

ST PATRICK'S MARCH NEWSLETTER

2026

Welcome spring!

We were delighted to welcome everyone back after the half-term break. Our Marvellous Monday learning centred on the value of *Honesty* and the British Values of *Respect* and *Tolerance*.

This half term, our faith focus is Hinduism, and we were fortunate to have Kirtida from the Newcastle ISKCON Temple deliver exciting workshops for all classes. Pupils explored the key teachings of Hinduism through interactive activities including games, music, dressing up, and the investigation of important symbols, festivals and ceremonies.

Year 5 also visited the ISKCON Temple on Tuesday, giving them the opportunity to experience a Hindu place of worship first-hand. Staff were impressed, as always, by the thoughtful questions asked by pupils and by the respect they showed throughout the visit. We are incredibly proud of how our children embrace opportunities to learn about different faiths and cultures—an important foundation for understanding and harmony in our world today.

Lent

Thank you to our Mini-Vinnies who led the whole-school Ash Wednesday service in the hall before half term. They did a wonderful job explaining the meaning of Lent and encouraging us to focus on giving more, giving up, and praying as we begin our Lenten journey and seek to grow closer to God.

Later in Lent, the Mini-Vinnies will also be leading Stations of the Cross in each class.

Upcoming Events

Thurs 5th Mar - World Book Day
Dress up as a character or non-uniform. Reading café in class from 3pm for parents. Collection time as normal.

Tue 17th Mar - St Patrick's Day
Mass at 10am in church
Bake-Off in school - coffee afternoon for parents 2:30 to 3:30

18th Mar - Nursery stay and play

30th Mar - Easter Egg decorating competition

1st Apr - Holy Week prayer stations at 2:45pm

Break up for Easter - Thur 2nd April

Sporting success

Congratulations to our **KS2 girls' football team**, who were crowned **CHAMPIONS** of the Derwentside League just before half term! The team has been outstanding throughout all their fixtures, demonstrating not only impressive skill but also exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork. We are incredibly proud of them.



Well done as well to our **KS2 swimming team**, who gave their all when competing at the Louisa Centre in January. There were some excellent individual performances and tremendous determination shown across the team. A fantastic effort from everyone involved!

Our **Y5/6 boys' tag rugby team** also performed brilliantly in the Derwentside competition, securing 2nd place – an outstanding achievement, especially as some pupils had only taken part in a few training sessions beforehand.

Well done to our **Year 3 children** who performed at the Durham Gala Theatre Dance Festival on the last day of half term. They were incredibly excited to showcase their dancing skills and thoroughly enjoyed performing. Encore!

Attendance

Many thanks to everyone for their continued support in improving attendance. We are delighted that so many of our pupils showed improved attendance during the first half of the spring term. Please keep supporting our efforts – together, we can reach our goal of 97% overall.

During Lent, we are holding a weekly attendance raffle. Any child who achieves 100% attendance for that week will be entered into the weekly draw and will also receive an entry into the end-of-term draw.

**If you're in –
you can win!**



Fairtrade news

Thank you to everyone who supported our Fairtrade Pancake Sale – we served over 250 pancakes topped with Fairtrade chocolate sauce and bananas! A special thank you to Mrs Pearson and Mrs Jackson, who made every single pancake. They were fantastic!

Starting next week, we will be running our Fairtrade Easter Egg Raffle. Tickets cost **50p** each and will be on sale every breaktime until the end of term.

We will also be holding a "Guess the Name of the Bunny" competition. Entries cost **£1**, and children can take part from next Monday. **Proceeds to CAFOD.**

Thank you for continuing to support Fairtrade – you make a real difference.





Family Walk

On Friday 10th April, the Friends of St Patrick's have organised a Family Walk at Roseberry Topping.

Mrs Clennell, our Friends lead has set up a JustGiving page to raise funds for our Friends - all money raised goes into projects that support our children, including trips and visits and events in school.

If you are interested in attending or would like more details, please contact Mrs Clennell via the school office.

Fingers crossed for fine weather!



Good luck

We send our best wishes to Mr Flynn, who left our school at the end of last half term. We are grateful for all he has contributed to St Patrick's, and we wish him every success as he continues the next stage of his teaching journey.

Lent Giving

We are collecting food and toiletries during Lent for Glenroyd House - if you have any donations, please send them into school with your child or drop them off at the main office - there are baskets by the sign in screen. Thank you.

On St Patrick's Day, we will be holding a cake sale to raise money for CAFOD. Donations of cakes and biscuits to sell would be gratefully received. We will also be running a Bake-Off competition. Children can vote for their favourite entry and will be entered into a draw to win the winning cake.

Entry cost: £1 per vote.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Reading passports

Our children are making fantastic progress on their Reading Around the World journey - and we even have a few pupils who have completed the route twice!

The first two children in each class to make it home will receive a book token on World Book Day to celebrate their achievement.

However, the most important reward - and one we hope every child will achieve - is becoming a fluent, confident reader.

Strong reading skills unlock learning across the curriculum and open up a world of opportunities for the future.

Keep it up, everyone! Reading opens doors, sparks imagination and takes you on amazing journeys.

