



ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter 17 24th May 2024

Dear Parents,

As we are approaching the final half term of the academic year, I am so proud of how much the children have achieved since September. They have grown in so many ways and it is a privilege to be part of their educational journey. We have had a very busy half term and our children and staff are looking forward to a well-earned break. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 10th June.

Best wishes,

Mrs R. Halsall

Sports Days

What a week it has been in terms of weather! Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 enjoyed taking part in different races during their Sports Days on Monday and Tuesday. Unfortunately, we had to postpone both Sports Days for Key Stage 2 due to the rain and amber weather warnings on Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you for your support with this. We recognise that people will have booked time off work to attend these events and understand that this can present a challenge. We are now hoping to have the **Sports Day for Years 3&4 on Tuesday 18th June** and the **Sports Day for Years 5&6 on Wednesday 19th June**.

Talent Shows

The hall was filled with the sound of music earlier this week as we held Talent Shows for children in Key Stage 2. We enjoyed a wide variety of songs, including some songs and raps written by the children themselves. There were also children playing the African drums, as well as some beat boxing thrown in too. One thing is for sure – St Patrick's has talent! Take a look at <https://st-patricks-catholic-southport.secure-primariesite.net/news/detail/key-stage-2-talent-shows/> to see some of our musicians. Well done to all the children who put themselves forward for this. As well as showcasing their musical talent, this took real courage and it was tremendous to see the following children take part:

Year 3: Yves V, Margot W, Penny B, Niamh T, Ruby L, Holly S, Rosie M, Lucy G, Ruth G, Pearl B-O'F & Teddy D

Year 4: Nicole C, Lily-Rose U, Macie G, Dayo D, Max R, Raphael P, Lily B, Anya K, Evie H, Bella S, Darcy-Rose B, Ruby P, Mia H, Sabrina M-T, Connie B, Riley B-M, George G, Xavier W, Harry R, Leila M, Ariana D, Emmie B, Freya D, Oscar H, Ethan B & Lucas D

Year 5: Thea P, Elsie A, Grace K, Mary W, Rose B-O'F, Macie T, Disali V, Yesmika V, Anya C-B, Ella H-K, Ella M-N, Finnbar C, Zachary C, Reggie L, Joseph T, Jacob J, Lenny M, Charlie C, Noah T, Lucas D, Joshua P, Jonas C, Mason S, Bobby G, Paschalis A, Antoni K, Emily S, Jessica B, Matilda T, Ophelia F, Isla W, Molly M, Meredith P, Esmé Y, Jakub M, Alba P & Skye C

Year 6: Teddy E, Charlie B, Scarlett T, Julianne M, Sophie G, Alexis D, Olivia J, Sylvie A, Ciara C, Sophia-Rose W, Bonnie S-F, Tara McC, Emilia K, Molly McA, Annabelle D, Joseph S & Zain C

All entrants received the Headteacher Award this week along with the following children who have displayed musical talent in Key Stage 1. Well done superstars!

Rec S: Joshua W-H

1S: Ada R

2S: Lilah H

Rec P: Poppy W

1P: Isla J

2P: Billy H

SATs – Year 6

A huge congratulations to all the children in Year 6 who completed the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) last week. All the children were absolutely terrific. They arrived at school on time and tried their best. That's all we can ask for and we are incredibly proud of each and every single one of the Year 6 cohort. Children (and staff) had lots of fun on Friday when they went to Botanic Gardens in the morning and then had a water fight on the field in the afternoon. It was the perfect end to the week and a great way to let off steam. Well done children, you are such amazing role models to the rest of the school.

Headteacher Award – Resilience

Developing resilience is so important for children of all ages and class teachers chose children who have displayed resilience to receive the Headteacher Award last week. Fantastic job children!

Darcy M – Rec S	Evelyn G – 1S	Isla C – 2S	
Aubrie C-J – Rec P	Freddie B – 1P	Elkie C– 2P	
Teddy D – 3S	Mia H – 4S	Ella H-K – 5S	Fred F – 6S
Regan K – 3P	Amy M – 4P	Molly M – 5P	Zain C – 6P

Year 3 – French Enrichment Afternoon

Year 3 enjoyed a French enrichment afternoon last week, immersing themselves in different aspects of French culture. Thank you to Mrs Farley for organising a visit from high school students to lead a variety of activities throughout the afternoon.

School Councillors

As mentioned in our last newsletter, school councillors have been thinking of different ways to raise money to support Southport Foodbank, the charity selected this year by local schools. They were very busy last Friday selling ice pops at afternoon break time. Children raised £64.65 – pretty good for 20p per ice pop! Thank you to our councillors and to Mrs Williams who organised this sale.

Girls’ Football Teams

The girls’ football teams have had a fantastic season and have been tremendous ambassadors for our school. All the girls within the squad have supported each other so well. They have demonstrated a real passion within their games and have developed their skills as the season has progressed. Well done girls - we are extremely proud of you! Thank you to Mrs Farley who has given her time so generously to provide the girls with so many opportunities to play this year.

Keeping Children Safe – Rail Safety

It is vitally important that children know how to keep themselves safe in different situations and this is taught through a variety of ways in all classes. Over the last fortnight, children have watched age appropriate safety videos to raise awareness and promote the importance of safety on the railways.

Safeguarding - CHAT/ FAST Launch

Sefton Children’s Services have launched a new front door into their services. Two new teams, Sefton Children’s Help and Advice Team (CHAT) and Sefton Family Advice and Support Team (FAST) are available for professionals and public to contact if they have a concern about a child and a social worker is needed, think a family might benefit from early help support or need some general advice and support as to services on offer in Sefton.

- CHAT can be contacted on 0151 934 4013
- FAST can be contacted on 0151 934 4545

You can find out more on the following websites: www.sefton.gov.uk/chat or www.sefton.gov.uk/fast .

Sacrament of the Eucharist – First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all the children from Year 4 who have received the Sacrament of the Eucharist, making their First Holy Communion. The celebrations at St Patrick’s and St Marie’s Churches were all wonderful and it was lovely to see so many families at the Masses.

Our children love going to Church, enjoying the sense of reflection and peace that this brings. If you would like to attend Church too, please see below for the Mass times at St Patrick’s and St Marie’s:

St Marie’s: 12 noon Tuesday to Saturday, 8.30am and 10am on Sunday

St Patrick’s: 10am Thursday, 6pm Saturday, 11.30am Sunday

Walk to School Week

Thank you to everyone who has tried to be a little more active on their journeys to school in support of Walk to School Week. Children have been keeping a record of their efforts to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Congratulations to 2P who had the highest figures in Key Stage 1 and to 6S who are the winners in Key Stage 2. We do recognise the challenges that the weather has presented this week. In the words of one of our children, “It’s the Great British weather, Mrs Halsall!” Thank you for persevering in spite of the weather and supporting with this.

National Numeracy Day

Children enjoyed celebrating National Numeracy Day on Wednesday, which started with several classes joining a live lesson that was broadcast across the country. Following this, children enjoyed a wide range of activities throughout the day, exploring different aspects of numeracy using a variety of resources.

PTA

We are looking forward to this year's Summer Fair which is taking place on **Friday 5th July**. If you or anyone you know would like to have a stall at the Summer Fair, please email the school office on admin@stpatricks.sefton.org.uk so that your details can be forwarded to the relevant parties.

A little reminder that, weather permitting, the PTA will be selling ice pops after school each Friday from **Friday 14th June**.

PE Days – Summer 2

PE lessons will resume the first week back after half term. There are some changes to the timetable (please see below) to allow all children to access different sports throughout the year. On PE days, children should be wearing plain navy jogging pants, leggings or shorts with a white T-shirt and their school jumper or cardigan. Many thanks for your support with this.

Reception S: Wednesday & Thursday

Reception P: Monday & Wednesday

Year 1: Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 2: Tuesday & Friday

Year 3S: Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 3P: Wednesday & Friday

Year 4: Tuesday & Thursday

Year 5: Monday & Friday

Year 6: Monday & Thursday Swimming

Dinner Money

A little reminder that dinner money is £12.10 per week and will be £79.86 in total next half term. Payments should be made in advance on a Monday for the forthcoming week or you can pay for the half term up front. Please note, if your child wishes to move on or off hot dinners, 2 weeks' notice must be provided at the school office. Many thanks.

Pope Francis – First World Day for Children

The first World Day for Children takes place in Rome on 25th – 26th May. What a wonderful celebration at the start of our half term! Pope Francis has written a letter to the children of the world (see the end of the newsletter for a copy of the letter) which reminds them of so many important things. These include the need to 'become builders of a new, more humane, just and peaceful world'. We will be reflecting on this further when we return to school in June. Please see below for a display created by our children as a response to Pope Francis' letter.





Message of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the First World Day for Children 25th – 26th May 2024

Dear Children!

Your first World Day, which will be held in Rome on 25-26 May this year, is fast approaching. That is why I thought of sending you a Message. I am happy that you will be able to read it and I thank all those responsible for passing it on to you.

I want to speak to *each of you*, dear children, because, as the Bible teaches us, and as Jesus showed so often, “you are precious” in God’s eyes (*Is* 43:4).

At the same time, I am addressing this Message to *all of you*, because all children, everywhere, are a sign of every person’s desire to grow and flourish. You remind us that we are all children, brothers and sisters. We would not be alive unless others brought us into this world, nor could we grow without having others to love and from whom to receive love (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 95).

All of you, girls and boys, are a source of joy for your parents and your families, but also for our human family and for the Church, in which each of us is like a link in a great chain stretching from the past to the future and covering the whole earth. That is why I encourage you to pay attention to the stories of grown-ups: your moms and dads, your grandparents and great grandparents. And not to forget all those other children and young people who are already battling illness and hardship, in hospital or at home, and those who even now are being cruelly robbed of their childhood. I think of children who are victims of war and violence, those experiencing hunger and thirst, those living on the streets, those forced to be soldiers or to flee as refugees, separated from their parents, those prevented from going to school, and those who fall prey to criminal gangs, drugs or other forms of slavery and abuse. Let us listen to their voices. We need to hear those voices, for amid their sufferings they remind us of reality, with their tearful eyes and with that tenacious yearning for goodness that endures in the hearts of those who have truly seen the horror of evil.

Dear young friends, in order for us and our world to grow and flourish, it is not enough to be united with one another; we need, above all else, to be united with Jesus. From him we receive a great deal of courage. He is always close to us, his Spirit goes before us and accompanies us on all the world’s pathways. Jesus told us: “Behold, I make all things new” (*Rev* 21:5); this is the theme I have chosen for your first World Day. These words invite us to become as clever as children in grasping the new realities stirred up by the Spirit, both within us and around us. With Jesus, we can dream of the renewal of our human family and work for a more fraternal society that cares for our common home. This starts with little things, like saying hello to others, asking permission, begging pardon, and saying thank you. Our world will be changed if we all begin with these little things, without being ashamed to take small steps, one at a time. The fact that we are small reminds us that we are also frail and need one another as members of one body (cf. *Rom* 12:5; *1 Cor* 12:26).

That is not all. The fact is that we cannot be happy all by ourselves, because our joy increases to the extent that we share it. Joy is born of gratitude for the gifts we have received and which we share in turn and it grows in our relationships with others. When we keep the blessings we have received to ourselves, or throw tantrums to get this or that gift, we forget that the greatest gift that we possess is ourselves, one another: all of us,

together, are “God’s gift.” Other gifts are nice, but only if they help us to be together. If we don’t use them for that purpose, we will always end up being unhappy; they will never be enough.

Instead, when we are all together, everything is different! Think of your friends, and how great it is to spend time with them: at home, at school, in the parish and the playground, everywhere. Playing, singing, discovering new things, having fun, everyone being together and excluding no one. Friendship is wonderful and it grows only in this way: through sharing and forgiving, with patience, courage, creativity and imagination, without fear and without prejudice.

Now, I am going to share a special secret with you. If we really want to be happy, we need to pray, to pray a lot, to pray every day, because prayer connects us directly to God. Prayer fills our hearts with light and warmth; it helps us to do everything with confidence and peace of mind. Jesus constantly prayed to the Father. Do you know what Jesus called him? In his language, he simply called him “Abba”, which means “Daddy” (cf. *Mk* 14:36). Let’s do the same thing! We will always feel that Jesus is close to us. He himself promised us that, when he said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (*Mt* 18:20).

Dear children, you may know that in May, many of us will be together in Rome, to be together with children from all over the world. To prepare well for this, I would ask all of you to pray the same prayer that Jesus taught us – the *Our Father*. Recite it every morning and every evening, in your families too, together with your parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents. But not just by saying the words! Think about those words that Jesus taught us. He is calling us and he wants us to join actively with him, on this World Children’s Day, to become builders of a new, more humane, just and peaceful world. Jesus, who offered himself on the Cross to gather all of us together in love, who conquered death and reconciled us with the Father, wants to continue his work in the Church through us. Think about this, especially those of you who are preparing to receive First Communion.

God has loved us from all eternity (cf. *Jer* 1:5). He looks upon us with the eyes of a loving father and a gentle mother. He never forgets us (cf. *Is* 49:15) and every day he accompanies us and renews us with his Spirit.

Together with the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, let us pray in these words:

Come, Holy Spirit,
show us your beauty,
reflected in the faces
of children all over the world.
Come, Jesus,
you who make all things new,
who are the way that leads us to the Father,
come and remain with us always.
Amen.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 2 March 2024

FRANCIS

