

St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy in the Advent Term 2019

What a fantastic start to a new academic year!

Being active remains high on the agenda here at St Patrick's and the number of children attending before and after-school multi-sports sessions continues to grow; our football team ended the term second place in the football league and a group of budding rugby players could not believe their luck when they were invited to attend extra out-of-school training sessions which culminated in actually playing at the Leicester Tiger's ground!

All of Year 6 took part in bike-ability. They were able to improve their cycling skills under the watchful eye of qualified instructors - a large number of the class even took to the roads in the local area. Reception children were not quite ready to take to the streets, but they have made a great start with their weekly balance-ability sessions.

Half of the Year 2 class took a trip to the Watershed centre to take part in a sports festival. Whilst there, they also joined in with mindfulness and meditation sessions.

Our sports coach, Nathan, has offered his expertise to all classes from nursery right up to Year 6 by leading a weekly PE lesson throughout the whole of this term.



Family Learning sessions have continued this year and one session that proved particularly popular with both parents and children alike was a tour of the Leicester City Football Club and grounds.

Our children were able to share their singing talent during this Advent term. Year 5 performed in front of 200 people for a service dedicated to the Police and Fire Service at the Leicester Cathedral and our Year 6 children - after weeks of rehearsals led by Mrs Weaver and Miss Cank - performed at DeMontfort Hall in aid of Menphys.

Just before Bonfire Night weekend, the children enthusiastically welcomed some very special visitors to our Friday morning assembly: a Community Police Officer and three Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Officers. They spoke about the importance of staying safe and provided children with useful advice and guidance.



Our annual art exhibition featured some very impressive pieces of work. After putting these on display around the school hall, 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.



Our Reading Café returned and was well-attended. Since reading is a priority at St Patrick's, this important initiative provides an ideal opportunity to encourage, not just our children, but also our parents to take time-out to enjoy a good book and other reading-related activities in a relaxed atmosphere with the company of others.

It is always a pleasure to find out how our budding musicians are getting on. We heard our three guitarists from Years 3 and 5 play as well as our keyboard player from Year 6. Additionally, Year 4 performed various pieces on their ukuleles during a special performance attended by parents.

As the term came to a close, children in Foundation and Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 all performed nativity plays and carol concerts. Their parents thoroughly enjoyed these wonderful productions and their teachers were - quite rightly - very proud of them.

Year 6 showed off their grace and agility by taking to the dance floor and demonstrating the Waltz, Gay Gordons and a circle dance during our Tea Party. In between whirling around the hall, they managed to serve their parents and family members hot drinks and cakes. Most of our guests even joined in at the end as their children taught them a few moves.

Our marvellous Menphys choir - guided by Miss part-way through the event and it was a most afternoon.



Cank - sang enjoyable



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. As well as some truly memorable masses and liturgies, we fundraised for various charities and good causes including the homeless, Children in Need and Save the Children.

Mrs Kelvey continued her fundraising events on behalf of our school and organised a disco for Halloween, various raffles and, of course, Santa photos.



As the term came to an end, our chaplaincy team led the whole school in a beautiful candle-lit Christingle. We took time to remember the true meaning of Christmas and welcomed Christ into our hearts.

We all look forward to a well-earned break and of course wish all of our children, staff and governors a very happy Easter.