



Dear Parents and Carers,

On **Friday 12th February** we will finish for our half term break. This means that all the children in school stay at home for their break and all the children working from home will have a week's rest too. They do not need to access remote learning; unless of course they want to!

It has obviously been a very challenging half term. We have all had to get used to new ways of working and this has not always been easy. However, we have not let these challenges stand in our way! I am very proud of how all staff, pupils and parents have worked together to make the best of this situation. Here are some of the things I feel very proud of:

- We have kept our focus firmly on what keeps everyone safe
- Each week we have seen our attendance to form time and live lessons increase. This shows our pupils are trying very hard
- Pupils are working hard and contributing well to live lessons through the chat function
- Staff have worked hard to get the balance between live lessons, recorded lessons and setting independent work right. They have listened to your feedback and made adjustments
- Teachers have worked hard to assess progress and are finding new ways to mark work
- Pupils have joined in the challenges that have been set from them by the music, drama, PE and tech staff
- Form time has carried on as if we are in school. We have had assemblies and even a prayer service.
- Pastoral staff, including our wonderful form tutors, have made sure all children are safe and feel they are well-supported
- We have set up small group remote tuition for those children who are catching up on some missed learning
- The children coming into school have behaved well and worked hard. This isn't easy when things in school are so different and unusual
- Our teaching assistants and cover teachers have done a brilliant job in running the in-school provision for 90+ children each day
- The leaders of the school have worked incredibly hard to manage a difficult situation but also keep the school moving forward so this year doesn't become a year of 'treading water'

Amazing things happen here

Executive Principal : Mr P Murden
Headteacher : Mrs A Byrne





I have been so humbled by everybody efforts, hard work and expertise. The one thing that shines through all of this half term is that the staff here always put the children first. Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported us so well over the last half term. We always have your support but we have been overwhelmed by the kind messages you have sent in over the past few weeks. You have played a key role in your child's education by encouraging them and helping them to understand the importance of working hard.

Finally, we have had some lovely news this half term. Firstly, our Vice Chair of Governors, **Mr Grounds** has returned home after a long stay in hospital with covid. We have been praying very hard for him and are glad he is back where he belongs to continue his recovery to full health.

Secondly, we have had wonderful news from two of our former pupils. **Westley Myerscough**, one of our pupils from the Class of 2020, has been working hard with Salford council's youth service for a few years now. Because of his hard work and experience, he achieved an apprenticeship with the Crown Prosecution Service. He had to beat several applicants to get this position and we are very proud of him. He has also been nominated for Young Person of the Year in the Spirit of Salford awards. We have our fingers crossed for him!

Nathan Ramsden, from the Class of 2019, will be going to Cambridge University in the autumn to read natural sciences. Cambridge University is ranked top in the UK and fourth in the world! What an achievement! Both of these former pupils are an inspiration to all pupils at St Patrick's. We wish them both well and hope they keep in touch to let us know how they are getting on.

If you know of any good news stories from pupils past or present, then please let us know so we can spread the joy. There is nothing better for school staff than hearing how well our boys and girls are doing.

I hope you have a safe and restful break from home schooling! Thank you for everything you are doing. I will be in touch after the Prime Minister announces his 'road map' out of restrictions the week beginning 22nd February. We do not know when children will return to school but we will be in touch with you as soon as we know anything.

Mrs Byrne
Headteacher

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