Thomas and Esme attended St. Mary’s Cathedral to celebrate the great work of the Youth Mission Team. They were even lucky enough to get a picture with Bishop Seamus. St. Patrick’s joined schools from across the diocese to sing and pray together.

Parent Pay is underway! After much negotiation and patience, we are now delighted to say Parent Pay has been introduced in school. We hope this makes life a lot easier for parents when paying for school lunches and/or breakfast club. We hope to extend this to all school payments in the near future.

Family Breakfast
Please remember on the first Friday of each month we invite parents/carers to enjoy a family breakfast. We begin the session with exercise then you can tuck into some tasty treats to give you the best start to the day. Come along and have some fun with us!

E—Safety
Assembly
Thank you so much to the pupils of Y5 and Y6 for leading an assembly on the importance of

E-Safety. Technology is a wonderful tool to support and extend our learning and to use to communicate with others, however, we also have to make sure we stay safe. We should never share any personal information online and we should always tell a grown-up if something happens online that makes us feel uncomfortable.

Parents/Carers are invited to a session on Wednesday 20th April 5pm-6pm to listen to a presentation by PC Graeme Davison. He will offer invaluable help regarding on-line safety. We are hoping to have a great turn-out so everyone understands these important messages.

Super spellers
Each half term, pupils take the spelling pot challenge. The aim is for as many pupils as possible to have an empty spelling pot which shows they know all of their spelling test words and they can apply these words to their own independent writing. All of our sensational spellers get a little prize but, most importantly, they feel enormous satisfaction that their hard work is paying dividends.

To those who didn’t manage this time, don’t worry - there is always next time!
Reception and Year 1 pupils enjoyed their visit from Scales and Tails during their Pets topic. Reception made their own book about ‘Our Pets’ which is now in the reading corner. This half term they have been looking at houses in Dipton. Pupils have even been designing and making their own homes using different materials. They have also been growing and creating their own Easter garden. Amazing!

Year 1 have had two wonderful Beamish experiences. Firstly, Elizabeth came to visit school to talk about different parts of the museum and how it operates. Pupils then went to visit the museum to see everything for themselves. They even helped clean one of the pit cottages using things from the olden days. Phew—I bet that was hard work!

Another very busy term for our industrious Year 3 pupils. They have studied the Romans—designing and building Roman style catapults from junk. They have also had another visit from historian John Roxburgh (he just loves coming to visit St. Patrick’s). John brought Roman artefacts and gave all the children Roman names. In science, pupils have been studying forces and rocks. They built parachutes for egg astronauts as part of their investigation into air resistance. They also made 3 different types of rock using sweets. How creative!

Year 2 enjoyed learning about local heroine Grace Darling. They found out all about lighthouses and sea rescues. They have also been learning about Claude Monet and the impressionists. In preparation for an art exhibition of their own they have been working on their own impressionist masterpieces. They really enjoyed their visit from Vicky and Tina who are artists from the Laing Art Gallery. They helped children create impressionist art work. Pupils even went outside to draw “en plein air” like Claude Monet. What a treat!
Year 5/6

With their second topic this term, Y5/6 explored the Shang Dynasty. All pupils enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Oriental Museum where they had the opportunity to view Shang artefacts. Pupils also created their own artefacts, in clay, for a school museum as well as role-playing a traditional Shang story.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a very busy term. In their first topic they made their own islands from cloth, newspaper and other materials. These were used to explore: rivers in geography, materials in science and story writing in literacy. The children also used drama to enhance their stories.

As part of their second topic on ‘Mines’, pupils visited Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Archives. They had the chance to experience the dangerous life of miners—how they lived and, sometimes, died in mines. In art, pupils looked at Norman Cornish, a famous pitman painter, from the North-East. Whilst producing their own drawings, they explored how perspective is used to create depth in pictures. In science, pupils explored sound and how vibrations travel. Year 4 you have been busy!

Year 5/6

Their first topic this term in Y5/6 was ‘Extreme Earth’. Pupils researched natural disasters and considered what could be done to help. Pupils made their own erupting volcanoes in groups mixing a range of substances to create the lava. Isn’t it great to see science can be fun?

Our pupils have also been making sweet music (and having great fun) with their ukulele lessons.
What have members of the community got to say about our pupils?

Elizabeth Bell Learning Co-ordinator Beamish working with Y1 pupils: "All the staff were very welcoming and helpful... The children were very sensible and their behavior with one another—sharing and helping—was exemplary. Overall a delightful experience from beginning to end!"

Vikki Goodings Scales ‘n’ tails: “Fantastic responses from pupils. Great questions and answers.”

John Roxburgh (this time working with Y3 pupils): "As always the pupils of St. Patrick’s are a pleasure to teach. It’s a lovely school, that I look forward to visiting again and again.”

In other news we say goodbye to Miss Kelly Hanson who has worked with us for the last term in Y4.

We wish her every success in her future endeavours.

And finally……. We wish you all a very happy and holy Easter. Enjoy a peaceful break and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 11th April for breakfast club at 8am or to start the new term as 8.55am.

Friends of St Patrick’s (FOSP) had a very enjoyable cheese and wine evening recently when they discussed some great ideas for raising money for school funds. As well as organising the disco they have plans for a summer fun day for all the family. Sounds like great fun!

FOSP are always looking for new recruits so if you would like to share your talents and your time please see Mrs Brotherston or Mrs Charlton in the school office about how to get involved.