



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 next week is: 'In Lent, I try to be helpful and kind.'

LENT: In Sunday's Gospel, we encounter God through his relationship with his son, Jesus. The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said, "and the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."

"I hope that we will all live Lent well, following Jesus and carrying within us a ray of his love for all those we meet." (Pope Francis)



PURPLE IS THE COLOUR: Wednesday was a most special and unusual day which only happens once every so often! Valentine's Day fell on Ash Wednesday and love was certainly in the air as we received our ashes. We've now entered the season of Lent which will last for 40 days. Children and staff will be doing numerous Lenten activities to help us on our spiritual journey with God - we will be going without certain treats, encountering God through prayer, collecting for charities and doing small acts of kindness through our good deeds. More information to follow after half term.

CELEBRATING WITH BISHOP JOHN: We are very fortunate that Bishop John Arnold will be visiting our parish on Sunday and concelebrating Mass at **10.00 a.m.** (please note the change of time). He would love to see all of our young families in church. He would particularly like to meet our children and families who are on the Sacramental Programme this year so do come along to Mass.



LENTEN MASSES: We are delighted that Father Paul and Father Moses are going to celebrate morning Masses with our schools throughout Lent. Each Thursday morning at 8.15 a.m., church will be open to all in our community for a very short but prayerful Mass. All are very welcome.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS: Thank you to our families who were here every day and on time last week. Our overall attendance was 93.4% so not quite hitting our target of 97%. Unfortunately, we weren't able to reward any classes with extra leisure time this week! Who is going to be an attendance HERO next week? (Here Everyday Ready On time) The results for last week are here below.

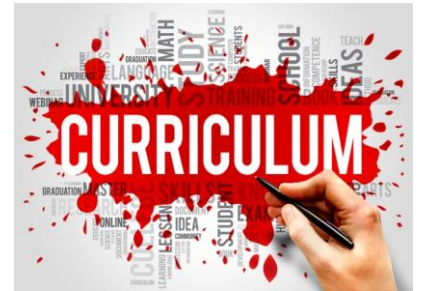
Nursery - 84.6%	Reception - 94.2%	Year 1 - 96.2%	Year 2 - 94.3%
Year 3 - 96.3%	Year 4 96%	Year 5 - 90.7%	Year 6 - 93.7%
Overall total 93.4%			

PUNCTUALITY: A gentle reminder....please be here for 8.40 a.m. ready for when the school gate opens. The gate closes at 8.50 a.m. so that lessons can start promptly. Please be here on time!!



TOP TIP FOR READING: We have a saying in our school, 'We learn to read so that we can read to learn.' All children bring home a book each night which helps them to learn to read. The book is matched perfectly to their reading ability and they should be practicing to read with expression and fluency. The books introduce just the right amount of new vocabulary for your child to learn. We really appreciate parents/carers support with this and we know that many of you observe your child read as well as asking them questions to measure their understanding. Thank you for working in partnership with us!

CURRICULUM NEWS: It's been all go this week as teachers have squeezed all they could into the final week before the Spring break. Year 5 have been out and about visiting Manchester Cathedral for their R.E. curriculum, Year 4 made models of their own digestive system in D.T., Nursery learned all about the traditions of Chinese New Year as well as welcoming parents for a stay & play session. Lots of learning going on as well as some tasting of pancakes going on! Check out our facebook page for updates from the teachers!



REMINDER - SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: Families who are on the Sacramental Programme...2 things:



1. The next step for children on the Sacramental Programme will be when they make their Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place on Tuesday, 12th March at 7.00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church. Please put this date in your diary. Sister Anne will soon be in touch regarding any meetings to help parents to prepare for this.
2. Father Paul and Father Moses are really keen to get to know our families better and ask if they could carry out a short visit to your home over this year. It wouldn't be a long a visit and your children would love to welcome them. We will be calling parents to get consent to pass on your contact details to the priests.

SCHOOL HEALTH - MEASLES: Measles is circulating and The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has declared a national incident. Please click on this link to learn more about what you need to do.

<https://www.manchesterlco.org/measles>



HALF TERM ACTIVITIES: February Half Term is fast approaching. MCRactive and Manchester City Council are offering thousands of **FREE** places for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Activities will range from Sport and Physical Activities, Arts and Crafts and much more. In addition to the activities, their booked place will include a **FREE** meal during the day.



For more information & to book your child's space*:

You will need to sign up for an MCRactive Go account <https://www.mcractive.com/> (sign in) to book free February Half Term activities. Once signed up, log into your account - [Find Activities](#) - Search by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity' - . Use code: **29765** to book free eligible activities. Please also visit <https://loadstodo.co.uk/> to view additional FREE holiday activities and other opportunities taking place across the city.

**Please only book your child onto a holiday camp if they will be attending. Spaces at each camp are limited. If you book a space and your child can no longer attend, please cancel your space as far in advance as possible, to allow the opportunity for another child to take their space at the activity and free meal.*

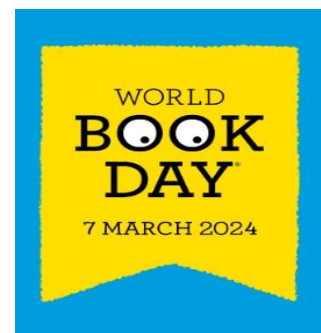
FSM VOUCHERS: Manchester City Council has again approved funding for supermarket vouchers for the February half term break to help with the financial pressures that many of our families will face. Families with children eligible for free school meals (FSM) should have received a £15.00 e-voucher from Wonde this week. This voucher can be redeemed at a supermarket of your choice.

**FREE
SCHOOL
MEALS**
Information & Support



NURSERY PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER: Are you looking for a nursery place or know someone who is? Is their date of birth between 01.09.2020 and 31.08.2021? If so, we have places within our nursery available for your child to start in September! For more information about the admissions process please call in at the school office.

ADVANCE DIARY DATE - WORLD BOOK DAY 2024: World Book Day will be on Thursday, 7th March this year and we know how much our community embraces this annual celebration. Our theme for this year is going to be, 'come as a word' and we'd like children to link it to their learning in class. There are loads of ideas all over the internet so get your creative caps on over half term. As you know, we ask children NOT to spend any money on their outfits for the day but rather, root around in drawers and wardrobes. Obviously, the aim for the day is to enjoy ourselves and highlight the pleasure we have from reading. It's a great hobby to have!



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!



HERE TO HELP WITH THE COST OF LIVING: The government have a website with lots of information that can help households with the cost of living crisis. Get support with:

- Energy saving tips
- Energy bills
- Household costs
- Childcare costs
- Income support
- Travel costs

Visit <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/> to find out more.

SCHOOL GATEWAY: Thank you to all the parents who have registered so far. If you are struggling to register or download the app please come and speak to the office staff who can help. This new app is a way for parents to keep up to date with what is happening in school and to pay for any trips or monies that are owed.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.schoolcomms.sga>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/school-gateway/id596039615?ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Bobby Power, Angeline Holt, Oliver O'Leary, Alice Ritchie, Leanne Clegg, all involved with caring for the sick of our community, those families seeking asylum from war torn countries, Father Paul & Father Moses, the Presentation Sisters, our children and staff, all those working with environment agencies, the homeless & rough sleepers, CAFOD, Caritas, the Lalley Centre and all other private intentions at this time.



2024 THE YEAR OF PRAYER: Pope Francis has declared 2024 as a special Year of Prayer. Here is a bedtime prayer for you to say with your children this week:

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me and my family to grow in love and strength during Lent through keeping our Lenten promises. Amen

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

