



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess
We follow in Christ's footsteps

Friday 19th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

New drop-off arrangements for Rec, Y1 and Y2

We are going to bring forward the drop-off times for our Reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils to 9am. This is due to timings of our school crossing patrol officer. Please wait with your children until they are collected by their teacher. As there will be more pupils in the yard, we must ask for your full support in keeping pupils beside you rather than allowing them to mix and play in the yard, potentially with children across different classes. We want to move out of this bubble situation as soon as possible, but we can only do that when transmission numbers drop. Collection times remain unchanged. Thank you, in advance.

We miss all those currently self-isolating and we look forward to welcoming back when you are able to return. If your child is absent through self-isolation (and they are otherwise well) please contact us if you would like some work shared via Purple Mash.

Phonics intervention

If your child is in Y3, Y4, Y5 or Y6, and you have been asked to arrive in school earlier for phonics intervention, please ensure your child arrives in at their allocated time.

Christmas

We have had a whirlwind start to this half-term and, we cannot forget, Christmas is fast approaching. We are going to start our preparations for the range of events we had planned. As I mentioned in one of my previous letters, we will have to consider whether these events will be in school, or via video, nearer the time. At the moment, due to the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our school, we are liaising regularly with Public Health but we hope with temporary additional restrictions, this situation will improve.

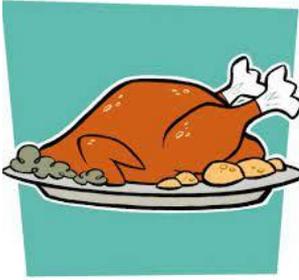
The Sorcerer's Apprentice

We have booked our whole school visit to Northern Stage to see The Sorcerer's Apprentice on **Tuesday 14th December**. Currently, we hope this is possible but, as is the case with all our events, this will be reviewed nearer the time. The total cost of the trip is £10 which includes the price of the ticket and transport and is kindly subsidised by The Friends of St. Patrick's. Please pay on ParentPay. If we are not able to go ahead with this, you will be given a refund. Our final decision on the visit will be made at the end of this month as we will need to give the venue adequate notice.

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School Christmas Lunch



Our delicious Christmas lunch will be served on **Wednesday 15th December**. There will be traditional roast turkey, sausage bites and stuffing balls, roast and creamed potatoes, seasonal vegetables and gravy, followed by a selection of Christmas desserts.

If your child is on packed lunches but would like the Christmas meal, you will be able to pay £2.15 on ParentPay. To allow for the kitchen staff to order provisions for the day we need to know final numbers by **Monday 29th November**. Please note that Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children on packed lunches will be eligible for a free Christmas lunch under the current Government Universal Free School Meal Scheme and payment will not be required.

Please email school by **Monday 29th November** if your child is currently on packed lunches but would like a Christmas Lunch.

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will take place on **Thursday 16th December**. We have booked a party entertainer for our pupils this year. We want to give our pupils this treat in recognition of the great attitude that they have shown.

Depending on the situation at the time, pupils will be in key stages or individual year groups. Children can come dressed in party clothes for the full day but please be mindful that they will still be outdoors over playtimes and the lunchtime period so will need sensible footwear and warm clothing. We ask for a donation of £2.00 per child for the party which will be added to ParentPay from next week.



It is wonderful to be able to organise so many activities over this exciting time, however, we do appreciate Christmas can be very demanding financially. With this in mind, we intend to subsidise the overall cost for every child using a donation from Friends of St Patrick's. If you feel you would have difficulty making this contribution, please contact me personally. We ensure that no child will ever miss an event due to cost. As with other trips/events this year, you will need to give your consent to the activities when you make a payment on ParentPay.

Summary:

Cost of theatre visit £10.00

Cost of school Christmas lunch (Y3,Y4, Y5 and Y6 only) £2.15

Cost towards Christmas party £2.00

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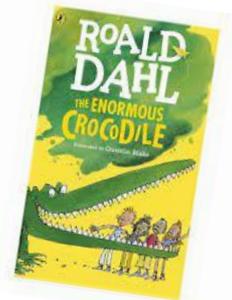
Foodbank collections

We will shortly begin collecting food items to donate to The Trussell Trust Foodbank. We will be issuing a letter next week with more details. We know we can always count on your generosity to support those members of our communities in most need.



Birthday Books Initiative

Thank you so much to all those families who have already contributed a 'Birthday Book'. So many lovely books have already arrived. Our school library and class reading areas are growing by the day, which is wonderful to see! A pupil dedication is added to each book to mark your kind donation.



Anti-Bullying Week Poster Competition



Our pupil leadership team introduced a poster competition to classes this week. As we have a number of pupils absent, we will extend the closing date to **Thursday 25th November**. If any pupils at home wish to email us their designs, we would love to see them. The theme this year is 'One Kind Word'.

Email us at: stpd@stpd.bwcet.com

School admissions

The window for applications for Reception 2022 remains open. Please continue to recommend our school to friends and family. We hope to provide as many pupils as possible with a great start to school life. We were so delighted to hear that one of the families, who visited us recently, said they were so impressed, they decided not to go anywhere else to look at other schools. What a great reflection on the staff and pupils of St Patrick's.

Please follow the link to register for a place with us: [Apply for a primary school place - Durham County Council](#)

School closed to pupils Friday 26th November

We are having a staff training day on Friday 26th November and school will be closed that day.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Burgess
Headteacher

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