



Friday 23rd July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe that we have now arrived at the end of the academic year 2020-2021 and what a successful but challenging year we have had, as a result of the continued pandemic – let us hope that next year is more straight forward for us all! We have continued to make many improvements and developments across the school particularly in;

- the progress and achievement in phonics – our Year 1 pupils have made us so proud with 91% passing the phonics check with 32 or more marks out of 40, even after such a challenging two years. **BRILLIANT!**
- the continued development of the outdoor provision for our Early Years pupils who have also made amazing progress in all areas of the Early Years curriculum leading to much higher progress and achievement than our local authority average. **BRILLIANT!**
- the progress being made by pupils from the end of KS1 to end of KS2, how this is analysed and used to ensure all pupils reach their potential. Our Year 6 pupils have made wonderful progress and achieved amazing results using the last Y6 SAT papers from 2019 - 89% reaching National Standard or higher in Reading, 87% in Writing, 91% in Maths and 83% reaching the National Standard or higher in all three core areas. I am sure you will all agree that those results are **AMAZING** and we say huge congratulations to the Year 6 pupils.

Although it has been another challenging year, the school family have worked in great partnership to ensure we have been able to get through this challenging time as successfully as possible together. I wish to thank all our families for their support with home learning this year both during the lockdowns and if you have had to isolate – it is through your dedication and use of the home learning resources that we have been able to ensure our pupils continue with their learning and all pupils make good progress setting them up for their transitions to the next year group. This dedication from yourselves has had a significant benefit to your children and we look forward to working in partnership with you once again in September.

Staff Retirement:

Mrs Cawtheray, a very valued member of school staff for many years will be retiring from full time classroom teaching today.



Mrs Cawtheray has been part of the St Patrick's family as a parent herself, a volunteer and a class teacher. She has had huge impact on the lives of many children as they have passed through her class and also as the Sports Leader in school; ensuring St Patrick's can provide the very best PE and sports provision to allow our pupils to develop the love of sports. We thank Mrs Cawtheray for her many years of dedication and commitment to our school and hope she enjoys some much deserved time with her family and wish her lots of luck with any new adventures that may come her way. We certainly hope Mrs



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
BIRSTALL



Cawtheray will be able to return in the Autumn term when we can once again celebrate a special Mass of thanks together.

Mrs Cath Howard – one of our very valued members of the cleaning team, will also be retiring following many, many years of service to our school. We thank her greatly for her amazing dedication and commitment to our school, most especially over the significant challenges of the last two years. We do hope Mrs Howard will return in the Autumn term for a special Mass of thanks.



Miss Smith, our Deputy Head will be leaving us today to begin as Headteacher of St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy in Halifax in September:

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for her dedication to our pupils over the last three years. She has supported the leadership of our school through some very challenging years as a result of the pandemic, being the face of leadership in school whilst I have been shielding and the whole school are very grateful for the hard work and commitment shown at all times. This hard work has ensured that St Patrick's has

progressed in the areas of early reading and phonics with achievement increasing significantly over the last two years and also led on the huge improvements with the use of technology in supporting the teaching and learning, which has been vital throughout the pandemic.

We say a huge thank you and wish Miss Smith all the very best in her new and very exciting role, we hope she can return in the Autumn term for a special Mass of thanks.

Mrs Abbott will be leaving us today to begin her maternity leave in September.

We would like to wish Mrs Abbott and her growing family all very best and hope she has chance for some very much deserved rest before the safe arrival of her second child. Thank you so much to Mrs Abbott for all her hard work this year both in Class 2 and as our school SENDCO – we will miss her greatly and look forward to some visits to school over the next year!

We are very pleased that Mrs Morgan is able to remain at St Patrick's for another year covering Mrs Abbott's maternity leave.



THANK YOU TO ALL THE STAFF WHO ARE LEAVING US TODAY, FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF WONDERFUL SERVICE TO ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL.



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BIRSTALL



In 2021-2022 academic year:

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be looking in detail at the new government guidance for the next academic year and what that will mean for the arrangements in school. Please be aware that I will send out communication through the school APP so that all parents are fully informed on the changes for next year – how we will be functioning so it is much more like a normal school year for our pupils.



Start and end of the school day:

I intend for the school day to begin at 8:55am again for ALL pupils, with the gate opening at 8:45am and finish at 3:20pm for EYFS and KS1 pupils and 3:30pm for KS2 pupils. I will send out information shortly about the detail of the new arrangements.

Lunchtimes:

We will once again be returning to an hour for lunch – with half an hour in the dining room for all pupils Reception to Year 6 and half an hour of playing time outside. The Reception pupils will have one lunchtime arrangement and KS1/KS2 will have a different time and arrangement. I am very pleased to announce that on Wednesday we successfully appointed another lunchtime supervisor – Mrs Jacqueline Blanchfield, who will join the team with KS1 and KS2 pupils from September.

PE days:

Over the course of this year, pupils have come to school in their PE kits on PE days – we believe this has been very successful and reduced the time for getting ready for PE giving more time for pupils to spend doing PE then moving onto the other lessons. We intend to keep this change moving forward – pupils will be asked to wear **PLAIN BLACK tracksuit bottoms or SCHOOL GREEN PE SHORTS (not black shorts), the school white PE t-shirt, school jumper and trainers.** (If your child wears plain black trainers during non-PE days please wear these for PE days too, if your child wears black school shoes they can wear their home trainers for PE days.)

Uniform:

Boys and Girls: Green pull-over/cardigan, or the green sweatshirt bearing the school logo.

Girls - Tailored, straight legged, charcoal grey trousers, Green skirt, White blouse/polo shirt bearing the school logo

Boys - Grey trousers or smart school tailored shorts, White shirt/polo shirt bearing the school logo

Footwear - Plain black school shoes or plain black smart trainers with black laces and no flashy logos

Please ensure pupils have a book bag or small bag to fit their reading books and homework in – but not too big as it becomes very challenging in the cloakrooms and on pegs.



We say a very fond farewell to our wonderful Class 6 pupils:



I cannot believe we have come to that time where we say goodbye to our Class 6 pupils! You have been a wonderful class, great role models to the rest of the school community. Your attitude to learning has been exemplary leading to you all reaching for the stars and achieving your potential with amazing end of year assessments.

Well done to all of you!

You have all been great examples of putting the virtues we have been learning about into action – following the example of St Patrick through your faithfulness, your love and your courage especially during this most difficult of years!

The whole staff and school family thank you and wish you all the very best in your new journeys. Please do not forget you will always be part of our family and are welcome back to visit (when it is safe to do so).

To all our pupils this year:

You have all been superstars, hardworking, considerate to others and eager to be the very best version of yourself. Our school virtues have certainly been lived out over the year, both in school and at home during this most challenging of times:

Be Faithful

Be Loving

Be Courageous

To our amazing staff team:



Can I please take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the wonderful St Patrick's staff team. Every member of staff has made such a huge difference to each of our pupils this year. Your hard work, dedication and positive attitude has shone throughout the year. I thank each one of you for your dedication to the pupils and hope you all have a very well earned rest over the summer, so that we can continue the learning journey with the pupils next year.

St Patrick's school is a very special place with an amazing team of staff along with wonderful pupils and their families.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe summer break and look forward to seeing you all once again for the new academic year.

School Opens to pupils: Tuesday 7th September

With very best wishes and thanks

Mrs C Moulding (Headteacher)