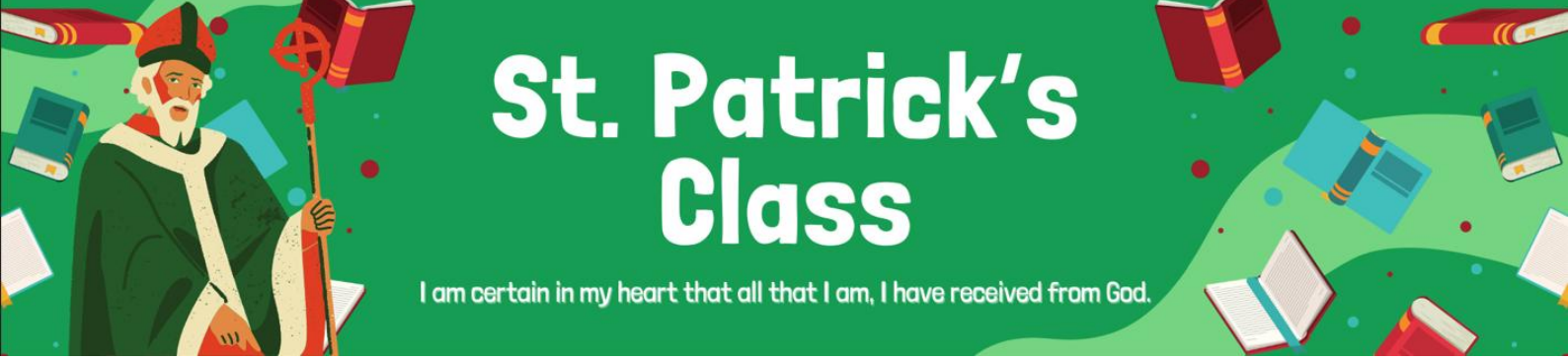


Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful half term and are looking forward to the busy Christmas term that awaits us. Last term, myself, Mrs Beaven and Mrs Gasan were so impressed with how hard the children worked and how much thought, **empathy**, and compassion they put into their learning. They are certainly working on becoming **resilient** children of KS2, showing great **confidence** in their abilities and rising to the **high expectations** we set for them.

I am thrilled to say that this term, Year 3 will be starting our new history topic on the Stone Age. It has been fantastic to see the children's excitement about this, and I can't wait to get started! We have already shared so much enthusiasm for examining various rocks—the children have been so observant and curious, showing real **aspirations** to deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Some of the interesting genres and tasks this term will consist of include: writing diary entries and adventure stories, learning about Skara Brae, examining rocks and fossils and producing our own cave paintings (and paint). Please see this term's topic web for a more detailed list. Children are more than welcome to bring in any books from home based around our topic; please can I ask you to clearly name anything sent into school.

For our class text, we are starting to read *My Dad's a Birdman* by David Almond. Children are welcome to bring in their own copies to follow along in class. We have really been enjoying this book so far - it's been a great way to explore themes of **empathy** and **resilience** through storytelling, as well as teaching us that we can show compassion to everyone, no matter how different they are to us.

Once again, a huge thank you for your support for our Macmillan Bake Sale—the children had a fantastic time and managed to raise an amazing amount of money, which now stands at over £600! This was the largest total we have ever had, and will do so much for those in need. The children's generosity and community spirit continue to make us all proud.

Things to remember:

- Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times a week, consistently reading these with your children really does help enable them to **be the best they can be.**
- PE kit, please can children come to school in their **PE kit** on **Thursdays** and **Fridays**.
- Homework – this will continue to be set on a Friday and due in on a Wednesday.
- Please ensure your child continues to bring a named water bottle in each day. Water only please!
- Please supply your child with everything they will need for the variable British climate. We will be spending lots of time outside, especially in Outdoor Learning, so please make sure they have wellies and raincoats. They should be bringing in a named coat every day.
- As your child is no longer in KS1, they are no longer entitled to a fruit snack at break provided by the school. If your child would like a snack, please provide them with one. Fruits and vegetables only please.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can find me on the playground or email via email FAO Miss Drury via admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk.

Kind regards, and I know we will have a fantastic end to 2026,
Miss Emily Drury