

## St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy in the Advent Term 2018

We look forward to another school year...

As the new term commenced, many of our favourite activities soon began. Wake and Shake - our popular pre-school sports club sprang into action encouraging pupils to arrive at school for an energetic and fun start to their day.

The Reading Café once again opened its doors and welcomed both children and their parents to enjoy a book together. Continuing with the important theme of reading, Paul Goby - part of Leicestershire Libraries - visited our youngest members of the school in nursery and reception and worked with both children and parents promoting the importance of books and reading.



We welcomed the newly appointed parish priest of St Patrick's Church - Father Raphael. He led all our school masses and certainly engaged us all with his wonderful singing and enthusiasm.

Year 6 took part in 'Bikeability' which taught them how to cycle safely on the road. All initially took part in the basic skills of riding a bike - delivered on the playground - with many of them then actually cycling around the local area of our school. Meanwhile, all pupils - from all year groups - were offered the chance to have their bikes safety-checked. An essential part of cycling is wearing the correct clothing - our 'Be Bright, Be Seen' day allowed children to attend school in the attire they felt would get them noticed when riding their bicycles.

Severn Trent led a whole-school assembly about how we can all save water. A number of children were invited to take part in delivering the presentation and all pupils soon learnt a number of tips about using water sparingly whilst still keeping clean and having fun.



Our annual Art Exhibition was a huge success. All the children were given the opportunity to create a picture in the style of an artist. It was fantastic to see just how talented our children are: they produced some amazing works-of-art. Parents were able to purchase them and they would certainly have made beautiful Christmas gifts.

Another of our children's talents was showcased when our choir performed as part of the Catholic Schools Christmas Carol Concert at De Montfort Hall raising money for Menphys. Pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented us beautifully. Some members of our choir were also selected to attend a fundraising meal for HCPT. Their behaviour was - as expected - exceptional.

Years 3 and 4 have been learning about health and nutrition and as part of this they thoroughly enjoyed baking fruit pizzas.

Year 2 had a 'PJ day' where all children - and their teachers - came to school in their onesies and pyjamas. They may have been extra comfy for the day, but the learning didn't stop!

Staff also had an opportunity to try something a little different when Miss Cank led a special staff meeting with a focus on yoga. As well as finding out about the benefits, it was certainly fun attempting the various positions.

This term saw the beginning of two completely new after-school opportunities: a number of year groups were invited to sign up for a sporty club with a difference - Quidditch and Year 6 children were offered the chance to sign-up for debating. This new initiative was soon full and 16 children began to learn how to take part in a formal debate.

Throughout the term, we supported various charities through non-school uniform days and a Christmas jumper day.



Three Year 6 girls went the extra mile by independently organising a raffle to raise money for 'Ruby's Fund'. They collected together all of their own sweets and chocolates and spent their break-times selling tickets. They introduced their fundraising idea during a whole-school assembly and they drew the winning tickets and distributed the prizes during the final week.

As the term drew to a close, we had good reason to be proud of another group of pupils - this time our football team made up of Year 5 and 6 boys. They played with both skill and sportsmanship to finish the term as top of the league!



All of our Year 6 children showed maturity and grace when they performed the Waltz, Gay-Gordons and a circle dance in front of family. Before and after dancing, they served tea and cakes. The Menphys choir treated our visitors to a song and it was a memorable afternoon.

On the final morning, we gathered for our Christingle service attended by our Academy's Assessment Lead, Martin Fitzwilliam. During the afternoon, we said a fond farewell to our Year 3 teacher, Mrs Wiles, as she began her maternity leave. The children ended the day with a whole-school disco organised by Mrs Kelvey (Friends of St Patrick's).

We wish all our children, parents, staff and governors a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and look forward to our Lent term in 2019.