



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

Telephone: 01924 423220

Website: www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C Moulding

Deputy Headteacher: Miss J Smith

Email: office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

29.01.20

What a great start to a new term we have had, the pupils have returned full of enthusiasm and eager to learn new things – long may this continue! It is great to see the pupils looking so smart in full uniform - please can I politely remind you that footwear must be **plain black school shoes or trainers**. I have noticed a few obvious logos and colours which are not part of the uniform policy. Can I also mention that glass water bottles are not appropriate in school, the risk of them being dropped and broken is too high. Thank you.

Autumn Term Attendance: Overall school attendance: **96.2%**

Nursery	93.7%	Class 1	94.2%	Class 3	96.1%	Class 5	95.4%
Reception	97.2%	Class 2	95.7%	Class 4	96.8%	Class 6	96.6%
		Class 2-1	97.3%				

Thank you for ensuring our pupils are in school every day – let us try to increase our whole school attendance so it is nearer 97% our school target.

CONGRATULATIONS:

I would like to say congratulations to our newly appointed **Head Boy Adam Spence and Head Girl Rosa Hepworth from Class 6**. They were voted for by all the staff for their great attitude to school life, their dedication to being the very best version of themselves and always striving to produce their best work. They have been awarded the very first **ALWAYS** badges as our role models, for ALWAYS making the right choices – I have no doubt more of these badges will be awarded to our super pupils in the coming weeks and months.



Virtues

What is a Virtue?

A virtue is a personal quality that is good. Something that makes us a better person. Something that makes a positive difference in our lives as well as the lives of others.

Something you do because it is the right thing to do – even when no one is watching.

I am sure the pupils have spoken to you about the Virtues that we are now learning about in school - we teach and follow them because they are part of our CHARACTER EDUCATION, supporting you in nurturing your child into the best version of themselves that they can be – and of course we lead by example at school and at home.

Over the last three weeks we have talked about and reflected on the virtue of **FAITH** and **FAITHFULNESS**. This is a very important virtue. We need to have faith in ourselves as well as each other and in God. We are using stories from the Bible to help the children understand this virtue, particularly the parable of the Mustard Seed. If you can chat about it further with your child that would certainly help them to develop a more secure understanding.





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Over the next three weeks we will be focusing on the virtue of **SIMPLICITY** - by living simply we will come to know what really matters in our life and be less afraid of not having more and more things. Living simply gives us time to think of others, do good and care for creation, helping us to put more trust in God.

Putting our faith into action: Our Mini Vinnies

On Friday, we held our Mini Vinnies commissioning service here in school, I was so proud that such a lot of year 5 and 6 pupils wanted to join. It was lovely that Father Eamonn was able to be there, as the pupils begin their journey of putting faith into action by joining the Mini Vinnies. We all heard about why it is so important to turn our concern for those less fortunate into action that will make a difference. I look forward to seeing the different ways they hope to raise funds and spread the message of love and support for those around us.



Sacramental Preparation:



Confirmation:

I am thrilled to tell you that fourteen of our Year 6 pupils have begun their journey of preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. They are very much looking forward to receiving the many gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit when they are confirmed by Bishop Marcus on Thursday 13th February at St Paulinus Church. I know that you will keep them and their families in your prayers.

Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion:

If you have a child in Year 3 or above that has not received the sacrament of Reconciliation or Holy Communion, our preparation sessions will begin after February half term. It is important that you speak to Father Eamonn to register your child for the journey of family catechesis. So far we have eighteen pupils who will be on the journey to receive reconciliation and twenty who will be on the journey for First Holy Communion.



Sports Hall Athletics:

Our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils have taken part in the pyramid competitions over two afternoons – I am thrilled to say they all showed great sportsmanship and supported each other in a lovely way. That support and challenge enabled them to perform very highly and we have had been successful in all age groups – Well Done everyone!



Kind Regards Mrs C Moulding (Head Teacher)

