

# January Newsletter, 2024

## Happy New Year!!

### Main Events for your Diary

#### • **School Admissions for P1 & Post Primary (P7) September 2024**

Admissions criteria for Primary schools & all Post-Primary Schools published on the EA website.

Please see attached page regarding Key Dates for applications for P1 Places for September 2024 and for all P7 pupils moving on to Post Primary Schools.

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#### **Catholic Schools Week**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Grandparents' Day/Special Person Day**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**10:00am - 11:15am**

**School Hall.**

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#### **Confirmation**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

**3:00pm in St Patrick's Church,**

**Clonoe**

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#### **First Confession**

**for all P4 pupils**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**7:00pm St Patrick's Church Clonoe**

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#### **First Holy Communion**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - 11:00am**

**St Patrick's PS**

Light Refreshments back at school from  
12:00 - 1:15pm

### February Mid-Term Break

#### **SCHOOL CLOSED.**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

February 2024 (inclusive)

(Re-opens Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.)

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### St Patrick's Day Break

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### **School Closed for all pupils**

St Patrick's Day Holiday

on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>.

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### Easter Holidays

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

2024 (Inclusive)

### Early closure for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

P1 - P3 and their siblings:- 11:30am

P4 - P7:- 11:40am

School re-opens Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
for Term 3.

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### Strike Action

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

ALL Teaching Unions have called a full  
day strike action by all teachers.

**St Patrick's PS will be CLOSED to all  
pupils on this day.**

### **Relax Kids - P4 classes.**

Supporting children in development of strategies for life to manage stress and promote positive mental health.

**Please ensure you return consent form for your child immediately when sent home on 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

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### **KS2 & Speedwell Trust Project**

All children P5 - 7 will be involved in an environmental conservation project focusing on water pollution and importance of water conservation and we all have a role to play.

Project is led by Speedwell Trust in **February.**

Please ensure you return the reply slip giving consent for your child to take part and also permission and remittance for the 1-day off-site study day as part of the project.

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### **Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices.**

Please note that it is against school policy for any child to bring in a mobile phone, i-pad, DS or any electronic device to school. They are too expensive and precious a gift to run the risk of them being broken or going missing.

**The school will not accept any responsibility for such item if brought in.**

**Policy available on school website**

**[www.stpatricksannaghmore.com](http://www.stpatricksannaghmore.com)**

If discovered, they will be taken to the office for safe keeping and sent home at the end of the school day.

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**All visitors, Parents & Guardians to the school are respectfully requested to switch off or silence phones while inside the school building and while on school grounds.**

**Please do not take offence if asked to do so.**

### **Traffic outside the school**

*Please ensure that when parking, that residents are not blocked into or out of their driveways in the mornings or at pick-up times in the afternoon. A sincere 'Thank You' to all parents who are supporting the appeal to always leave clear access at the school gate when parking.*

*It is essential that when dropping children off at the school you move on as quickly as possible to reduce serious congestion from traffic on the Annaghmore Road.*

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### **Morning Club & 2 - 3 Club**

Both clubs resume from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January for registered children in each session.

**All children NOT coming to Morning Club can only come in and go straight to class when the main gates have closed after all the vehicles have left the school premises following drop-off of pupils to Snowdrop & Daffodil Rooms.**

**Please do not leave children before 8:50am and check the main gates are closed before dropping your child off at the gates.**

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### **Santa Gifts and Toys.**

Please ensure all toys and gifts stay at home for safe keeping for every child.

We cannot accept any responsibility for these and ask that they remain at home for when children return each afternoon.

## **Admissions to Primary 1 & Post Primary in September 2024.**

For more information, please view the Primary school admissions User Guide available on Education Authority website and copied to parent information page on our school website.

[www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)

### **PRIMARY 1 process:**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January:** P1 Application procedure OPENS with Online Portal available.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January:** 12:00 noon Online Portal will close, and all further applications will be treated as late.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April:** Applicants will receive notification of outcome of outcome of application.

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### **PRIMARY 7 Transition process to Secondary Education:**

**Thursday 11 January 2024**

Admissions criteria for Post Primary Schools published on the EA website.

**Tuesday 30 January 2024 - at 12 noon**

EA Connect opens for online applications for Post Primary.

**Thursday 22 February 2024 - at 12 noon**

EA Connect closes for online applications for Post Primary.

**Monday 4 March 2024 - by 4pm**

Final date for late applications.

**Saturday 18 May 2024**

Parents/carers will receive application outcome via email (where one is held) or by letter.



Dear Parent/Guardian,

From January, we are changing the protocol or rather returning to pre-COVID procedures regarding collecting a child early from school: this is to reflect the need for additional safety procedures to ensure anyone collecting a child in any class is a parent or is authorised by a child's parent to take their child out of school.

- **RING IN FROM THE CAR** and your child will be brought to the Secretary's Office for you to come into the school to collect.
- **Complete an official record slip that Lucille will have** stating the name of the child/ren being collected, PRINT your name date and sign the slip. Return the slip to Lucille for posting into the official record book.
- **If a parent is authorising someone else to collect their child/ren,** you must inform the office of who is authorised. Photographic ID should be carried by the person collecting your child so we can ensure they are the authorised person. Alternatively, Lucille can ring a parent to confirm who is collecting any child.
- **If you change the person collecting your child at their normal home time on any given day,** please make sure you notify the class teacher in Homework Diaries or by sending a brief note on the morning stating who is collecting your child.

Many thanks, once again, for your help and cooperation in ensuring everyone stays safe.

Best wishes,

Anne McGuinness (Principal)

[www.stpatricksannaghmore.com](http://www.stpatricksannaghmore.com)

**'Friends of St Patrick's Annaghmore.'**

**£1456.60 raised on the Santa Evening** through Santa Tickets, Tombola, Tea/Coffee, Guess the Number of Sweets in the jars & last of raffle ticket sales.

**£5400 raised through raffle ticket sales in total.**



**Grand Total raised:  
£6856.60**

Our goal for 2023/24 is to raise funds:-

- towards the purchase of 20 - 30 new i-Pads for whole class usage in the school
- towards the enhancement of playgrounds through thermoplastic markings for games and play at breaktimes and lunchtimes and at PE in both front and back yards (Student Council)
- start creating a Sensory Garden for our school

We are thrilled at the success of the Santa Evening and Christmas Fayre and sincerely thank you all for coming out in support of our school and our children and providing them all with resources to allow them to achieve the best they can be.

The school can now go ahead and source & purchase i-Pads.

The Student Council have also met before Christmas and submitted their ideas for costing for the lines for games and sports on the yards and we will keep you updated on developments there!

**£320 donated on Carol Service Night** will go towards funding the creation of a school Sensory Garden.

**Date of next meeting** will go out next week - EVERYONE welcome!