



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

1st December 2023

Tel: 0161-834-9004

Parish Website: <https://stpatricksiveseyst.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



WEEKEND MASSES - Come to the table, everyone is welcome!

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

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

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. at St. Malachy's

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 Father Paul after one of the weekend Masses listed above. Alternatively, Father Paul can be contacted on 07764791889 or at paul.daly@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

**Our Statement to live by next week is:
'GOD IS COMING, STAY AWAKE!'**



LET'S PRAY: This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a special time to pause and reflect on the real reason and true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world. In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. The message from the Gospel is very clear: we are to 'stay awake!'.

A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this - to be alert to Jesus' presence around us. Prayer brings us not only closer to God but also closer to one another. In school, the children have been learning some signing actions to help them to understand the words of The Lord's Prayer, Why not ask your child to teach the family and pray together during Advent?

"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers." (St Thomas Aquinas)

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY MATTER: Unfortunately, we missed our whole school attendance target last week with a score of 94.3%. The Reception class did manage to achieve 97%+ so they were rewarded with an extra five minutes playtime...well done to them!! The staff are busy planning lots of exciting activities for the children over the last few weeks of term as we build up to Christmas. We would love to see the children in school and enjoying pantomimes, nativity plays, a party day, a disco, Christmas crafts to mention just a few! The result for the winning class with the highest attendance for November will be announced next week so watch this space! Please try to encourage your child to become an attendance HERO (Here, Everyday, Ready and On time). Thank you parents/carers for your continued support.



Nursery: 89.7%	Reception: 99.3%	Year 1: 92.3%	Year 2: 91.7%
Year 3: 95.5%	Year 4: 96.9%	Year 5: 96.2%	Year 6: 94.8%
WHOLE SCHOOL: 94.3%			



PRAYER AND WORSHIP: Our Year 2 led a beautiful Mass on Wednesday morning all about the theme of 'Family'. Our next Mass will be a whole school Mass on **Wednesday, 20th December** and the readings to celebrate Christmas will be led by our Year 6 pupils. As always, all are welcome to join us in church at the usual time of 9:15 a.m. We'd love to see you there!

His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain (the Pope's representative in this country), made a special pastoral visit to Salford Diocese this week. We were blessed that our parish church was selected for him to celebrate Mass and impart Pope Francis' blessing on us all. The Year 5 children were even given the opportunity to present some special letters to him that they had written to Pope Francis himself! Thank you to all who came along to give him a warm welcome.



READING TOP TIP: This week's...well actually this **MONTH'S** reading top tip is: 'Watch a video of one the teachers on our Facebook Page!!' Yes parents, relax... the teachers have come to the rescue!! As a special Advent treat, the teachers will be posting an Advent video recording of one of their favourite Christmas stories each and every day during Advent. Why not send the teachers a message to tell them how you enjoyed listening to them read. Perhaps you can give some feedback and tell your teacher what they could do to improve!! Ho ho ho!! Enjoy!



CURRICULUM NEWS: It's been another really busy week across many areas of our broad and balanced curriculum. Miss Lowrie and the Year 1 class have been practising their oracy skills and showing that it's just as important to listen as it is to talk. Mr Snuggles helped them to take turns with their speaking and listening! Miss McGrath and the Reception class loved their Art Day with Mrs Philips and worked hard to make their own leaf paintings using tracing paper and oil pastels. Miss Loughrey and Year 6 have become bright sparks this week by investigating electricity further and seeing whether voltage affects the brightness of a bulb in a circuit. Why not visit our school Facebook page to see what your child's class has been learning about this week?

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 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Translations and Sign Video services are available upon request.



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: The SVP in our parish have launched a scheme to gather food supplies for people who find themselves in difficulty during the cost of living crisis. Their aim is to provide short term help so that people have space to get back on track. If you can spare any non perishable items they will be greatly appreciated - Tins, rice, pasta, soap, toothpaste, deodorant etc. can be dropped off at the back of St. Patrick's or St. Malachy's Church. Thank you for your support. If any parents feel they are at crisis point and would benefit from some help, please come and have a conversation with Mr Usher or Mrs Clinton. Everyone at some stage needs help so please don't struggle.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR: Yet again, the parish Christmas Fair was a huge success this year and it was lovely to see the church hall so busy with members of our school and parish community gathered together for the common good of supporting our wonderful parish. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the success of the fair this year.



EYFS STAY AND PLAY: The next stay and play will be on **Thursday, 14th December** and the session will be around activities that you can do with your child associated to the Christmas story. Nursery and Reception parents/carers welcome.

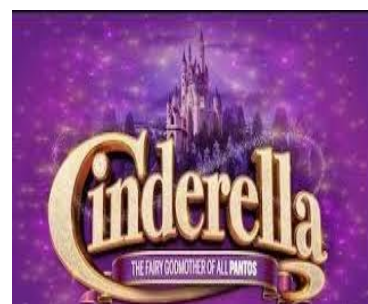
ONLINE-SAFETY TOP TIP: Our top tip this week is: **KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN.**

- It's crucial to talk to your child regularly and openly about what they're doing online
- Encourage your child to tell you if they ever have a problem online. Help them come up with a plan of attack if they ever see anything online that makes them feel worried or unsure (e.g. tell an adult, close the tab, etc.)
- Work together with your child to help them navigate digital dilemmas. Reassure your child that you won't take away their devices if issues occur
- Many experts advise against using technology as rewards and punishments. You don't want your child to be discouraged from talking to you about problems due to the fear of being disconnected



MANCHESTER CHRISTMAS PARADE: This heart-warming event of the season returns again this year, even bigger and better. Manchester's free Christmas Parade, the best of its kind in the UK, will once again bring joy to thousands of spectators, young and old. Processions of spectacular characters, magical performances and extraordinary acts will weave their way through the city's streets sprinkling pure festive magic. So why not come together with family and friends for an unforgettable free day out in the city centre **from 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd December.**

KEY STAGE 2 PANTOMIME: On **Friday, 8th December**, the children in Years 3-6 will be travelling by coach to The Victoria Hall in Bolton to watch Cinderella! Tickets are £10. Please pay this via School Gateway as soon as possible. Children have been given a very clear message from Mrs Clinton - this Christmas treat is by invitation. Only the children who have been showing their best behaviour in school and lessons will be invited to go. Oh yes they will!!! **The deadline for payment is today but if you've missed it please ensure it is made by Monday, 4th December at the latest.**



CHRISTMAS THEMED COFFEE MORNING: Attention Year 3 and 4 grandparents and great grandparents! Our children would love to invite you into school to have an informal chat with you about what Christmas was like for you when you were 7, 8 and 9 years old! They have loads of questions! Was Christmas just as magical then as it is today? Did you sing Christmas Carols? What traditions did you have in your home when you were young? What kind of toys did you play with on Christmas morning? We'll be holding a Christmas themed coffee morning in the school hall on **Friday, 15th December** from 9:00 a.m. so why not come along to reminisce about the 'good old days' and give the children another unforgettable experience in exchange for a hot tea/coffee and a mince pie!!

CHRISTMAS DISCO: On Wednesday, 20th December there'll be a Christmas Disco for ALL pupils. The disco will start at 4:30 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. and tickets cost £5.00 CASH. These are now on sale and can be purchased either at the school office or from your child's class teacher. Children **MUST** be collected from school at the usual time as staff will be setting up for the discos. There will be no after school provision on this afternoon.



BABY NEWS: We are filled with joy to let you know that Miss Byrne, our Nursery and Early Years leader has given birth to a new baby boy. Louie John Joseph was born last Thursday, weighing a healthy 8lb 10oz. Both mum and baby are doing well and he is, 'a dream come true.' Congratulations to Miss Byrne and her young family. We know you will keep them all in your prayers.

DIARY DATES: We have lots of exciting Advent/Christmas activities planned for the children so that they have a memorable time. These are being added to weekly!!! Please take the time to read our important diary dates below.




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.

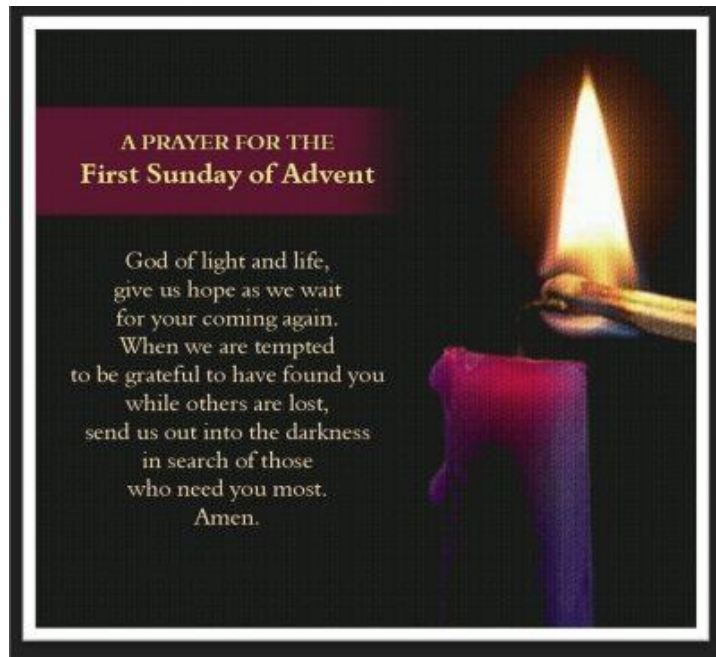
SPECIAL PRAYERS: Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Oliver O'Leary, Alice Ritchie, Miss Byrne and baby Louie, our Armed forces, veterans and their families, all involved with caring for the sick of our community, those families seeking asylum from war torn countries, CAFOD, the Lalley Centre, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, Father Paul & Father Moses, the Presentation Sisters, our children and staff, all those working with environment agencies, and all other private intentions at this time.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday, 6 th December	EYFS + KS1 Panto in school (no payment needed)
Friday, 8 th December	1:30 p.m. KS2 (Y3-6) Panto in Bolton- £10.00 a ticket
Wednesday, 13 th December	2:00 p.m. KS1 Nativity in the hall - Parents welcome
Thursday, 14 th December	9:10-10:10 a.m EYFS Stay and Play-Christmas story activities
Friday, 15 th December	Year 3 & 4 invite grandparents for a Christmas themed coffee morning to discuss Christmas past and present
Tuesday, 19 th December	 Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day
Wednesday, 20 th December	9:15 a.m. Whole school Advent Mass led by Year 5 - Parents welcome
Wednesday, 20 th December	Party Day! Children come into school in their party clothes
Wednesday, 20 th December	4:30 p.m-5:30 p.m Christmas Disco after school for pupils for ALL pupils £5.00 a ticket. No after school sports club this day.
Thursday, 21 st December	11:00 a.m. Carols around the Crib in the hall - Parents welcome
Thursday, 21 st December	School closes at 1:00 p.m. for the Christmas holiday
Tuesday 9 th January	School re-opens for the Spring term





A PRAYER FOR THE
First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,
give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.
When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most.
Amen.

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