



# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School



Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe how quickly we are speeding through the summer term and approaching the end of another very different and challenging year. As you will see as you read through this newsletter we have lots to celebrate and be thankful for.

## **Staffing updates:**

Having already shared the lovely news of Miss Smith's appointment as Headteacher of St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Halifax from September 2021, we wish to share some further news:



**Mrs Christina Cawtheray** who has been an integral part of our staff team for many years, has made the difficult decision to take early retirement from full time classroom teaching at the end of this school year. We will be saying a huge thank you and good luck later in July as Mrs Cawtheray looks ahead to beginning a new and exciting chapter in her life; one we hope that keeps St Patrick's School firmly planted in her heart and ensures she makes regular visits back as she will always be a part of our school family.

I have no doubt you will all join with the staff and governors to thank her immensely for the many years of dedication she has given to the pupils of St Patrick's – she will be greatly missed but we wish her all the very best.

**Mrs Fiona Abbott** will be leaving at the end of the year to begin her maternity leave. As her family grows she has made the decision to step down from being our SENDCo when she returns from maternity leave. Mrs Abbott has been a hugely valued and successful SENDCo for many years and so I am sure I stand alongside all our families in saying a huge thank you for everything she has done to support staff in providing our pupils with the very best provision to ensure they can make personalised progress and strive to reach their goals. Mrs Abbott will be working closely over this half term with our newly appointed SENDCo to ensure the transition is smooth and we continue to work in partnership with families (who have received a letter already from Mrs Abbott).



**Mrs Carol Dransfield** will be retiring from her long standing role as a lunchtime supervisor from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July. The governors, staff and pupils would like to thank Mrs Dransfield for her unwavering commitment, love and dedication to our school in her different roles over the last two decades. In her final role as lunchtime supervisor she has been a very valued member of the staff team, ensuring our pupils are safe and happy during their lunch break and we will certainly miss her. We wish her all the very best in her well-deserved retirement. THANK YOU!





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(Information will be coming out soon regarding this term time only lunchtime supervisor vacancy for September 2021 – please look on our school website or contact the school office)

**Mrs Cath Howard** will be retiring from her longstanding position as a cleaner for St Patrick's school following over two decades of dedicated service to the community. We thank Cath immensely for her warmth, love and hard work especially over the most challenging final two years whilst in the pandemic, ensuring we have kept the school clean and safe for everyone. We wish Cath all the very best in her well-deserved retirement and hope she will come back and visit us.



## Our new staff:

The governors and I are very pleased to share with you that we have been very successful in our appointments over the last half term.

**Deputy Headteacher:** We have successfully appointed a new Deputy Headteacher who will join us in September – Miss Emily Gott, who is currently working within the Diocese of Leeds in St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Halifax. Miss Gott will be spending some time in school over the next few weeks, meeting with the pupils and staff and ensuring she is ready to begin her new and exciting role in September. I know that she is very excited about starting her new role at St Patrick's and continuing the great work that Miss Smith has been doing over the last three years.

**Class Teacher and SENDCO:** We have successfully appointed Miss Catherine Wolanski as our school SENDCO and full time class teacher. Miss Wolanski is currently the Assistant Head and SENDCO within the Diocese of Leeds, at St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Bradford. Miss Wolanski brings some great leadership experience to our staff team where I know she will continue to ensure we support all our pupils in the very best way so that they can all reach their potential.

I know that as a school community we will all join together to welcome our new staff and make sure they settle in well and feel part of the wonderful St Patrick's family. It is such a special place to learn and work we are sure they will be very happy, as we all are.

## **CONGRATULATIONS to our First Holy Communicants:**

Congratulations to the thirty pupils in Year 5 who celebrated their First Holy Communion last week in four very special Masses at St Patrick's Church with Father Eamonn. They each looked beautiful, participated with respect and completed their readings with confidence. – they made us all very proud. I thank the parents for supporting their child in their journey of preparation, which I know has taken some time. Thank you to Father Eamonn for always being there to guide and support us and for making sure each Mass was centred around the children and gave them a very special memory to treasure forever.





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Over the next few weeks our pupils in **Class 4 will begin their journey of preparation** towards making their First Holy Communion in mid- October. We hope this will take place during the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October although specific plans will not be made until we are clear about the restrictions in the Autumn term. Let us hope we are beginning to see life at home and school returning to a more normal position by then.

**Class 3 will also be starting their journey of preparation** for receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Prayer room at school on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The pupils in Class 4 celebrated the sacrament in this way earlier in the year and it was very successful with Father Eamonn saying how very impressed he was with our pupils.

Many of our **Class 6 pupils have started their journey of preparation** for the sacrament of Confirmation. Miss Smith has been working closely with Father Eamonn to put all the plans in place, to ensure the celebration of the sacrament is a wonderful experience for the pupils who will be celebrating the sacrament with Father Eamonn later in July.

We ask that you keep the all these pupils, who are journeying to develop and deepen their faith, in your thoughts and prayers.

## Class Masses in School

It has been wonderful to be able to celebrate class Mass once again in school over the last term. Father Eamonn has led Mass for Class 6, 5, 4 and 3 in school focused around the virtues – helping each of us to become the very best versions of ourselves. It has been lovely to hear the pupils singing to start and finish each Mass (one class only in the hall) – filling the school with the wonderful sounds of joyful singing children, praising and thanking God once again.

## Early Years pupils visiting St Patrick's Church:

Yesterday and this coming Thursday, our pupils in the Early Years have or will be visiting St Patrick's Church as part of their RE work in school. They have been learning about the importance of the church, what we can see such as the candles, the altar, our bible, the cross and the tabernacle and finding out why they are important. I was privileged to go with some of the pupils yesterday who thoroughly enjoyed the visit sharing their knowledge and understanding and learning lots from Father Eamonn. The pupils were a credit to their families and school – very respectful and showing their increasing knowledge and understanding of our faith. We cannot wait to be able to have whole school or Key Stage Masses in church once again where families can be invited to share the special time with us.





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**Congratulations** to Tilly Kaye in Class 5 who was successfully selected, from national auditions, to play a major role in a CBeebies series which will be aired in the Autumn term – 'Biff and Chip – the series'.

We are very proud of how hard Tilly has worked to gain the major part and very much look forward to seeing her on the TV – I have no doubt all the children in school will be thrilled to know **BIFF attends St Patrick's school!** Well Done Tilly!

## Attendance in school:

Since return to school in March the attendance of our pupils has been super in the most part. We understand the challenges and difficulties the year has posed; however, we also know that each day that a pupil is taken out of school when all other children are in school will have a significant impact on their learning. As I know you will all recognise, we are all working incredibly hard to try to support the pupils in recovering as quickly as possible from the disruption of the last year with additional teachers being employed in each phase of school to provide interventions and catch-up provision as well as the after school catch-up sessions. The governors and I are concerned about the increase in communication from parents taking their child/ren out of school during this final half term – PLEASE could I ask that you arrange any trips, family gatherings and holidays for during the school holidays as this is having a significant impact on pupils learning during these final weeks and we do not want pupils dropping further behind their peers. We are all ready for some needed family time but with only a few weeks to go, I am sure we can pull together to improve our school attendance once again.



## Attendance Matters



Thank you for your understanding and supportive partnership, working together for the good of the pupils in our care.

With kind regards

Mrs Clare Moulding (Headteacher)



school achievement award  
Department for Education and Skills

