



# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

Telephone: 01924 423220

Website: [www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk](http://www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs C Moulding

Deputy Headteacher: Miss J Smith

Email: [office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk)

14.11.19

## Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a great half term – it feels like such a long time ago already!

### What a celebration for our great success at the Kirklees Cross Country Event

During our celebration assembly on the Friday before half term we had a very special guest join us – Mr Mick Troop who works with Mrs Cawtheray in school to enable our pupils to take part in many sporting events with other schools. As you know we had a lot of pupils in the Cross Country finals on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and we found out just how well our pupils performed on the day. We are very pleased to announce that our Y3 boys team and our Y4 boys team both won their team events. As a result of the performance of our whole school team we have been awarded to North Kirklees champions shield – a huge well done to all our super pupils.



### Attendance

Attendance in school is, as you know, vital to ensuring your child makes the very best progress every day, as missing just one day means they are likely to find the learning harder on their return. We have raised the profile of attendance with the pupils in school by having an attendance trophy which is given to the class with the best attendance in the week. Unfortunately I am having to bring to your attention that over the last half term, **85.5 days of learning were lost** by our pupils through family holidays in term time! That means 470.25 hours of teaching and learning that has been lost. Parents do NOT have the legal right to take their children out of school. School terms are designed to offer opportunities for holidays to be taken throughout the academic year without disrupting the learning and progress. Holidays in term time will not be authorised under the guidance of the DFE and any absences are looked at carefully by the local authority and can lead to formal attendance meetings with myself, a governor and the local authority. As a result of such a significant amount of unauthorised absence the governors are now consulting on fining parents, as the knowledge that the absence cannot be authorised is not deterring the booking of holidays.



You do need to be aware that absence from school significantly impacts on the progress your child can make, meaning they are less likely to reach their target **and** as a school attendance can be a limiting judgement for the overall effectiveness of the school. I do not want to be in a position where as a result of the high levels of unauthorised absence OFSTED deem the school to require improvement – I am sure you will agree.





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## Attendance:

190 school days		Opportunities for learning			
190 school days in each year for your child's learning and progress	182 school days of learning and progress	171 school days of learning and progress	161 school days of learning and progress	152 school days of learning with much less progress	
				142 school days of learning: significantly less progress	
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>WORRYING</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>SERIOUS CONCERN</b>	
100%	96%	90%	85%	80%	75%
This is the best chance of good learning, good progress and reaching targets.		<b>WORRYING</b> Less chance of good learning and progress, unlikely to reach targets. Could lead to fines		<b>SERIOUS CONCERN</b> This is unfair on your child as learning becomes very hard, progress is significantly impacted and targets are rarely reached. LA will become involved. Could lead to fines	
175 Non-school days every year – opportunities for holidays, family days etc					

I know that we can make sure this level of unauthorised absence does not happen again. Thank you for your support.

### Class Mass in school

Well done to class 4 for planning and leading a lovely mass in school last Thursday. Our Year 1/2 class were able to join them and shared in all the responses and singing. Fr Eamonn commented on how super our children participate in the Mass.

Next week On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November our Class 6 pupils will plan and lead Mass inviting our Class 1 pupils to join them. You are very welcome to come along to the mass which will be in the school hall at 9:30am.



### Autumn Parent Consultations

We have the parent consultations coming up on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November from 4 to 6:30pm and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 5 to 7:30pm which will give you the opportunity to discuss the learning progress and attitude of your child so far this year – ensuring we work as partners to help them be





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the very best they can be. Key Stage 2 pupils **only** are invited to join those discussions to ensure they understand what is being expected of them both by school and their families, working in partnership.

### Sacramental preparation

If your child is in Year 3 or 4 and ready to begin the sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, Father Eammon has application forms and Mass attendance sheets at church for you to collect after Mass. I am sure you will have received the letter I sent before half term regarding the arrangements for this academic year.



### Advent and Christmas celebrations in school:

(What a lot!)

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm – Y4 Christmas performance to parents in the hall.**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Y6 are going to the Yorvik Centre as part of their learning in History.**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm – Y3 Christmas performance to parents in the hall.**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 pupils (Class 1, 1/2 and 2) are going to the panto.**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Secret Santa shop in school (led by the PFA)**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm – KS1 Christmas performances to parents in the hall (Class 1, 1/2 and 2).**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm – Y5 Christmas performance to parents in the hall.**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas dinner in school.**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11am - EYFS Christmas performance to parents in the hall.**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9:15am – Christmas Mass for the whole school at St Patrick's Church – please drop your child off at church at 9am where the staff will be there to meet you. Thank you – you are very welcome to join us and would very much appreciate some parent / adult volunteers to help us with the walk back to school.**

I look forward to our continued partnership working.

Kind Regards Mrs C Moulding (Head Teacher)

