



# ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Newsletter 14 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your support. Despite this being a comparatively short term, there have been lots of different things happening in school and I really appreciate the role you play within our school community. The children are such a credit to you. They are amazing individuals and it is a privilege to see them grow and develop each day. All our staff have been working extremely hard and are dedicated to ensuring each and every child is able to flourish. We are all ready for some rest and relaxation now after a very busy term. I hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter break.

I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Best wishes

Mrs R. Halsall

### Easter Production

Well done to Year 5 who portrayed the events of Holy Week so beautifully in their Easter Productions this week. Children and staff worked very hard to capture the essence of Holy Week and the performances were very powerful indeed. It was wonderful that so many parents and grandparents were able to attend the performances. Thank you for making time to do this.

### Lenten Reflections & Easter Mass Times

Children in Reception and Year 1 visited Church for a Lenten Reflection with Fr John and Linda last week. These have been such special experiences for children and staff and have provided everyone with an opportunity to experience the stillness and peace that being in Church brings. Many thanks to Fr John and Linda for giving their time so generously in this way throughout Lent.

Children have created some sunflower prayers which will be displayed in St Patrick's and St Marie's Churches over Easter. If you would like to take children to Church at Easter and see their sunflowers, there are a number of Masses and Services taking place.

**Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper:** 7p.m. at St Marie's

**Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion:** 3p.m. at St Marie's

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil:** 8p.m. at St Patrick's

**Easter Sunday:** 9.30a.m. at St Marie's and 11a.m. at St Patrick's

### Almsgiving - Hungry Jars

Throughout Lent, children have been bringing loose change into school to put in their class 'Hungry Jar'. 'Hungry Jars' have been a tradition at St Patrick's for many years and we really appreciate all the loose change that has been donated. We have received £161.50 which will be sent to Asylum Link Merseyside, in line with a request from Archbishop Malcom.

### Resurrection Gardens

Over the last two weeks Clive has been working with children in Year 4 to create two 'Resurrection Gardens.' These will be placed in the Churches of St Patrick's and St Marie's over the Easter period. Working together to assemble the gardens has been a terrific opportunity for our children. Thank you, Clive, for giving your time so generously to work with Year 4. Please see <https://st-patricks-catholic-southport.secure-primariesite.net/news/detail/easter-resurrection-gardens/>

### Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies have now met twice and have shown great enthusiasm to carry out the mission of St Vincent de Paul. The children have decided on post holders who will remain in place until the end of the year. Alexis, Zak and Finlay will act as Presidents; Joe, Ella and Yves will be Treasurers; Julianne and Penny will be Secretaries and Pablo and Edward will be Communications Officers. The children's passion to serve others is a pleasure to see. Thank you to Mr Holmes for working with our Mini Vinnies.

## Pope Francis – First World Day for Children

Pope Francis has written a special letter for children all over the world, ahead of the First World Day for Children which will take place at the end of May. (Please see the end of the newsletter for a copy of the letter.) Children have shared this letter in their classes and have created artwork, prayers and poems as a response to their favourite sections. As we faithfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus, this letter reminds us of how important the simple things are and what a tremendous impact they can have.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Following on from last year's proposal from the School Council, children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt around school this week. We were very lucky with the weather and a good time was had by all.

## 'Eggstraordinary' History Competition

Mrs Molyneux was absolutely delighted with the response to the 'Eggstraordinary' History Competition. There were 120 entries and it was such a difficult decision to choose the winners. The quality of everyone's entries was tremendous, a real testament to children's creativity as well as their knowledge of key historical people. Please see <https://st-patricks-catholic-southport.secure-primariesite.net/news/detail/eggstraordinary-history-competition/> for some photographs of children's creations and the table below for the children who received a prize.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>Reception</b>	Amelia K – Amelia 'Egghart'	Poppy W – Florence Nightingale	Edward C - Dinosaurs
<b>Year 1</b>	Arlo C – Neil Armstrong	Keyon F – Guy Fawkes	Iden B – Tutankhamun
<b>Year 2</b>	Alana S – Rosa Parks	Elkie C – St Patrick	Sophie A – Albert Einstein
<b>Year 3</b>	Teddy F – Samuel Pepys	Pearl B-O' F – Frida Kahlo	Oliver B - Tutankhamun
<b>Year 4</b>	Luca P – Neil Armstrong	Evie H – Albert Einstein	Connie B – Florence Nightingale
<b>Year 5</b>	Emily S – Henry VIII & his wives	Joseph C – Thomas 'Eggison'	Mary W – David Attenborough
<b>Year 6</b>	Charles K – William Shakespeare	Joseph S – David Bowie	Sophia Rose W - Napoleon

## Amazing Artists - Landscape Competition

Mrs Palmen was also delighted with the response to the Landscape Competition. 80 children submitted a landscape and it was wonderful to see the variety of pieces that children had created. The Art Council selected the winners from KS1 and Mrs Palmen selected the winners from KS2, to avoid any conflicts of interest. Congratulations to everyone who took part. A special well done to the winners of each category:

### **KS1**

Best use of Shape: Sofia (2S)    Best use of Texture: Madeleine (2S)    Best use of Line: Marianne (1P)  
Best use of Colour: Millie (RS)    Best use of Space: Gabriella (2P)    Best use of Technique: Isabella (1P)

### **KS2**

Best use of Form: Emmie (4S)    Best use of Shape: Pearl (3P)    Best use of Texture: Alfie O (3P)  
Best use of Line: Teddy (6S)    Best use of Media: Raphael (4P)    Best use of Technique: Freya (4S)

All the entries to the competition will be displayed in an Art Exhibition after school on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June**.

## 'La Fiestaval'

Over the last few weeks, Mrs Farley has been running a French Club for children in Year 4, in preparation for 'La Fiestaval'. 'La Fiestaval' is a language festival for primary schools to celebrate Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). Last night, alongside children from other primary schools, our children performed their version of a French fashion show. They did a fantastic job and were brilliant ambassadors for St Patrick's. Well done and thank you to the children involved and to Mrs Farley, our MFL leader.

### World Maths Day

We celebrated World Maths Day last week and children enjoyed a range of activities. In each class, children discussed how Maths plays such a significant part in so many aspects of everyday life, including a large number of jobs and professions. Please see <https://st-patricks-catholic-southport.secure-primariesite.net/news/detail/world-maths-day/> to see photographs of Maths in action.

Class teachers chose the following children to receive the Headteacher Award for their super work in Maths.

Finley N – Rec S	Iden B – 1S	Adrian H – 2S	
Edward C - Rec P	Mateo H-J – 1P	Olivia S– 2P	
Holly S – 3S	Emmie B – 4S	Caden G – 5S	Amanda Z – 6S
Alfie O – 3P	Eli J – 4P	Matilda T – 5P	Alexis D – 6P

### Uniform Sale

Councillors from the School and Eco-Councils did a great job with the Uniform Sale, yesterday. They helped Mrs Williams to organise the clothes that had been donated and several members helped out at the sale too. Please see <https://st-patricks-catholic-southport.secure-primariesite.net/news/detail/uniform-sale/> Thank you to everyone who visited the sale and/or donated clothing. Following yesterday's sale, there are still a large amount of items left. With this in mind, we will be having another sale after school on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**.

### PTA Funds

It has been terrific to have the PTA back in action over the last 12 months and we are very grateful for everyone who has helped out with different events. Last year the PTA raised a tremendous £2572.98 for school and it has been great to start fundraising again this year. With this money, we will be buying a popcorn machine which will be used at school events to generate more funds. This is further to the success of selling popcorn at the summer fair in July. The majority of the money raised to date will be used to purchase licenses for 27 Chromebooks. Once the Chromebooks have been set up, they will be distributed across school to compliment the IT provision already in place in each classroom. Thank you to everyone who supported school events last year and helped to raise this money for school.

### Headteacher Award Attendance

It was a pleasure to give out the Headteacher Awards yesterday, which were for children who have had 100% attendance this term. Congratulations children!

**Rec S:** Bethany B, Berry C, Polly D, Amelie F, Alfie F, Maisie H, Rory J, Darcy M, Millie M, Finley N, Edward P & Harriett R

**Rec P:** Gabriel B, Orla H, Elliot L, Amelia M-K, Theia McC, Charlotte McL, Jack M, Harrison O, Maia P, Wilfred P, Callum R, Theo R & Poppy W

**1S:** William B & Billy N

**1P:** Poppy C-M, Ethan D, Gabriella G, Phoebe H, Mateo H-J, Isla J, Ellie L & Isabella W

**2S:** Nellie B, Jack B, Kevin C-B, Isla C, Adrian H, Phoebe H, Lilah H, Billy M, Florence P, Khaleesi S, Sofia S

**2P:** Amy A, Sophie A, Beth G, Georgia R & Lily W

**3S:** Benjamin A, Oliver B, Emme D, David G, Finlay J, Ruby L, Josh M, Leighton S, Lucas T, Niamh T, Yves V & Tyler W

**3P:** Alice A, Pearl B-O'F, Imogen C, Archie H, Aleks J, Rosie M, Alfie O, Lukas S, Bobby S & Ruth W

**4S:** Darcy-Rose B, Lucas D, Jaxon L, Ruby P, Lily-Rose U & Connor W

**4P:** Connie B, Ethan B, Evie H, Eli J, Anya K, Leon K & Jack M

**5S:** Rose B-O'F, Joseph C, Finnbar C, Betsy H, Ella H-K, Joseph T & Yesmika V

**5P:** Jonas C, Joseph D, Molly M, Joshua P, Meredith P, Mason S, Noah T & Isla W

**6S:** Noah A, Austin B, Teddy E, Sophie G, Aura K, Heidi O'M, Scarlett T & Molly W

**6P:** Zoie C, Annabelle D, Pablo H-J, Emilia K, Mollie McA, Nathan S, Nathan Sh & Max S

### Dinner Money

A little reminder that dinner money is £12.10 per week and will be £70.18 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.

### **PE Days – Summer 1**

PE lessons will resume the first week back after Easter. There are some changes to the timetable (please see below) to allow all children to access different sports throughout the year. A little reminder that 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:** Wednesday & Friday

**Year 2:** Tuesday & Thursday

**Year 3:** Wednesday & Swimming on Thursday

**Year 4:** Tuesday & Thursday

**Year 5:** Monday & Friday

**Year 6:** Monday & Friday

### **Dates for the Diary**

Please see below, the dates of a number of events that are coming up over the next few months. This is not an exhaustive list but will hopefully be useful to parents in terms of forward planning. Parents are very welcome at all the events outlined.

**Week 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April** – Mini Marathon Week

**17<sup>th</sup> April** – Mini Marathon Relay

**6<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday

**9<sup>th</sup> May** – Feast of the Ascension: 10am Mass in Church

**Week 13<sup>th</sup> May** - Y6 SATs week

**20<sup>th</sup> May (2pm)** - Reception Sports Day

**21<sup>st</sup> May (1.15pm)** - Year 1 Sports Day    **(2.15pm)** - Year 2 Sports Day

**22<sup>nd</sup> May (2pm)** – Year 5&6 Sports Day

**23<sup>rd</sup> May (2pm)** – Year 3&4 Sports Day

**Week 10<sup>th</sup> June** - Phonics Screening Check & Multiplication Tables Check

**12<sup>th</sup> June (3.30pm)** – Art Exhibition

**28<sup>th</sup> June** - Leavers' Mass: 10am in Church

**5<sup>th</sup> July (2.30pm)** – Fun Day (Summer Fair)

**10<sup>th</sup> July (6.15pm)** – Year 6 Production

**11<sup>th</sup> July (6.15pm)** – Year 6 Production

**24<sup>th</sup> July (10am)** – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly



## Message of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the First World Day for Children 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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*; *I 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

