



Newsletter

Friday 14th May 2021

01422 373104

<https://www.stpatselland.org.uk/>

Dear parents, carers and families

Next week, pupils in years 4 and 5 will undertake their First Holy Communion at St Patrick's Church in Elland. Please pray for these children who are taking this important step in their faith lives: Alex, Ailla, Amber, Antonina, Ava, Bethany, Cohen, Dominic, Freddie, Gracie-Leigh, Henry, Jacob, Jakub, Julia, Kittie, Megan, Nancy and Sofia.

In this week's online safety briefing you will find information about 'Loot Boxes' and 'in-app purchases' - some common elements of games aimed at children and young people. If we have you completely confused about what these could be, and the dangers they pose to your children and your wallet, you can read more on the final page of this newsletter.

In recent weeks we have asked families not to purchase school uniform as yet for September as we await our pending academisation to become a part of 'The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust'. We now confirm that no uniform changes are expected or planned for September. Further info on page 3.

You will be aware that national restrictions are changing on Monday. Please note that there will be no changes currently to our arrangements in school. The safety of our community is our priority.

Thank you to all of the families in Key Stage 2 who attended parental consultation appointments either via zoom or telephone this week. Early Years and Key Stage 1 appointments are next week.

God Bless,
Mrs Lomas and Mrs Hudson-Crook

Holiday Dates

School Closes for half term:

Friday 28th May 2021

School Reopens:

Monday 14th June 2021

School Closes for summer:

Friday 23rd July 2021

New Academic Year Begins:

Monday 6th September 2021

Safeguarding

It is important that you share any concerns or worries about children's wellbeing and welfare with us.

Please contact us with any concerns:

01422 373104

Mrs Lomas (Designated Safeguarding Lead—DSL) : head@st-patricks.calderdale.sch.uk

Mrs Hudson-Crook (Deputy DSL): headofschool@st-patricks.calderdale.sch.uk

www.stpatselland.org.uk/home/safeguarding

Coronavirus - please remain vigilant

We continue to remind families to be vigilant for any symptoms of coronavirus at this time. Our current measures will not be changing on 17th May.

You should not send your child to school if:

- They have symptoms of coronavirus
- They test positive for coronavirus
- A member of their household or support bubble/contact has symptoms
- A member of their household or support bubble/contact has symptoms

In all of the above situations, the household would need to isolate with those presenting symptoms undertaking a PCR test at a testing centre.

Families must inform school if any of the above occur as soon as possible and to agree a provisional return date where necessary.

These measures are to keep our school community as safe as possible and to reduce the risk of any bubble closures.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

If you are in any doubt you should call 119 for advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>



A polite reminder that the school office will be closed for training every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm.

The answerphone will be available for messages and our [admin](#) email will be monitored should you need to contact us.

Thank you for understanding.

Safety at the school gates

Although our school car park is closed between 8:30—9am and 3 - 3:30pm, we politely ask parents not to allow children to run across or around near the entrance.

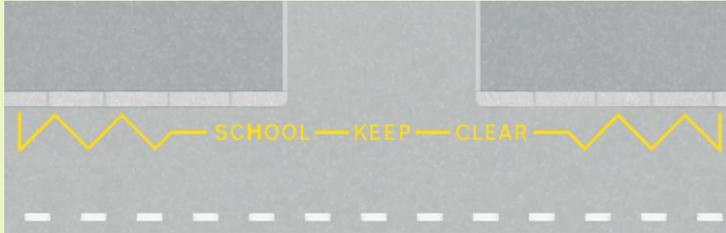
We cannot guarantee that a vehicle may attempt to enter or exit and staff have been concerned around safety during these times.

Thank you.



Important: Car Parking

We politely remind all parents, carers and family members to park safely and courteously in the local area avoiding driveways and junctions and not double parking. The car park remains closed to parents and carers.



The yellow zig-zag lines should not be used for parking or waiting. Please note that vehicles waiting here will be asked to move if seen by a member of staff.

Thank you for keeping our children safe.

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week we shared a number of resources via ParentMail to support parents, carers and families around areas of mental health for children including anger, low mood and anxiety. These are also available on our school website on our 'Useful Links' page for families to access.

Key Stage Two pupils all received a 'Bee You' journal as a part of a 12 week period of work which will take us up to the school holidays in order to promote positive reflection and mindfulness.

We always encourage children and families to communicate positively about feelings and emotions. If you have any concerns and would like support, please feel free to contact us or access our website for more links and information.

Updated notice: School Uniform

As you will be aware, St Patrick's will soon become an academy as a part of 'The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust'.

We are not planning any uniform changes for September.

Uniform can be purchased from The Uniform Shop in Halifax at [25 Union Street, Halifax, HX1 1PR](https://www.theuniformshoponline.co.uk/)

or online:

<http://theuniformshoponline.co.uk/>

<https://price-buckland.co.uk/schools/>

**Have you got
your
lottery ticket
yet?**



Loot Boxes and 'in-game' purchases

"WHAT?!"



You may, or may not, have heard of these but in recent years in-game or in-app purchases have become increasingly common allowing users to enhance their game play/experience. They are a major source of income for the gaming industry but have also been a major source of frustration for families - and their credit cards!!

Loot boxes and in-game purchases are virtual items that players can buy with either virtual currency earned through the game, or with real money. What is available to buy will vary from game to game, but the items will often give players access to additional features that can help them progress further in a game. Some examples of these might be:

- New weapons or tools.
- 'Power ups' that help to improve the gaming experience.
 - Access to new characters.
- New graphics that let the player change the appearance of their avatar or character in the game. These are referred to as 'Skins'.
- Access to new features such as the ability to chat with other players.
 - Time limits so they can play the game for longer.



Loot boxes are mystery boxes containing a random selection of some of the items mentioned above. Companies will often advertise that loot boxes contain rarer items which can make them more enticing for kids and encourage them to repeat purchase. The lucky dip element to loot boxes, paired with the chance of winning a high-reward item, means they can be seen as riskier than other in-game purchases.

Loot boxes and in-app purchases appear in many free and paid for games that are popular among children such as **Fortnite, PUBG (Player Unknown Battle Ground), Fifa, Apex Legends and many more**. You should make sure to talk to your child about the games they're playing and find out if they have loot boxes.

Loot boxes have been linked to gambling addiction as they can be seen to normalise this for young people.

Sign up for the NetAware newsletter - a fantastic guide for parents, carers and families to support with online safety:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/newsletter/>