

September Newsletter 2020.

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Welcome.

Welcome to our new school year of 2020/21! A truly memorable start for us all but together we can make it:
"The best it can be, every day in every way!"

I hope you have all survived the challenges of the last six months and together we can move forward into the next school term with a renewed sense of optimism and hope for every child who enters through our doors .

Our Mission Statement.

"Inspired by our faith in Christ,

St. Patrick's Catholic P.S. will provide:

A happy, secure and caring learning environment

Which promotes all to be the best they can be

Full of optimism, ambition and with a love of learning.

Working in partnership with our community

We will ensure St. Patrick's P.S. makes a difference."

Welcome to the new Primary 1 cohort of 2020/21—all 40 of them and we wish them 7 years of happiness and learning, fun and development as they move through their primary school career with us.

We say a heart-felt 'Goodbye' to our out-going Primary 7 of 2019/20 who will certainly remember their final year with us and who will be fondly recalled as our 'Corona Graduates!' We wish each one of you girls and boys every success and blessing as you begin your secondary school careers.

We welcome back all our pupils into their new year groups under their new teachers and although routines will be 'different' together we will make this year as big a success as we possibly can making you the centre of all that happens.

Staff:-

Mrs Kinsella will not be with us at this time due to sad and recent family bereavement; we will keep Paula and all her family and family circle in our thoughts and prayers in the weeks ahead.

In Mrs Kinsella's absence, Miss Mc Guinness will take the Transfer Group this term working alongside Miss Aoibheann McVeigh, who will be the class teacher until Mrs Kinsella returns.

Miss Julianne Quinn will be working alongside Mrs Bradley and together they will be taking Primary 6 for a time.

Mr Niall Hanna will be taking Primary 4 while Mr Scullion continues his career break for another year—we wish Mr Scullion continued success in his endeavours.

I welcome each new teacher to our staff team for the start of 2020/21 academic year.

Mrs Donnelly

Mrs Donnelly, I can now announce, will formally retire as Secretary of St Patrick's PS at end of August 2020. Anne, an absolute lady; someone whose unwavering dedication and loyalty to St Patrick's PS Annaghmore, for the past 45 years alongside three principals is a legacy we will all treasure.

We wish Mrs Donnelly (as we all called her) every joy and blessing in the years ahead and good health to celebrate her well-earned retirement.

We welcome Mrs Lucille Conway as the new secretary of St Patrick's PS Annaghmore and wish Lucille every success and years of happiness in her role—welcome to our staff team, Lucille.

Building Supervisor.

Sean is off on sick leave currently and we wish him a speedy return to health. Mr Eamonn Campbell, a familiar face that we welcome back, will deputise for Sean until he is fit to return. Lovely to have you with us again, Eamonn.

New Routines—New School Day:

Parents and Carers.

All parents and carers MUST always remain off school premises during this pandemic.

NO ADULTS other than staff will be allowed into the school building or mobile units.

All other adults must always remain outside the gates, socially distanced and wearing mask were possible.

We have worked hard to reopen our school from 24th August for all P2—P7 pupils to attend full time; the only way we can keep our school safely open is when we all play our part to ensure that COVID19 is not 'invited ' into the school.

Communication for parents/carers:

Phone into the school and ask for a call back from teachers or principal if you have a concern or a query for us to respond to; staff will ring back when they are available to do so and at the first opportunity they can.

NO ONE will be able to engage staff at the gate for any reason due to the 8 different staggered start and end times for our classes. We must clear the gates as quickly as possible at all times.

Email the school using:

info@stpatrickps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk

This email address can be found as part of the school letter heading on all letters on website. It defaults to the principal and will receive a reply the day it is received.

A meeting can be arranged through Mrs Conway in the office, for after 3:30pm when all pupils have left the school. These meetings will take place in the school hall so 2 meter socially distance regulation can be fully implemented and all adults will wear a mask. Sanitising regulations at all doors must always be followed and you must complete the COVID19 Register when entering and leaving.

Staggered Start and Finishing Times

It is essential that these times are respected and adhered to daily. We must control the number of parents/carers at the gates at any single time and social distancing is essential while there.

PLEASE DO NOT HOLD CONVERSATIONS AT THE SCHOOL GATES.

Family Groups

Family groups can only come in at the first start time for the family concerned.

The other family members must go to the hall following the path round to the back yard and entering the hall via the door from the back yard. They must wait in the hall, 2 meter socially distanced from all other children not in their family group, until their class start time. Hand sanitising will be essential entering the hall and leaving it to go to their own classrooms.

Buses

Parents wishing for their child to travel on EA buses (yellow bus) need to have applied to EA for this. Go to eani.org.uk and look for Transport to locate application form.

Trans Link is an independent company who simply provide a service; you pay daily/weekly for travel on this bus.

Children travelling on either bus will arrive at school after 9:00am. They should go straight to the hall via the path leading to the back yard and enter the hall by the back door from the yard. If their class have already been taken in by the teacher, they should go straight to class and not to the hall. Please be aware that there will not be an allocated member of staff to take the bus children in.

At home time, children waiting on the bus need to go to the hall and socially distance while waiting on their bus. (This provision will only happen starting Tuesday 1st September.)

Late Arrivals:

ADULTS MUST NOT ENTER SCHOOL GROUNDS with children who arrive late to school. The child/ren to go straight to their classrooms following the arranged route for their class. Adults should drop children at the gate and leave and **phone into the office to say you are dropping the child/ren off.**

Class Bubbles

Just to reiterate, each class will be treated as a separate bubble while in school. They each have an allocated break time and yard time; each have a separate dinner-yard allocation and will be kept separate from all other class bubbles during the school day as much as possible.

They will be given their own stationery and books in a School Book Bag with individual zip pencil cases and all needed for the school day in the pencil cases. These resources are for their individual use only and are putting in place the regulations that children should not share resources while at school. Both the school book bag and the pencil case will remain in school at all times for use each day by your child alone. We decided to provide all resources so every child will feel equal and have access to the same resources.

Toilet blocks have been allocated as far as possible to each area in the school to avoid groups of children from different bubbles gathering in them.

Routine hand washing will be established throughout the school day and tables, hard surfaces, door handles and toilet areas will be routinely wiped and disinfected throughout the day to comply with increased hygiene regulations set by NI Executive for schools.

Week beginning 24th August will be used to practice and begin to embed the new 'norms' in every classroom across the school. Social distancing when lining up and moving as a class will also be taught and practiced.

Homework will not be issued to any class during this first week with the exceptions of Upper KS2 P6 & P7 classes and Transfer.

Return of textbooks by P7 pupils (that belong to their P6 class) should be sent in a plastic bag that will be put into the outside storeroom for 72 hours quarantine before being used again by the new Primary 6 class.

Break and Dinners

Every pupil will require a healthy break every day brought to school in a clear bag that can be discarded when contents are eaten.

EVERY PUPIL in P2—P7 will require a packed lunch for the first week beginning 24th August. To establish the new dinner routines, we will take lunch to the hall this week, so pupils understand the new routines for the dining hall.

Dinners will formally begin Tuesday 1st September again.

ALL parents whose child/ren are entitled to free dinners must apply for them for this school year. Unless you have returned the form sent to you by EA or filled out the form on the EA website for free school meals, for 2020/21, then your child will not receive dinner until you do so.

We receive a list each week of children entitled to free dinners; unless your child's name is on this list, they will not receive dinners and you must either pay for dinners or provide lunch for your child until you apply and your application is processed by meals division at EA and the school notified.

Dinners can be bought for £2:60 per child a day or £13:00 per week.

ALL dinner monies MUST be paid on a Monday morning ONLY for dinners your child will be taking during that week. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT DINNER MONEY during the week.

Dinner Menu is on the website for September under Parent Area for your attention.

Choice is minimal due to the need to restrict movement in the dining room and avoid surfaces being cross contaminated so, all children will always be seated. Dinners will be plated and served at the tables to children by kitchen staff. There will only be 3 children at each dinner table to socially distance in bubbles as much as possible. Each bubble will have their own yard to play in at both break and lunch time.

Lunches in each bubble will be eaten in the canteen to remain part of their class bubble. All lunch items will be binned after eating and nothing will be carried home. Children will not be permitted to return to their classrooms but will go straight outside unless it is raining.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL EACH DAY WITH A COAT and ensure their name is written clearly on their coat in multiple places.

Staggered Home times.

Ensure you are on time to collect your child at their allocated time each day and do not enter the school grounds to collect them. Teachers will bring them to you at the gate as for the morning. Avoid conversations and socially distance.

First Confession for Primary 5 pupils.

This is scheduled for Thursday 17th September. Arrangements have yet to be finalised with schools. As soon as we have details, we will let you know what is happening.

First Holy Communion for Primary 5 pupils.

This is scheduled for Saturday 3rd October for St Patrick's PS Annaghmore. Once again, details have yet to be issued to schools but as soon as we know what form this will take this year, we will let you know.

Unfortunately for both Sacraments, COVID19 restrictions will apply and these will impact on how we normally would have celebrated these.

Flu Vaccine

St Patrick's PS is scheduled to have whole school flu vaccine by way of nasal spray, on Wednesday 25th November this year. It is essential that all children are vaccinated against flu to minimise the risk and complications of contracting both flu and COVID19. We urge all parents to sign the consent forms when they have been issued to you and return them as soon as possible thereafter. We need to keep our school community safe as possible and this is yet another way you can protect both your child and all other pupils and staff this winter and keep our school open and safe.

Transfer - PPTC Entrance Assessment (GL)

Any parent who is entering their child for the Transfer Procedure in December this year must complete their online application form for GL Assessment for both St Patrick's Academy and St Joseph's Grammar.

Registration closes 9th October.

Test is on 5th December with

Supplementary paper 19th December and
Results issues 30th January 2021.

Finally, thank you for all your patience and understanding during what has become some of the most challenging days in education. We are delighted to be welcoming your children back into the school again – it is they who give it life and meaning and although it will be different, we continue to have exactly the same mission today that we had a year ago and our motto remains the same:

“To be the best we can be, every day in every way!”

Every blessing and good wish to you all as we step forward into 2020/21.

Our School Prayer.

Dear St Patrick,

Help us to make our school

A happy, caring and safe place

Where we can be

The best we can be

Every day in every way,

A-men.