



# St. Patrick's Primary School

## Newsletter

Learn from Jesus, Love like Jesus, Live like Jesus

14th February 2017

Spring2

### From the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Between the feast of the Epiphany and Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent) the church enjoys a span of "ordinary time" when we keep a count of the weeks through the liturgy. This is peppered with feasts and celebrations, the most well known and well kept of which is the feast of St Valentine.

The Roman Martyrology lists two St Valentines, both martyred around the year 269AD, one of whom was a priest in Rome. One legend tells of letters of encouragement sent by the priest to people who lived in fear of persecution; a legend meant to explain why people send Valentines in his name.

Rather than merely hearts and flowers, perhaps we should challenge ourselves to exchange signs of respect and affection with everyone—to celebrate the joy of caring for others with kindness and compassion.

Sadly, after a short period of time at St Patrick's as caretaker, Mr Stilwell will be leaving at half term for personal reasons. We thank him for his hard work and contribution to our school community and wish him well for the future. Our new caretaker, Mr Gary Knight, will take up his position at half term.

We also welcome Mrs Saravanan and Mrs Ward to the staff of Shamrocks after school club and hope that they will find their new roles rewarding and fun!

Finally, if you have queries or concerns over any aspect of your child's educational experience at St Patrick's please raise them through the appropriate channels by speaking to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

I look forward to seeing you all at parents evening.

**Mrs P Dix**

### School Diary

14/02/17	5.30pm	Parents Evening
15/02/17	3.30pm	Year 4 parents Residential meeting
16/02/17	3.50pm	Parents Evening
17/02/17		INSET DAY
27/02/17	8.50am	School opens after half term
01/03/17	9am	Ash Wednesday Service
02/03/17	9am	Year 1 Collective Worship
02/03/17		KS1 Library Visits
03/03/17	8.50am	Coffee Morning
03/03/17		Year 5 trip
08/03/17	9am	Year 5 to Farnborough Hill
08/03/17		Years 1+2 trip

### Attendance and Punctuality



Evidence shows that regular and punctual attendance at school has a direct impact upon attainment at GCSE and beyond. In addition, learning the importance of regular attendance and being on time are important life skills, which are developed by example at a young age and are highly valued by future employers and colleagues.

Please make every effort to be at school by 8.50am. If you are consistently late, please consider leaving home a little earlier to give your child the best start possible to their day.

Application for leave of absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Cheaper fares, travel days and confusion over term dates are not deemed to be exceptional circumstances. If your request for leave is not authorised and you take your child out of school anyway, or you take your child out without requesting leave this will be marked as unauthorised leave.

As a school we regularly check children's overall attendance figures. Should this figure fall below 90% there are implications such as meeting with the headteacher or, in the case of unauthorised leave, penalty charges from the council which are currently set at £60 per parent, per child.



Contact us—01252 542 511 / [enquiries@st-patricks.hants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-patricks.hants.sch.uk)



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### E-Safety

We have recently experienced several situations involving children and inappropriate use of mobile phones and gaming devices.

If your child has access to such technology please make sure they are appropriately supervised and monitored.

For further safety information visit the following sites:

- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>
- <http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/advice-and-information/general/online-safety>

### Half Term Activities



#### Farnborough Leisure Centre Fit For Sport Activity Camp 4-12 years

Places for People are pleased to partner with Fit For Sport – the UK's experts in engaging and educating children – to deliver children's activity camps every school holiday. Fit For Sport has been delivering OFSTED registered camps for children aged between 4-12 years old for 25 years and will be working with the existing team to continue the successful Activity Camps at Farnborough. They will be delivering a wide range of activities this Half Term Holiday making sure kids have fun, make friends and keep moving during the holidays. To book your place this half term visit [www.fitforsport.co.uk](http://www.fitforsport.co.uk) or call 0845 456 3233.

#### Connaught Leisure Centre Holiday Playscheme

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**, Tongham Road, Aldershot GU12 4AS. Full day 8.30am to 5.30pm £18.00. Part day 8.30am to 3.30pm £16.00. The scheme is open to children age 4 – 12 years; 4 year olds need to have been in school for one term.

Activities include Indoor and outdoor play, Dance, Sports, Arts & Crafts, Parachute games and more. Children will need a packed lunch, non-fizzy drink and comfortable clothing to play in and enjoy themselves. Registered with Ofsted, 507919.

### A note from St Patrick's PTA



Thank you to everyone who came to quiz night on Friday 10th February, it was a fantastic night once again. As well as all the money raised for the PTA which is going towards resources for the children, we also raised £240 for Phab Kids, the charity which Mrs Mulholland is raising money by running the London Marathon this year.

We are now busy planning the next event which is the children's disco, you should have all received the letters for this in your child's bag.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd March at 7pm, please join us if you can!

### PTA Diary

02/03/17	7pm	Meeting
03/03/17	8.50am	Coffee Morning
17/03/17	5pm	Disco