

# December Newsletter, 2021

## Dates & Times for your Diary!!

### School Carol Service

Unfortunately, due to COVID19, we cannot have our traditional Carol Service in the Chapel for another year.

However, each class is preparing a song or little performance to be put onto the website before Christmas. Message will be sent when it is live.

### Christmas Dinner:

Thursday 9th December.

**Christmas Jumper and Mad Hair Day Fundraiser - £2 per pupil.**

**Normal home times this year.**

**For those who pay, dinner costs £2:60.**

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### 8<sup>th</sup> December Holy Day

This year, we will attend Mass remotely in all classrooms to celebrate the Feast of "The Immaculate Conception."

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### School Closes

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021  
For Christmas Hols!

### Early Finish Times are:

**P1 - P3 (and older siblings) Finish at 11:40am**

**P4 - P7 finish at 12:00pm**

### Open Morning at St Patrick's PS

Once again, COVID19 renders an Open Morning impossible for all parents wishing to see round the school at present.

Our school website is an excellent representation of life at St Patrick's PS and when we finally move beyond COVID, we will see these days return in full.

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### School re-opens for children on Thursday 6th January, 2021.

Any changes to holiday dates as directed by DE will be text to parents as soon as school receives them. Please ensure that we have a current mobile number for all families at all times if you wish to be kept informed and up to date.

Check school website daily for new letters for parents and new notices that will appear as pop-ups when you open the school website.

Should you change phones over Christmas, please email the details as soon as possible for updating your details on the school communication system.

Please remember also, that COVID19 is still very much with us and that all start and finish times and restrictions currently in place at school will continue when we return in January 2022.

We will attend Mass remotely in all classrooms for this Holy Day of the Epiphany.



### PTA Christmas Raffle

*This year, PTA have a number of beautiful hampers for raffling before Christmas.*

All funds raised will go towards our goal for installing a covered canopy area opposite the playroom so children can play outdoors no matter the weather.

**Tickets: £1 a strip**

P7 are kindly going around all classes daily until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December when the raffle will take place.

### St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

Unfortunately, this beautiful annual tradition at St Patrick's PS will be put on hold until COVID19 moves beyond our lives.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution can do so online or alternatively, you can make a monetary gift direct into St Vincent de Paul collection boxes at the chapels.

### Shared Education.

We are delighted that for a fifth year in a row we can do Shared Education with our partner school, Orchard County PS, Portadown.

The programme 2021/22 will be conducted remotely and online between the two schools in class groups through Google Classroom and Collaborate Ultra.

### Santa's Electronic Gifts.

Every year Santa brings to many lucky children gifts of i-Phones, i-Pads, tablets, X-Box to name but a few....

Very often he forgets to leave a note for parents on the importance of putting on Parental Controls that will safeguard their child from harmful communications of others they would not choose to be friends with.

On Santa's behalf, can I sincerely ask all parents to protect their child by putting these simple safe guards in place and then keeping a guiding and protective eye on all their children's activities thereafter.

Together, we can make a big difference in protecting our children this year.

**Funding from DE/EA for 'Healthy, Happy Minds' initiative.**

DE/EA have made available a small sum of money to support children and their Mental Health in the coming weeks until Mid-March, 2022.

In order to identify and then prioritise children for this support, we will look towards our register of SEN children first. We would also appreciate if you have particular concerns regarding your child and how they are coping with school, that you let us know by sending in a note to their class teacher.

While it will not, unfortunately, be possible to support each child individually, we may look at small group work also, if appropriate.

In addition to this, Upper KS2 pupils will be able to put themselves forward for support should they feel the need for it.

All participants will be confidentially supported through a fully recognised and accredited professional in the field of therapeutic and counselling support services.

Should your child be prioritised for this, your consent will be sought in writing. The number of sessions given will depend on the professional judgement of the provider involved, and not the school, and your evaluation regarding the success of the intervention for your child will be sought at the end of their sessions.

DE/EA do hope that this pilot programme will provide the information required for extending the 'Healthy Happy Minds Initiative' for a more extended period of time next year.

Once again, your opinions are vital to demonstrating the need and importance for this provision at Primary School level and for accessing funding to support it and make it happen.

*On behalf of the Governors, staff and pupils of St Patrick's PS, I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends.*

*May 2022 be a year full of every blessing you need and see an end to this world pandemic known as COVID19.*

*Governors, Principal and Staff of St Patrick's PS.*





# Bounce Back

"Do you find yourself in cycles of nagging and bickering with partners and children? Are you fed up 'fighting fires' at home every day?"

If so then join us as we look at real ways to manage day to day challenges, cope with bumps along the way and all the while Keeping our cool.

FREE parent and carer workshops via zoom

6 sessions 8pm-9pm starting Mon 10th January or Thursday 13th January 2022

Call us on  
0808 8020 400  
to learn more and book your place

Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm

Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

Supported by the Public Health Agency  
through the Clear Project

