



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

Tuesday 30th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Can I begin by saying a huge **THANK YOU** and **well done to all our pupils and their families** for a wonderful few weeks back in school to end the Spring term. The pupils have transitioned back into school in a very positive way, loving being back with their friends, working hard with their learning and making the transition such a success. We very much look forward to having them all back again after the Easter break where we will be having parent consultations so that we can work very much together to ensure the pupils make the best progress in their learning after such a difficult year so far. Further information below and in a parent letter to be sent out on Thursday through the APP.

SCHOOL CLOSURES: End of the day on THURSDAY 1st APRIL

RETURN TO SCHOOL: MONDAY 19TH APRIL

THE EASTER SEASON:

As we approach the most important period within the Christian calendar we continue to find ourselves in a very challenging world.

It will be an Easter Season where we need to reflect upon the blessings we have, recognise the needs of others and consider how we can be the light for someone who needs it.

The story of Holy Week is one of joy and salvation. Easter Sunday marks the resurrection of Jesus – it is a triumph of hope over despair.

EASTER SEASON



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The week leading up to Easter is known as Holy Week – it is the most solemn period in the church's year.

PALM SUNDAY – recalls seeing Jesus coming into Jerusalem with the crowds waving palms as a greeting.

HOLY THURSDAY – recalls Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Jesus shows us that to be a follower we must serve others just as he washed the feet of the disciples.

GOOD FRIDAY – commemorates Jesus suffering and death on the cross.

HOLY SATURDAY – commemorates Jesus' lying in the tomb; it is a day of waiting.

EASTER SUNDAY – celebrates Jesus' glorious resurrection and triumph over death and evil.





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EASTER SERVICES at St Patrick's Church



Please visit St Patrick's Parish website to arrange for a ticket to attend one of the Holy Week services.

If you are unable to celebrate Easter through attending Mass this year, please click on the link below as the services are streamed onto the Parish Youtube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmbaGlx4aeYJOS_pbNRnLEg

CONGRATULATIONS:



We would like to express our huge **CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Smith**, who has been appointed as Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Halifax from September 2021. Miss Smith will of course continue as our Deputy Head for the rest of this academic year. We will be having a celebration, wishing her a fond farewell and all the very best later in the Summer term.

We will now be advertising for a new Deputy Headteacher to join our wonderful school for September 2021. You will see the advert on the school website from Thursday this week.





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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

We would like to say a huge well done to our pupils in Class 4, who completed their preparations for the sacrament of Reconciliation and celebrated the sacrament with Father Eamonn on Tuesday 23rd March. The pupils were such a credit to their parents and families, very thoughtful and prepared themselves very well. Father Eamonn was very impressed with the pupils and we feel immensely proud of them. Thank you to all our parents and carers for their support and partnership working in helping the pupils to be ready.



SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:



Holy Communion

As we begin the Summer term, please keep the pupils in Class 5 in your thoughts and prayers as they are guided through the preparations to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in early June.

Father Eamonn and the staff in school very much look forward to being able to celebrate with the pupils, in small groups, at St Patrick's church and making it a lovely and memorable experience for them.

SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME: CLASS 6

I am very pleased that as we travel along the Government roadmap, Kirklees is now able to offer the schools swimming programme once again. As a result of the lack of opportunity for our Class 6 pupils to have the swimming provision last year, we will be having the schools swimming programme for Class 6 next term. They will be going by bus, but on a **MONDAY after lunch**. They will need to bring their swimming kit and towel and are able to use the changing facilities at the swimming baths once again. We recognise what an important skill swimming is and wanted to ensure this is offered to our Class 6 before their transition through to High school. Swimming will begin the first week back, so the pupils need to have their **kits with them on Monday 19th April**.





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RECOVERY PLANS MOVING FORWARD:

Following a successful transition back to school for our pupils and the careful use of formative assessments over the last few weeks, (without increasing anxiety by using formal "tests") the staff had a staff meeting to ensure there is a plan in place to support the pupils with the recovery as we move forward together. We acknowledge all the hard work of our parents and pupils during the lockdown period of restricted attendance in school which we have no doubt has supported the pupils in their transition back to school life and their lessons in class. But there is no getting away from the fact that learning has been affected across the country and our school is no different. I felt it important to acknowledge this and let you know that the whole staff are working together to ensure we deliver the very best curriculum over the next term and beyond into next year, that will enable our pupils to make really good progress. We know that "recovery" is going to take time and pupils will need much support along the way.

The parent consultations that will be taking place in the early part of next term (a letter will be coming out, through the school APP on Thursday) will give the opportunity for partnership working and discussion around the transition back to school, their assessed learning needs and what is in place to support them moving forwards. The consultations will be for 10 minutes and once again be virtual through the TEAMS platform as in November. Please keep your eye out for the letter on Thursday and reply through Class Dojo straight after Easter.

Important Easter Holiday Procedures:

Procedures if your child shows symptoms within 48 hours of being in school
(Friday 2nd April and Saturday 3rd April only)

1. You **MUST** contact Mrs Moulding and Miss Smith by email immediately if you have any concerns to inform us that your child has shown symptoms within the 48hour period and that **you have booked a COVID test** informing us of the date and time of the test. ***It is vital a test is booked at a drive through centre as soon as possible*** as the results will be returned much quicker – experience in our area says less than 24 hours later. A home test would delay this significantly and put other families within our school community at greater risk.

Please email our new email addresses for informing us as this is the email we will check between 9 and 12pm each morning up to Easter Sunday and beyond if we know of a symptomatic pupil within the first couple of days.

cmhead@stpatricksbirstall.co.uk (Mrs Moulding)

jsdeputy@stpatricksbirstall.co.uk (Miss Smith)





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This will mean that we see the email straight away as our usual emails are very busy and we will need to begin to gather all the contact information so we are ready to support NHS test and trace straight away should the result come back positive.

- 2. You must ensure you inform us straight away of the test result whether it is negative or positive by sending a screenshot of the result to the email addresses above.**
- 3. If the result is negative, there will be no further action needed.**
- 4. If the result is positive you must follow all guidance and legal obligations to isolate your family and work with NHS test and trace to inform your close contacts. This means contacting myself / Miss Smith also who will support NHS test and trace in contacting the close contacts within school – their class adults and other pupils in their class or extended phase bubble for KS1.**
- 5. If your child develops symptoms from Sunday 4th April onwards you will need to work with NHS test and trace to inform your close contacts but this will not impact on school. Miss Smith and I would of course like you to inform us so that we can support you and your child on their return on Monday 19th April.**

If we do not receive an email by midday on Sunday 4th April we will presume that no pupil has shown any symptoms of COVID over the first couple of days – which will be wonderful news.

If we sadly have a positive case in the first few days of the Easter holidays that impacts on isolation for a child in your family, you will receive an email from the school system and not necessarily appear to be from myself or Miss Smith. In this way we can send a bulk email to all those who are close contacts rather than individually which would be less efficient. **It is vitally important that you keep checking your emails regularly**, we are not expected to make phone calls to all contacts in those first few days as we will be doing this from home but send information through email. We will also send the information through the school APP to the class(es) involved. If you receive communication regarding a positive case and your child is a close contact, you are under a **legal obligation** to isolate them for 10 days following the dates and PHE guidance that we send you.

Can I please take this opportunity to thank my wonderful team of staff - teachers, support staff, office staff, caretaker, kitchen staff and cleaners who have been amazing over the year so far, especially during the very challenging Spring term. I know you will all want to join with me in thanking them for their dedication, professionalism and care.

I wish you all a safe and happy Easter time.

Kind Regards Mrs C Moulding (Head Teacher)

