

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Principal: Anne Mc Guinness

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Thursday 12th November 2020.

Dear Parents,

Challenging days continue for us all but we have achieved so much so far working in partnership to keep our school open for our children. Thank you all for supporting everything we have put in place and with such a team approach we will, please God, continue to protect our school community as best we can.

Directives from Department of Education, Education Authority and Public Health Agency NI continue to guide all procedures within the school and we must pay utmost respect and regard to these in the decisions we make in order to keep our school a safe place for every child in every class and every adult who works here.

COVID19 continues to rule all our daily lives, dictating all we do and how we do it. Preventing the transmission of the virus into and around the school is a priority and will remain so until it is safe to begin to relax measures we have in place to protect us.

Home Learning - On line and blended.

We have, as a staff, in response to parent enquiry, reviewed the current position on home learning and use of website and Google Classroom for online and blended approaches to learning at home. We fully acknowledge the challenges surrounding connectivity, printing and trying to focus on screen for children so they can complete tasks set for home.

At this point in time, we are not in a position to change the current delivery model due to on-going high transmission rates of COVID19. The on-line work dramatically reduces opportunities for transmission of the virus from the community into the school and vice-versa and this gives us all an added shield from contracting COVID19 and keeping our school open.

We are reviewing the quantity of work being uploaded for each year group and teachers will endeavour that the majority of work can be completed without having to be printed off in most instances unless this is what you prefer to do.

So that staff can respond to children's endeavours, we ask that for P1 – P4, at least a single sheet of Maths and one for Literacy is uploaded for teachers to comment on each week.

P5 are asked to upload 2 samples of completed work for Maths and Literacy a week and P6 and P7 are operating through Google Classroom and should respond as requested by their teachers.

Reading for all children is the most essential work you can do with your child at home. Please ensure that the reading set is completed each week.

Google Classroom.

Child Protection has a major role to play regarding online work and Google Classroom is an open forum that we must impose our restrictions on for our children. To this end, ONLY the C2K individual pupil log-in details will be used and teachers have already issued a personal invite to children in their class ONLY to join.

Parents are not to log-in at any time, using your own email accounts – these will be deleted and blocked should they appear. The Google Classrooms are for school communications with pupils and teachers.

Please do check what your child is messaging on the class stream and ensure it is appropriate and respectful of all other children and teacher users. There is a Code of Conduct that must be followed at all times.

Finally, impose a cut-off time for using Google Classroom for your child. Messages should not be posted after 6:30pm as staff need home and family time too.

Flu Vaccine for pupils.

Wednesday 25th November is flu vaccine day for St Patrick's PS. Dinner menu will be changed as hall will be used by School Nurses in order to administer the flu nasal spray to all children who brought back a consent form.

Dinner on this date will be chicken nuggets and chips with shortbread biscuit and it will be served in all classrooms on 25th November only.

Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 8th December. Cost £2:60 for anyone wishing to pay.

This will be Crazy Hair and Christmas Jumper fund raiser day – £2:00 per pupil.

As this is also a Holy Day, all children will take part in Mass on-line in the morning in their class bubbles.

Please ensure the school has active and current mobile phone contact details for all parents.

Thank you, once again, for all your support.

Take care and keep safe and well,

Best wishes,

A McGuinness

Anne McGuinness