



# 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)

19.12.19

## Dear Parents/Carers

We are well into Advent now and the season has brought us so much joy so far. We have now lit three candles on our Advent wreath, two purple for HOPE and LOVE and the pink one this week for JOY. Let us all do everything we can to continue to spread joy to all we meet.

### Advent / Christmas Nativity Performances:



All our classes from EYFS to Year 5 have now presented the Christmas story to the school and their parents/carers and what an amazing job they have done too! They have been truly wonderful to watch and we are so proud of all our pupils, each and every one of them. I would also like to give special recognition and thanks to our staff who always rise to the challenge of putting a great performance together – helping the pupils truly appreciate and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. I know you will appreciate this is no mean feat! Well done staff and pupils!

### Festive Joy:

The joy just keeps coming! Our choir and dance groups performed an excellent “Carols in Candlelight” last night, bringing festive cheer to all who came to take part. Thank you to Mrs Hasioszyn, Miss Smith and Mrs Walker for organising such a lovely event in the lead up to the final week of Advent. It certainly made me feel Christmasy!



### Recruitment of additional ETAs:

I am very excited to announce that we have had a very successful recruitment process over the last few weeks, culminating in two additional ETAs being offered positions to join our staff team from January (once they have worked their notice periods at their current schools). This will mean that each class will have a designated ETA to support with effective learning, ensuring we continue to meet the needs of all our pupils and enable them to reach their potential in all areas of school life. I know that when they begin you will join with us in making them feel welcome and at home here at St Patrick's.

### School Improvement:

I am sure the pupils will have been telling you about the range of school improvement initiatives that we have been actioning over the last term – it has been a very exciting start to a new chapter here at St Patrick's.





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**EYFS Developments:** We have begun the development of the EYFS unit with up to date and improved resourcing (£6000) enabling greater learning opportunities and I have no doubt even more enjoyment and excitement in the range of learning opportunities we can offer the pupils.

**Technology:** We have had new 65" interactive touchscreen SMART boards installed into each class with a moveable one in the EYFS. I am excited to see how these will enable the pupils to have even greater engagement and learning opportunities especially when we further enhance this with some Chromebooks (planned for near future!).

**Phonics and Early Reading:** We have also made great improvements to the phonics and early reading provision from EYFS through to Year 2 and beyond where needed. This has been through training opportunities and new and improved resourcing of reading material to support phonics development. I know the pupils will thoroughly enjoy these resources and enable them to excell.

This is just a few of the changes and developments that have been taking place over the last term and I look forward to working with a great staff team to ensure St Patrick's continues to improve even further so that we can provide our wonderful pupils with the very best education possible.

## The Staff and Pupils:

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our wonderful and very hard working staff. They work incredibly hard to ensure that your children receive the very best learning opportunities we can give – going the extra mile organising trips and experiences to enhance their learning and understanding. Such things are not statutory but they do it because they care so much about the children and want to ensure they have the very richest of opportunities. I know you will join with me in saying a very big thank you! I would also like to thank our wonderful pupils for all their hard work this term – each and every pupil has made progress across the curriculum which is wonderful to see. Well done!



Thank you parents and carers too for the support that you give to your children and the partnership working with school – I have every confidence that together we can ensure our pupils excel and reach their true potential.

I wish everyone a very happy, holy Christmas and a great New Year and look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** when we open for the start of the new term in 2020!

Kind Regards Mrs C Moulding (Head Teacher)

