

October Newsletter 2020.

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



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"To be the best it can be, every day in every way!"

Welcome to our October Newsletter. Firstly, I would like to pay full tribute to every pupil at St Patrick's PS for the amazing way that they have worked alongside staff to keep up the COVID19 hygiene and distancing regulations across the school. Also, many thanks to the wonderful support and encouragement from you, our parent body in helping to maintain the new procedures at St Patrick's PS and for having complete respect for the need for social distancing and protecting our school bubbles and environment by maintaining your presence to the school gates.

Final thanks must go to the brilliant staff who have cheerfully kept the classrooms a safe, friendly and happy place for every child to be in every day – you are second to none!

Dates for your diary:

- **Wednesday 28th October:- STAFF ONLY DAY**
- **Thursday 29th & Friday 30th October:- Mid-term break for all.**

Due to COVID19 restrictions, Parent-Teacher meetings will not take place in October.

PTA Christmas Card Design

Sharon and Bronagh are organising for each child to design their own Christmas Card for printing in packs of 12 per design. The packs will cost £5 per pack and we encourage all parents to please support this venture for our school.

It is reassuring all pupils that Santa will be coming and Christmas will happen 25th December 2020 – despite Coronavirus! The 'buzz' has started!!

Your child's card design will be sent home next Monday to be 'parent approved' along with an order form for you to order the number of packs you want for your child's design. The order form must be returned by the end of next week signed with payment for the packs ordered.

Please note: At the end of next week we will send a single order to the company and we cannot accept any late orders.

Halloween Dress-Up

Tuesday 27th October 2020 will be our Annual Halloween Dress-Up day at school. Children are being encouraged to make their own costumes and as usual, there will be two prizes for best costumes in each class.

This year, however, we request that no additional props are brought in from home such as swords, guns, sticks or staffs. Children should come wearing their costumes please and carrying only their break/lunch as usual.

Cook will also make a special Halloween Party Lunch/Dinner on this day.

Please note:- Party Lunch replaces the dinner on the menu. (£2.60 for those who pay for dinners.)

Flu Vaccine:-

The individual permission letters and forms will be going out with each pupil tomorrow afternoon.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance – especially this year due to COVID – for every child to receive the vaccine on Wednesday 25th November when it is scheduled to be given to our school.

The vaccine is a simple nasal spray given by the school nursing team and is a matter of a split second to administer. PLEASE ensure you complete and return the forms IMMEDIATELY so your child can be protected against the Winter Flu which, if allowed to combine with COVID, will be a truly devastating situation to find yourself in.

Building Supervisor.

Sean continues off on sick leave and we wish him a speedy return to health. Mr Bosco Hughes is now deputising for Sean until he is fit to return. Lovely to have you with us, Bosco!

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 masks where 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 metre 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.

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.

Homework

All parents are asked to engage with the online Home Learning provided through the school website for all classes.

We can see daily, the parents/children who are engaging through uploads of responses and copies of children's work sent via website to teachers. Unfortunately, there is still a sizable number of pupils who are not engaging with the home work provided and I would urge all parents to ensure that your child/ren are given every opportunity to improve academically in partnership with you and the school through the home learning on the website www.stpatrickssannaghmore.com

Primary 6 and 7 will both be reintroduced to Google Classroom this week.

Dinners

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.

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 October 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 Holy Communion for Primary 5 pupils.

Saturday 3rd October was a great morning for our Primary 5 pupils who made their First Holy Communion – congratulations girls and boys, you were simply the best!!

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 Friday 16th October 2020 for PPTC GL Assessment.

Tests on Saturday 30th January 2021

***Supplementary paper* Saturday 6th February 2021**

Results issued to all parents Saturday 6th March 2021.

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.

**2020/21 sees the 50th Anniversary of the opening of St Patrick's PS
Annaghmore at this location.**

**As part of our celebration of this momentous event, we are designing a
tea-towel with each class that will feature a self-portrait of every child on it
and the school crest in the centre.**

**Once again, this will be sent home for 'parent approval' of your child's self-
portrait, along with an order form for you to order copies of this unique one-
off design celebrating our 50th Anniversary – COVID19 included.**

Price for design will follow shortly.
