

## St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy in the Advent Term 2020

It has certainly been a very unusual start to the new academic year - desks have been separated, sanitiser has appeared in all rooms and corridors, parents have been asked to wear face coverings when collecting children and guests have no longer been encouraged to visit. Despite these changes, some things have stayed the same: staff and children have enjoyed being back at school and lessons are still being taught.

Being active has stayed firmly on our agenda and Nathan has continued to lead 'Wake and Shake' before school and multi-sports sessions after-school. Every class also has a weekly PE session with Nathan at the helm ensuring good quality teaching and CPD for staff.

Mrs George ensured the whole school took part in National Youth Fun Day and by entering a raffle - organised by Miss Cank - we raised £1 for every child at our school which was donated to the wonderful work of the Nottingham Diocese Catholic Youth Service.



As we are all most aware, mindfulness is key to our happiness during these unprecedented times. Mr Rabjohn organised for all classes to take part in a yoga session.

Year 6 have still had the opportunity to take part in this year's dance festival. Instead of travelling to St Paul's Catholic Secondary School, all dances were recorded and sent off to the judges. Here at St Patrick's, Mrs Heggs choreographed and worked with eight children in order to



enter all three categories: solo, duet and a small group. The theme was celebration and, as one of the songs, Mrs Heggs chose 'O Come Emmanuel'. Our solo placed 2<sup>nd</sup>; our duet 4<sup>th</sup> and our group placed 1<sup>st</sup>.



It wasn't just the Year 6s that took to the dance floor - Miss Bindu taught everyone to dance in celebration of Diwali. Many of the children dressed either in bright colours or traditional clothing.

Although we were not allowed to sing in school this term, we still played instruments and enjoyed music lessons. Whilst Year 6 experimented with the boom whackers, Year 4 were taught how to play the ukulele and Mrs Birtwisle's Year 5s took part in Dio- Ring. They played, 'Little Donkey' using hand bells. This was recorded and included in the Leicester Cathedral Police and Fire Service Carol Concert.

Mrs Kelvey was determined that Year 6 would not miss out on all of their 'last year treats' and she organised a socially distanced disco for Halloween.



Our RE Lead, Mrs George, was determined that we would still show our support to Menphys.

Although, due to current restrictions, we were not able to form a choir this year and perform at DeMontfort Hall, every class recorded the

children as they signed a few lines of, 'Let there be peace'. A huge thank-you to Mrs Hill's husband who put all the classes together - the completed piece looked amazing.

Our annual art exhibition still went ahead led by our new Art and Design and Technology Lead, Miss Delahay. All classes chose an artist and the children produced their own pictures in the style of this artist. The work created was impressive, beautiful and inspiring. Numerous paintings and pictures were purchased by parents. Not only did the children have a wonderful time creating their masterpieces, but family members were delighted with them and teachers were able to raise additional funds for classroom resources.



We provided our children with numerous opportunities to fulfil our school mission: *Christ with me wherever I go, Christ around, above, below* and the word of God was - as always - at the heart of everything we did.

Mrs Noronha worked with a small group of

Year 6s every week to plan and deliver a liturgy to KS2. A different group was chosen each time meaning that all of Year 6, this year, were given the opportunity to be a liturgy leader. All teachers continued to take a turn to deliver whole school collective worship. Although we were unable to have mass in school, staff and pupils led amazing liturgies giving us all time to come together and pray and our weekly *Lectio Divina* seemed more important than ever as within our own classrooms, we spent time quietly being closer to God and reflecting together.

Very excitingly, BBC Radio Leicester contacted St Patrick's as one of six schools to read a nativity script. After the children had been allocated parts and rehearsed, Mr Patel recorded the children and we sent it off! Parts of it were broadcast on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December and it will be aired again on Christmas morning. BBC Radio Leicester's breakfast presenter, Jimmy Carpenter, also chatted to Mrs Heggs live on his show on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December about St Patrick's supporting Midlands Langar Seva Society by donating toiletries, treats and hats and gloves for local homeless people.

The Friends of St Patrick's organised a Christmas raffle and all of the children who took part were delighted to receive a prize.

We all look forward to a well-earned break and of course wish all of our children, parents, staff and governors a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and safe New Year.