



# ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Newsletter 7 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

December is a magical month in a primary school and this year is no exception. It has been lovely to hear about advent calendars and children's elves, not to mention lots of singing as children prepare for different performances. As ever, school has been a very busy place over the last fortnight. Please see the Class Pages on the school website <https://www.stpatrickschurchtown.com/class-pages-1/> to find out more information about your child/ren's learning.

### Christmas Jumpers

Thank you to everyone who donated surplus Christmas jumpers for the Jumper Swap which took place on Tuesday. It was great to see parents and children choosing different jumpers, a terrific way to recycle and reuse festive items. Many thanks to the parents involved on Tuesday and to the councillors who had made posters to advertise the event and put them up around school. Jumpers that were left over at the end of the afternoon have been donated to The Salvation Army who will put them to good use over the coming weeks.

### Santa Dash

Children had lots of fun yesterday as they took part in a Santa Dash with their friends. This was a great way to get some exercise, fresh air and get into the festive spirit. Please see <https://www.stpatrickschurchtown.com/class-pages-1/> for a video of the children in action. Keeping active is important for children's mental and physical health and children enjoy a range of sports throughout their time at school. Class teachers chose children who have been working particularly hard in P.E. to receive the Headteacher Award this week. Congratulations children!

Harper U – Rec S	Olivers U – 1S	Victoria K – 2S	
Wilfred P - Rec P	Isla J – 1P	Alexander L – 2P	
Finley J – 3S	Freya D – 4S	Jacob J – 5S	Austin B – 6S
Lucy G – 3P	Max R – 4P	Emily S – 5P	Grace H – 6P

### Reception – 'Noisy Nativity'

Children in Reception performed brilliantly this week in their Christmas play, 'Noisy Nativity'. Thank you to all parents and grandparents who were able to join us for these performances. We are so proud of how well children have settled into school. They have made a tremendous start to the year. Well done Reception!

### British Values – Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths and Beliefs

We actively promote fundamental British Values in school in a range of ways. Children in Years 1-6 have recently been learning about Judaism, whilst Reception enjoyed learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. As we faithfully follow in Jesus' footsteps whilst preparing children for life in a diverse society, the importance of respect and tolerance is paramount. Children have enjoyed a range of activities within these lessons.

### Headteacher Award – Resilience

Developing resilience is an essential part of children's growth to equip them to face different challenges. Class teachers chose children who have demonstrated resilience in different ways to receive the Headteacher Award in our assembly last week. Thank you for setting such a great example to us all, children.

Thazveen S – Rec S	Keyon F – 1S	Emil P – 2S	
Rosie T - Rec P	Isla C – 1P	Winniema C-K – 2P	
Teddy D – 3S	Ruby P – 4S	Disali V – 5S	Heidi O'M – 6S
Archie H – 3P	Luca P – 4P	Joseph D – 5P	Bonnie S-F – 6P

### Christmas Party Day

Advance notice that children will be having Christmas parties during the afternoon of **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. Children are welcome to wear mufti clothes for the day. As children will be playing out at break times as usual, please ensure they are wearing sensible shoes or trainers.

### Congratulations Girls' Football Squad

The girls' football teams played a number of league games last week and did a terrific job, standing them in good stead for the rest of their league games later in the academic year. Their performance on and off the pitch was exemplary and we are very proud of everyone involved. Well done girls! A big thank you to Mrs Farley who organises and coaches the teams.

### Year 3 trip

Year 3 have had a very exciting day today enjoying a school trip to the Eco-Centre. Children participated in a range of interactive Stone Age activities linked to their work in History. Throughout different activities, children uncovered evidence of what life was like on our coastline 7000 years ago. Well done children!

### Advent Reflections

Children in Years 1-4 have enjoyed visiting Church with Fr John and Linda over the last fortnight. These have been lovely opportunities for children and staff to spend time together reflecting on the wonderful gifts of Advent and Christmas. Children in Reception and Years 5&6 will be visiting Church over the next two weeks. Many thanks to Fr John and Linda for giving their time so generously to make these reflections possible.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

A number of children in Year 4 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last night as part of their preparation on the With You Always programme. The children were terrific and this was a very special celebration. Thank you to Fr John and the Catechists for all their work with children on the With You Always programme.

If you would like to visit Church and attend Mass, please see below for the current Mass times:

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

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

Fr John is available before each weekday Mass at St Marie's and before every Mass at St Patrick's if anyone would like to celebrate this Sacrament. There is also a Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 14th December at 7pm -7.45p.m at St Patrick's.

### Parent Governors

Following our communication about vacancies for Parent Governors, I am delighted that we have two parents who will be joining our Governing Body in January. Thank you to Mr Simpson and Mr Tolson for offering to support school in this way.

### Attendance

Thank you for ensuring children have good attendance. So much happens within the school day and children really miss out when they are not in school. Congratulations to 4P who had 100% attendance last week and to 3P who have had 100% attendance this week. Well done!

We recognise that, at this time of year, children can be particularly susceptible to coughs and colds. If children are a little under the weather and you are unsure about whether to send them into school, please see the NHS guidance for parents regarding when to keep children off school in relation to health matters. This information can be found on <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### After School Clubs

The following clubs will be having their final session next week.

Drumming Club: Years 4&5 – Tuesday (3.30pm – 4.15pm)

Multi Skills: Year 2 – Wednesday (3.15pm – 4.00pm)

Gymnastics: Year 2 – Thursday (3.15pm – 4.00pm)

Children can be collected at the main entrance of school at the end of each club.

