- Wonderful things happen at St. Patrick's! And they always begin in our wonderful Nursery and Early Years classrooms. Our little ones always amaze us with what they can achieve and the way that they absorb learning and experiencing new things. The autumn may be ebbing away but their thirst for knowledge is not. The Early Years staff work hard to build those early partnerships with parents and carers and it is very much appreciated. One parent recently commented, "The Nursery staff are absolutely first-class with the children and their level of care and professionalism is clear to see. Delighted with our child's progress at nursery school and hoping for a place in the main school next year!"



Sports News

We have competed in many competitions so far this year - football, hockey and indoor athletics to name a few. Our very own sports crew have been busy organising their own inter house tournaments in school on lunchtimes. Well done children!



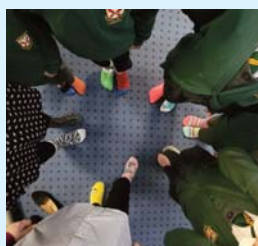
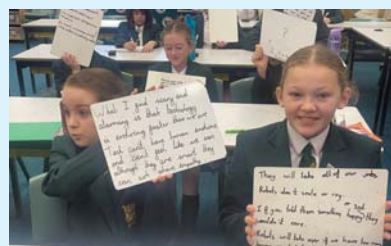
Out and About

Pupils have enjoyed getting out locally this term. Our little ones have enjoyed crunching through the autumn leaves and visiting local landmarks and looking at the history and geography of old Thornaby. Year 6 enjoyed their science visit to Eureka in Halifax. Pupils had a memorable day with lots of hands-on exhibitions. Year 2 pupils travelled back in time to the Victorian times at Beamish. The old sweetshop was a hit again with a quick visit to the dentist next door. Our class chaplains visited Middlesbrough Cathedral to see the holy relics of St. Bernadette which were on tour from Lourdes in France.



Healthy Minds

Our Mental Health Champions took a lead on raising awareness of mental health and presented tips and advice to both children and parents through a newsletter. They also presented a special assembly during anti-bullying week which had a theme of "Reach Out" where pupils were encouraged to reach out to people when they need help and also try to reach out to others who need help. Children and staff wore odd socks to show how everyone has different qualities but uniqueness should be celebrated. A guest speaker came from Mind to give advice and techniques for mindfulness. Pupils have also been debating the use of artificial intelligence in the world today - the pros and the cons!



C'mon England

It did seem quite strange asking children to wear the colours of red and white to watch England play their opening game of the World Cup... in November! Learning was put aside while children watched a very different world cup - seeing England score six goals in one game! Good luck England in the rest of the tournament.





Name that tune!

Tees Valley Music Service have been delivering music sessions in school to our Year 6 pupils with the prospect of drumming sessions in the new year for Year 4 and 5 - Westbury Street neighbours need to ask Santa for ear plugs! Year 6 have really enjoyed learning how to play the ukulele and knocked out some great tunes!



Healthy Hearts

Our school community has a big heart which always seeks ways to help those in need around us. Our links with Thornaby Foodbank remain strong and our Mini Vinnies visited to help out as well as take donations of food from our parish harvest festival. We enjoyed listening to the good work of Little Sprouts and plan to work more closely with them in the preparation and build up to Christmas. And pupils enjoyed going dotty for the BBC Children in Need appeal.



Black History Month

We celebrated cultural diversity and the achievements of historical figures from history. Pupils researched and discussed the equal rights campaigns of many famous black people like Colin Kaepernick, Mohammed Ali, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman. Important messages of unity and acceptance were learned across the school.



European Languages Day

Our very popular annual event took place this term. It was a real family event as our Continental Cafe opened its doors to families to enjoy pastries and hot chocolate. Our Year 6 pupils were fantastic hosts as each class performed a song from around the world. A fantastic opportunity for children to put their language and communication knowledge and skills into action.



Eco Workers

Our excellent Eco-Warriors teamed up with Groundwork Northeast and wonderful grandparent volunteers to brave the cold to go and clean up the banks of the River Tees. Not only did they clear the area but also met a few friendly creatures along the way. The children discovered a cute hedgehog and aptly named her "Patricia".

