



St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School - Newsletter

16th February 2023

Tel: 0161-834-9004

Weekend Masses: Vigil Mass - Saturday, 6.30 p.m. at St. Malachy's

9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (signed for the deaf) at St. Patrick's

Parish Website: <https://stpatricksliveseyst.yolasite.com/>

School Website: www.st-patricks.manchester.sch.uk

Facebook page: [St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Primary School, Manchester](https://www.facebook.com/St.Patrick's-Roman-Catholic-Primary-School-Manchester)



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

If there is any parent who wishes their child to be baptised, please contact the Parish Priest of the parish in which you live. If you live within the boundaries of this parish, please see Canon Paul after one of the weekend Masses listed above. Alternatively, Canon Paul can be contacted on 07764791889 or at Paul.Daly@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

**Our Statement to live by when we return is:
"IN LENT... WE WILL BE HELPFUL AND KIND."**



LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which we continue to read in this Sunday's Gospel, is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible and has guided people in the ways of true love throughout the ages. Jesus calls us to do something exceptional: we must love all people, regardless of how they treat us. Everyone likes to be loved so perhaps as a family this weekend, each of you can decide on something you can do in the coming days to grow in love - to love as Jesus loves. Perhaps you can: show and tell family members how much you love them through unexpected acts of kindness; be peacemakers; pray for anyone whom you may find difficult to like; forgive someone and be friends again. Life becomes more joyful when we follow Jesus' command to love one another.

*"Let us ask the Lord for the grace not to speak badly of others,
not to criticise, but rather to love everyone." (Pope Francis)*

LENT: Next week sees the start of the season of Lent with the well known and practised traditions of Shrove Tuesday finishing Ordinary Time whilst Ash Wednesday marks the start of forty days and nights of prayer, fasting, giving and preparing. As always there will be services in the parish on Ash Wednesday:

St. Patrick's: 9.15 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.

St. Malachy's: 11.00 a.m.



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY MATTERS: Congratulations to the pupils in Year 3 and Nursery who managed to surpass our whole school attendance target of 97% last week. The children were rewarded with a well-deserved extra 5 minutes play time this week. After the half term break, we'll be finding out which class has the highest attendance for the month of February so...watch this space! Please continue to encourage your child to become an attendance HERO (Here, Every day, Ready and On time). Please help us to do our job by keeping us informed if your child is going to be absent from school. Thank you parents/carers for your continued support and cooperation.



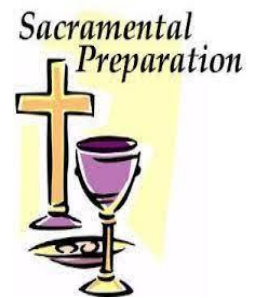
Nursery: 97.1%	Reception: 93.1%	Year 1: 91%	Year 2: 95.4%
Year 3: 97.1%	Year 4: 92.3%	Year 5: 92.6%	Year 6: 92.8%
WHOLE SCHOOL: 93.9%			



PRAYER AND WORSHIP: The next Mass will be a whole school Mass to celebrate the life of our patron saint - St. Patrick! So this will be on **Friday, 17th March** in church at the usual time of 9:15 a.m. As always, parents/carers are welcome to come along and join the celebration.

MASSES: Father Paul is very keen for our school community to have the opportunity to pray together more on a regular basis. He would like to offer our parents, children and staff the chance to celebrate a short and early morning Mass each Thursday at 8.15 a.m. in church, before school starts. This would be a great thing to get started during Lent as we are supposed to pray more in preparation for Easter. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: Please can the parents of pupils who are completing the Sacramental Programme make a note of the following dates and times. Sister Anne will be in touch with parents regarding a meeting for preparation.



Tuesday, 7 th March - 7:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation Service at St. Patrick's Church
Sunday, 18 th June - 9:30 a.m.	First Holy Communion Mass at St. Patrick's Church



READING TOP TIP: Our top tip this week is: **PLAY WITH LETTERS, SOUNDS AND WORDS!** Engage your child in games and activities that help them learn new words. For older children, these could be crossword puzzles, word searches or word hunts. Have you ever played 'Wordle' online? ...it's brilliant!! For younger children, focus on playing with letters and sounds. You can use Play-Doh or alphabet magnets. All of these activities build your child's vocabulary and understanding of how words work. This will help them understand words when reading books, making reading easier and more enjoyable!

HERE TO HELP WITH THE COST OF LIVING: If you are struggling with the increases in food and energy bills and are struggling financially, help is available by phoning the cost of living advice line on 0800 023 2692.

This free telephone line offers support with:

- Benefits and help with your rent
- Advice about debt and paying bills
- Food support - help to find community food provision near you
- Help to get online - support to access the internet, laptops, phones and data.

The line is open Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm. Translations and Sign Video services are available upon request.



NO SUCH THING AS A FREE BREAKFAST!?: Well, this is certainly not true at ASDA! Over the half term holiday, children will be able to eat a free bowl of porridge at their local Asda in-store cafe. The offer is available each day from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY: Congratulations to all of the children in St. Matthew's house!! Collectively, they accumulated the most house points this half term for displaying our Gospel Values during lessons and whilst playing at break times. The children were rewarded with a whole afternoon off timetable playing games in the playground and of course they loved the toasted marshmallows and juice around the campfire in our Forest School!! Head over to our school Facebook page to see even more photos! Well done children!!

SCHOOL FUND: Many thanks for your very generous donations today for the Non-Uniform Day. All monies collected will be put towards reducing the costs of enrichment activities and school trips for the children as the academic year progresses.



INDUSTRIAL STRIKE ACTION-TUESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY 2023: Parents, please look out for a letter via email giving further details of the classes affected by planned strike action being taken by teachers who are members of the NEU union.

The following classes **will not open** to pupils on Tuesday, 28th February: Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, and Year 6.

The following classes **will be open** on Tuesday, 28th February: Reception, Year 3 and Year 5.



LENTEN FUNDRAISING: After half term, we'll be entering the season of Lent and as always, the school will be supporting Caritas with their St. Joseph's Penny Lenten appeal. We'll be sending home small collection boxes for the children to put any spare change in for the duration of Lent. As well as this, each and every Friday during Lent, the children and staff are invited to come into school in their most bright and colourful clothing so we can make a human rainbow throughout the school! To support the appeal, we are asking for a donation of 50p per pupil or £1 per family each Friday. Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity.

CURRICULUM NEWS: Classes have been busy coming to the end of their topics this week and teachers have been quizzing the children to see if they can remember all they have learnt. Children in Reception love their P.E. lessons in the hall and were linking their story writing of Goldilocks and the 3 bears to their apparatus work. Year 5 & 6 children did extra R.E. and prayer & worship so that they are fully prepared for the start of Lent next week. Our Nursery children LOVED making cards and gifts for that 'someone special' on Valentine's Day. Our urban crew participated in an international workshop and have a better understanding of their roles as global citizens. Our knowledge organisers will be emailed out to parents so that you can get a head start with the topics for next term.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT: As part of their geography topic this term about identifying human and physical geographical features, the Year 4 class had a very pleasant yet educational river cruise around Salford Quays today. Please feel free to visit the school Facebook page to see what a lovely time the children had.



MCA HALF TERM HOLIDAY PROGRAMME: FREE Registration for the upcoming MCA Half Term Holiday Programme is now OPEN (Years 3-9). It is for one week only from **Monday, 20th - Friday, 24th February**. If you wish to sign up your children/child please click on the link below. You must complete one form for each child. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1t85Pp3wu9oCzV3m-mqN7ZqMlml1V9U5Re4GAmZt7yI/edit>

ONLINE SAFETY: As we're all aware, there are many benefits for our children accessing the world wide web! We are also very aware that some of our children have gone against advice and guidance regarding the use of social media platforms such as Tik Tok, Instagram, Snapchat and Whatsapp. As a school, we do not advocate our children having social media accounts or being members of 'group chats' because we believe that they are not emotionally mature enough to use them correctly. Therefore, we ask parents to closely monitor your child's use of their phone, their messaging and engagement on social platforms and messaging. Safeguarding is everyone's concern so let's work in partnership to ensure our children know how to keep themselves safe as well as how to conduct themselves appropriately on line. **Parents of pupils in Year 5 and 6, please look out for a further letter from Mrs Clinton in addition to the letter she emailed last week.**





WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY, 2ND MARCH: Our theme for this year is...'not all heroes wear capes!' We are challenging our children to come to school dressed as a real person in their lives who inspires them. Ideas include: parents, grandparents, a sports coach, dance teacher, a volunteer at their community centre OR a profession that inspires them: medics, police officers, fire-fighters, barristers, dentists, trades people, environmentalists. Get your thinking caps on everyone as it's only a month away. We know we always have a fantastic response and it's a day of great fun for the whole community. As always, we ask that parents don't spend ANY money for our World Book Day!

HEAD LICE: We have had a few reported cases of head lice in school this week. Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. NHS advice is to:

- Treat head lice as soon as you spot them
- You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day
- There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice
- Long hair should be tied up as the lice LOVE loose hair!



BIRTHDAY TREATS: As parents and children know, we love celebrating with children who are having a birthday! Our weekly celebration assembly always recognises and treats a child who is celebrating around that time. Staff are quite happy to make reasonable allowances for children who wish to bring into school ONE sweet treat for their classmates which can be easily distributed in the playground at the end of the day. Unfortunately, as you'll understand, staff are busy teaching so haven't got the time to be making up party bags or cutting up cakes so please be sensible and work with us.

PACKED LUNCHES: We pride ourselves on being a healthy school and therefore we have always pledged that meals in school should be healthy meals. In the past, we have done workshops with parents who prefer to provide their child with a packed lunch. This is entirely parental choice. We ask that parents work with us to ensure that, like the children who have school meals, our packed lunch children also have a healthy lunch. For example, all parents and children have always known that fizzy drinks are not allowed as part of a packed lunch; only water or milk. Sweet treats should be kept to an absolute minimum of one small treat in the packed lunch.



FACEBOOK: If you aren't doing so already, please 'like' our page on Facebook so you can keep up to date with all of the latest news! Teachers will be posting about what the class are up to during the week and they'll post photos also! Search us as St. Patrick's Manchester and we should pop up!

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Sister Philomena Jordan (RIP) and family, the Presentation Sisters, Hugo Quirke (RIP) and family, Nancy Lennie (RIP) and family, Maureen Duffy and family, Stephen McArdle and family, Josephine Ekuase, Mrs Balagizi, Margaret Williams, all involved with caring for the sick of our community, everyone affected by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, those families seeking asylum from war torn countries, Canon Paul Daly, Father Moses, Deacon Stephen, the Missionaries of Charity Brothers and all other private intentions at this time.





Stay with us, Lord... on our journey.