



October Newsletter: 2021

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Dates for your Diary for October:

Friday 15th October, 2021

Non-uniform Day Fund-raiser.

£2 per child

All money will go to PTA and towards raising funds to install a canopy opposite playroom that will enable children to engage in outdoor play activities despite the weather. The total cost is £1,500 and all non-uniform days across the year will be a step closer to achieving this.

Dates for Halloween Week.

Tuesday 26th October

Halloween Dress Up Day

Prizes for all classes for top 2 'Best Dressed!'

School Closed for Halloween.

Wednesday 27th October

Thursday 28th October

Friday 29th October

Local GAA Support

Thank you to Shane McCann and Clonoe O'Rahilly's who is trying hard to source coaches for our school.

We will operate timetabled sessions that will be outside, weather permitting, as much as possible, when they begin.

Morning Club for 2021 - 2022

Thank you all for your patience and response to our letter of interest for Morning Club.

I am delighted that you have decided it is time to reinstate it through the response received.

Morning Club will begin again

Monday 4th October.

In response to some parental requests, children will be able to enter after 8:00am but they must still be registered for Morning Club as this is the only supervision available before 9:00am.

All children will enter by the back door into the hall for the club.

All parents/carers are asked to remain off the school premises in line with ongoing COVID19 restrictions.

Cost £5 per week per child signed up.

Daily Register will be kept of all attendees and weekly payments recorded.

Please remember, this is a morning club and not a breakfast club.

Dogs Trust Visit.

Cathy Clyde is the Dogs Trust Education and Community Officer for Northern Ireland. Her role is to visit schools across the area to provide curriculum-linked workshops that teach KS2/P4-7 children how to behave safely around dogs.

We have booked Cathy to come to St Patrick's PS to work with P4 - P7 classes individually on Friday 8th October.

Swimming Opportunity - Term 2/3.

Once again, this is another area of the Curriculum that has been put on hold due to COVID19.

In light of the pools reopening and a gradual lifting of restrictions in community and in schools, we would like to gain interest levels from parents regarding willingness to sign your child up to weekly sessions for Term 2 and Term 3.

P4 - P7 classes will attend separately and buses will be used for transport.

EA have a limited availability only and they can assure us that they will clean and sanitise between user groups if they are available for us to hire.

Private bus companies will have their own practices in place and it is recommended all users wear masks at this point in time.

Dungannon pool has closed shower facilities and hair drying facilities; also extended time between user groups to ensure cleaning; all adults are asked to wear masks and socially distance.

Hopefully by Term 2/3 restrictions may have eased even further and 'normal' will be closer to 'normal' as we previously knew it.

I will send out all information regarding availability, dates and costings when they are available for each class.

Summer Reading Scheme.

Congratulations to all the children who took part and completed the Summer Reading Scheme through Libraries NI.

Taking your child to the library or going online and joining them at Libraries NI will give access to a world of books to suit the interests and abilities of every individual child - all free of charge.

This is a fabulous opportunity to engage your child in reading and share a wonderful experience with them.

Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre

is delighted to offer lessons across a range of Irish traditional instruments suitable for all ages and abilities from the comfort of your own home. Held over Zoom and with the assistance of our extremely talented tutors, Dún Uladh offers a professional music experience with the chance to explore traditional Irish instruments and an opportunity for you, a family member or friend to learn a skill for life.

Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre, Ulster's Regional Resource Centre for Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann offers lessons in tin whistle, flute, banjo, button accordion, fiddle and harp. We also have a range of instruments to rent subject to availability. If you are interested in learning the art of Irish music at home, you can register online now at www.dunuladh.ie/shop. First term begins Tuesday 28th September.

For more information on classes, tutors, instruments, prices and term times please contact us on 028 8224 2777 or e-mail music@dunuladh.ie.

All classes are subject to interest and registration is imperative."

Daily Mile

Every class in the school are involved in doing the Daily Mile with their teachers and Teaching Assistants each day this term. Some jog while others walk at a pace but all are involved and enjoying the experience. This is all part of the mental health and welfare programme this year for our pupils alongside the other initiatives above.

Flu Vaccine.

Letters will be sent out by school nursing team shortly for every pupil to offer the flu vaccine. This year is more important than ever that we have our children as protected as possible from flu. The vaccine is a simple nasal spray.

The Neuronimo Programme.

Over the coming weeks you will hear your child talking about the Neuronimo Programme we are involved in as a whole school from Monday 27th September for 12 weeks.

Neuronimo Program was launched to tackle mental health issues in children, and has been opened to schools in Northern Ireland. The Education Authority has created links for schools to become part of this programme and we have membership to access it for the 12 weeks.

Created by the 'Reverse The Trend Foundation', the 'Neuronimo' program uses neuroscience to tackle this important issue of mental health in children; the evidence base for this program is supported by research undertaken by Ulster University and the University of Southampton.

"During the pandemic there has been an increase in mental health issues among children and difficulties have been heightened as restrictions have persisted. There is substantial evidence that good mental health and wellbeing are critical precursors to learning," said Reverse The Trend Foundation Chief Executive Cait Hall.

"The Neuronimo program offers children an understanding of their mental health, helping them to connect the dots between mind and body. When young people understand why they feel a certain way - why their mind goes blank, why they cannot sleep or get a tummy pain before an event - they can do something about it.

"The Neuronimo program equips young people with the knowledge and the skills to manage both mental and physical health."

Neuronimo has already been rolled out in Great Britain where 75,000 children have benefited from the program.

"Schools consistently highlight mental and physical health as key issues for our children and young people," said Nicola Topping, Head of Pupil Wellbeing Services with the Education Authority.

"We also know however that school staff have many demands on their time. The Neuronimo program is flexible and many of the mental health tasks can be completed in under five minutes. These tasks develop important life skills that support pupils' ability to cope with and negotiate their way through difficult situations, build positive relationships and help prevent mental health difficulties from developing."

Information can be found at www.reversethetrend.org.uk

Please see your **link for Neuronimo at Home**

https://www.neuronimo.co.uk/enroll/1620225?th_uq=37545df5

This link is unique to St Patrick's Primary School.

Neuronimo at Home can be accessed from Tuesday 28th September.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS

- If you have not applied please do so as soon as possible
- It can take up to four weeks for an application to be processed
- If you have not received an email confirming your application please check your junk mail
- For more information please visit: www.eani.org.uk/fsm

The BIG Anti-Bullying Assembly 2021.

On Monday 4th October, we will be joining thousands of schools across the country in a virtual Assembly for Anti-Bullying. This year each pupil will decorate a hand outline and we will create our whole school display in the hall showing 'Hands Up against Bullying!'

The initiative is sponsored by Nationwide Building Society and we are proud to take part in it this year.

Please ask your child about the assembly on Monday when they bring home their participation certificate.