

September Newsletter (1) 2022.

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

10, Annaghmore Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. N.I. BT71 4QZ

Principal: Anne Mc Guinness

Web Site: www.stpatricksannaghmore.com

Telephone : (028) 87740661

Email: info@stpatricksp.s.coalisland.ni.sch.uk



Welcome.

Welcome to our new school year of 2022/23!

Together we will make it: ***"The best it can be, every day in every way!"***

I hope you have all survived the Summer 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 2022/23—all 29 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 also welcome, for the first time in the history of St Patrick's PS, the children of our Pre-school Learning Support Unit and their teacher and we are excited for this great opportunity.

We say a heart-felt 'Goodbye' to our out-going Primary 7 of 2021/22. 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. Together we will make this year as big a success as we possibly can, making you the centre of all that happens. A special welcome to the new children joining P2 – P7 for the first time this year at St Patrick's PS. We are delighted to have you and hope you will settle in very quickly making friends you will have for life.



Retiring Staff:-

Mrs McFall and Miss McGahey have both taken retirement from full-time teaching. On behalf of the Governors and staff we wish them both every health and happiness in the years ahead and sincerely thank them both for their years of dedicated service to the children of Annaghmore PS.

Margaret too, is retiring from her job as Cleaner and Lunchtime Supervisor at St Patrick's having previously also served as Classroom Assistant. We thank Margaret for all her years of service to the children at St Patrick's PS and wish her health to enjoy many years ahead.

Building Supervisor.

Bosco is moving on to new ventures and we wish him every success in the years ahead.

Mr Dara McClure will take over as Building Supervisor this year – welcome Dara, and enjoy the magic of Primary School life!

Routines for School Day:

Parents and Carers.

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.

Please do not engage staff at the gate for any reason. We must clear the gates as quickly as possible at all times and ensure we reduce the cars parked at the school for drop offs and pick-ups.

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. **DO NOT email to inform of a child's absence, early finishing or late arrival; such communications must be made by phone call.** Such messages may not read until after later in the day.

A meeting can be arranged through Mrs Conway in the office, preferably for when all pupils have left the school. Sanitising facilities at all doors should always be followed and you must complete the COVID19 Register when entering and leaving the school.

COVID19 is very much still with us and we will continue to do all we can to prevent it travelling through classes.

Staggered Start and Finishing Times (Attached at end of Newsletter)

It is essential that these times are respected and adhered to daily. We must control the volume of parents/carers and cars at the gates at any single time to avoid traffic jams and local residents unable to enter or leave their homes.

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL OR ANY CLASSROOMS. PHONE IN AS FOR LAST YEAR.



Teachers cannot hold unannounced meetings with parents as they have a class of children to attend to and children will always be our priority. It is extremely disruptive and never productive to interrupt any teacher in class. Please, phone in and arrange an appointment or a call back with the teacher.

Reports on any child can only be given by their teacher. Support staff will always defer any enquiry made to them, back to the teacher in charge of the class.

Morning Club – Beginning Monday 5th September at 8:00am (P2 – P7)

ALL children attending must be registered for the club to ensure it is viable to run. £5 a week is the contribution for each child and must be paid at the start of each week. A register will be kept of attendees. Forms will be available 1st and 2nd September for children to take home and return before attending.

P1 pupils should not attend the Morning Club until at least after Halloween when they have been allowed time to settle into life at school first.

Children going to Morning Club will follow the path from the top pedestrian gate, around the side to enter the Hall via the rear yard as usual.

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 and you can also purchase a Travel Pass from bus station in Dungannon.

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 will follow their teacher's direction.

Late Arrivals:

ADULTS should NOT ENTER SCHOOL GROUNDS with children who arrive late to school with the exception of P1 and P2 pupils who can be brought to front door. Other child/ren go straight to their classrooms following the arranged route for their class. Adults should drop children at the gate and leave and **can phone into the office to say you are dropping the child/ren off so they can be marked in.**

Class Bubbles (or not!)

While COVID still rampages around, we are ready to ease up on isolating classes from each other especially at key social times such as break and lunchtimes meaning that more than 1 class will be on the yard at a time. Children will go to the hatch for their dinner and greater independence will be promoted.

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

Routine hand washing will continue throughout the school day and tables, hard surfaces, door handles and toilet areas will be routinely wiped and disinfected as for last year to continue with increased hygiene at school.

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. ***Please ensure it is fruit, veggie sticks, pancake or crackers or yoghurt sent in for break. Crisps and chocolate bars are not in line with Healthy Breaks*** and children are not to be sent in with these for their break.

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 2022/23, 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.

Please note, we are just an agent for EA and Meals; EA will not reimburse nor will they allow dinners to be taken without payment before they have authorised Free School Meals Entitlement.

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.

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.

All lunch boxes and water bottles should be clearly labelled also. ***Please look at the content of all snacks sent in to school and check for nut content. We are a Nut Aware School due to children with allergic reactions to different types of nut.*** Should they accidentally consume this in an item swapped or given to them by another child, the reaction will be severe and life-threatening for child concerned. Such treats should be kept at home for health and safety reasons for other children.

'Water in school is cool!'

Children should only bring still water to drink in class.

No fizzy drinks or energy drinks are allowed at any time in school and these will be confiscated immediately when seen.

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 at the school gates and keep traffic moving at all times.

Flu Vaccine

St Patrick's PS is scheduled to have whole school flu vaccine by way of nasal spray, on Thursday 1st December 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 and this is yet another way you can protect both your child and all other pupils and staff this winter.

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 23rd September at 2:00pm.

Test is on Saturday 12th November with

Supplementary paper Saturday 10th December and

Friday 3rd February 2023.

Finally, we are delighted to be welcoming your children back into the school again – it is they who give it life and meaning and we continue to have exactly the same mission today that we have always had 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 2022/23.

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.

Staggered Times from Thursday 1st September.

Starting Times

P1 - 9:10am (after week 1) Teacher will collect from gate - enter via front door)

P2 - 9:10am (Teachers will collect from gate - enter via front door)

P3 & P4 - 9:15am (Teachers will collect from gate - P3 via bottom of front yard and in through rear door; P4 follow pathway from gate, past canteen and round to rear yard)

P5 - P7 - 9:10am (Teachers will collect from gate - follow path from gate past canteen and into rear yard.)

Home Times

P2 & P3: 2:00pm (Teacher will bring class to line up point on front yard; parents wait at gate.)

P4 & P5: 2:50pm (Teacher will bring class to line up point on front yard; parents wait at gate.)

P6 & P7: 3:00pm (Teacher will bring class to line up point on front yard; parents wait at gate.)

Primary 1 children: Parents already have start and finishing times for September.

For 1st and 2nd September only, parents are permitted to bring their child in; thereafter, teacher will collect them from gate and bring them in with her.

For collection, please remain at the gate and teacher will bring the children out to you so they get used to school routines as quickly as possible.

Please ensure on day 1 that you send in a full change of clothing, labelled, to stay in school for your child to change into if needed.

Please ensure you download the calendar from parent area on website; menu also available.