

St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy in the Advent term 2021

As we reach the end of the Advent term and look back over the past couple of months, we have so much to be thankful for: our pupils were welcomed back into their new year groups and met their new teachers; we were able to gather together for collective worship and assemblies; swimming lessons resumed; football matches took place; music teachers returned and Father Raphael joined us to once again lead our masses.

Nathan's 'Wake and Shake' continued to prove popular as did his after-school multi-sports sessions. Mr Rabjohn has been delighted by the performance of the Year 6 football team and we are sure they will continue to flourish in 2022.

Reception children were visited by Dave the Builder. He came to share his knowledge and model to the children how to safely use the woodwork area.



Mrs Weaver's class continued keeping themselves safe with their 4 week blocks of Balance-ability and can now: safely walk with the bike including manoeuvring around corners; get on and off safely; propel the bike using either small steps, big steps or bunny hops as well as ride in a straight line and begin to turn corners.

During their topic on real life superheroes and people in our local community, they received a special visit from PCSOs George and Claire from Belgrave Station who answered questions and even let the children hear the police car siren.



During the Great Big Green Week, some of our children went litter picking - they made a difference and enjoyed themselves.

All classes took time to reflect for COP 26 Youth Day - just look at Nursery's Pollution Project.



All year groups from 1 to 6 were keen to invite their parents into classrooms to demonstrate a maths method. We were able to share our learning in Years 2, 3 and 6 - we very much hope to see Year 1, 4 and 5 parents in the New Year. Those parents, who were able to join their children, provided us with some wonderful feedback and said they would like to visit us again.

Mrs Kelvey, in her 'Friends of St Patrick's' role, organised a Halloween disco which so many of our pupils attended.

On a more serious note, within one of their science units, Year 6 took part in a dissection. Mrs Noronha led the session and the children were very sensible throughout.

In nursery, our very youngest members of the school enjoyed a book time session with parents and the Leicester library services.



All classes dressed-up to celebrate Diwali and some, like nursery, took part in creative activities.

The art exhibition was as impressive as always. Although we were unable to display our work to parents, Miss Delahay organised an afternoon for all the children to view the work from each class and many families bought the finished products.



Year 4, armed with compasses and maps, went on a walk as part of their local area investigation. They were great geographers and, of course, their behaviour was impeccable.

It has been fantastic to be able to sing again at school and we have enjoyed hymns and songs weekly as part of our assemblies, liturgies and masses; Year 5 have also had weekly singing lessons. In Year 6, the children have been learning how to play the recorder and even performed for the whole school on the final day of term over Zoom. Every child played at least two tunes and over a third of the class were able to perform *Good King Wenceslas* which includes 8 different musical notes.

Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 performed a beautiful Nativity for the whole school. The reading, acting, singing and dancing was delightful and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas.



Everyone looked festive as we wore our Christmas jumpers and donated food and toiletries to support local homeless people.

With so many of our children on the good list this year, Santa popped in to St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy for his annual visit.

We ended our term with our traditional Christingle service. It was decided we should gather on Zoom rather than in the hall, but it was still a beautiful service prepared by our Chaplain, Miss Kearns and delivered by the Year 6 Chaplaincy Team.

We look forward to a well-deserved break before welcoming our pupils back in 2022.

A peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year to all our pupils, parents and Governors.