



"Be the Best We Can Be, Every Day in Every Way!"



St. Patrick's P.S.

September Newsletter:2019

www.stpatrickssannaghmore.com

Please ensure you check the website for updates and information - especially the school calendar.

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all our pupils of P2 - P7 and a special "Welcome" to our new pupils in P1, as well as new pupils in other year groups across the school.

Special Diet Requests.

There is a special Diet Request Form available from the office that **must be completed for any child who has special dietary needs or food allergies.**

Please ensure if your child has such needs that we receive the form as soon as possible to inform all staff & the cooks.

Nut Free Zone.

Please note that **St. Patrick's PS is a designated "Nut Free Zone."** It is essential that all food sent in for lunch is checked for content.

No Birthday cakes or buns are to be brought into the school classrooms

as we cannot guarantee the content of these.

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Parking.

PLEASE be aware that you do not block residents across from the school into their driveways when leaving or collecting children from school.

The main school gates must be left clear at all times.

Lining Up at Home times.

For Health & Safety reasons only, and to prevent any child from leaving the school grounds without a teacher knowing who they have left with,

we ask those who are **collecting children to please come into the front yard** so children and staff can see them clearly.

If parents wish their child to walk home from the school unaccompanied, we require a written letter from the parent giving their consent for their child to do so and this will be filed in the office.

On wet Home times, P1 & P2 children can be collected directly from their classrooms at 1:50pm & P3 will line up in the corridor for collection at 2:00pm.

On wet home times for older children,

P4 & P5 can be collected from the Hall at 2:50pm and P6 & P7 pupils collected from the Hall at 3:00pm.

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Holiday List is enclosed.

Please note that dates given are subject to change. We will ensure you are informed as soon as possible of any changes.

Calendar is also on the website and this will be updated and added to as the weeks go by so please, do check it regularly.

Dates for First Holy Communion, First Confession & Confirmation will be released as soon as we have them.

School Dinners

Cost is £2:60 a day per pupil and £13:00 per week per pupil. Please ensure dinner money is paid on a Monday for the week to class teachers. All paid dinners must be paid for at the start of the week you wish your child/ren to have them.

Morning Club.

Morning Club begins at 7:45am and costs **50p per child per day**. Payment for the club must be made weekly on a Monday morning.

All children arriving at the school from 7:45am - 9:00am **must** attend the Morning Club and go directly to the Hall by using the pathway that leads around to the rear door of the hall in the back yard.

After School Clubs.

Parents will be informed of these as soon as they are available. In light of no funding this year for the Extended Schools it will be necessary to charge for these clubs.

Student Council

Pupils P4 - P7 will elect their class representatives for the Student Council by end of next week and we will elect our Head Boy and Girl for 2019/20. This is to increase the student voice in the decisions and policies that are made in school and to provide a forum for them to put forward issues and ideas that are important to them. It introduces them to how a democratic society should operate and to the concepts of equality, fairness and inclusion; to the need for compromise - values which are so important in the world in which they are growing up.

PTA and new outdoor play area.

"We just love it!!" and with that, the children summed it up in June when asked what they thought of the new play equipment. Once again, thank you to our PTA and also to you, the parents for all the support you give to our school throughout the year that makes such a big difference to the experiences of school for our children. New members are always welcome to the PTA and we will inform you in advance of meetings.

Good Luck to....

Mr Scullion who is taking a career break this year. We wish him every success in his endeavours during 2019/20!

We also wish every success to Mr Douglas as he begins a year with St Joseph's College, Coalisland!

Primary 7 of 2018/19.

We wish all of our outgoing Primary 7 pupils every happiness and success in their new schools and know that you will "*Be the Best You Can Be, Every day in Every Way!*"

Updating Contact information for all pupils.

We are moving towards a more 'paperless' and sustainable school as a priority for Department and Education Authority. To play our part in creating an eco-friendlier world for our children to exist in, we need to update how we communicate with and send out information to you, our parents and guardians.

To achieve this, we require all families to complete the communications and contact details sheet and ensure

1. **up-to date mobile numbers** are given for parents and also for contacts if you have changed them recently;
2. **A current e-mail address** is provided **per family** to allow the sending of Newsletters and Dinner Menus each month via the school website by email.

This will also address those Newsletters etc that get lost at the bottom of school bags throughout the year!

Collection of children from school:

For P1 – P4 pupils:-

It is **essential** to inform the school by phone call or in writing each day you change the person who normally collects a child from school at home time or early during the school day; **we cannot release children into the care of people we do not know without parental/guardian consent.** This is an essential Safeguarding measure.

For all pupils:-

it is **essential** adults go to the secretary's office to sign out any pupil being collected **early** from school, and, a member of school staff will bring your child to you. **No parent/guardian should ever go directly to any classroom to collect or leave a child off.** This is to ensure we know and have a record of who has taken a child from the school early and also, who is on the school premises.

We thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

Miss School – Miss Out

Department of Education has launched their focus on school attendance. Your child will only achieve of their best if they attend school regularly and on time, remaining for the full school day. Our Attendance Policy is on our website and contains the procedures to be followed if attendance becomes irregular and falls below 75% at any time. Please also note, any child arriving late after

9:30am will be registered as Late; also, any child leaving school early (20 - 30minutes before they should finish) will be registered as leaving early before the school day is completed. All attendance is computerised and Educational Welfare monitor the records each term for all pupils.

This is also why it is so important that adults always sign a child out if they leave early to attend Medical Appointments or if they go home sick during the school day.

Also, please inform the school secretary by telephone call if your child is ill and will not be in. These records will be registered on the attendance system and will explain a child's absence. If your child is absent for more than a day at any time, please send them in when they return, with a brief note to the class teacher to explain their absence. Once again, this will be recorded as an explained absence in their records.

Healthy Breaks and Healthy Lunch Boxes.

We continue to operate a Healthy Break time at St Patrick's. Please ensure your child/ren have fruit, bread, veggie sticks etc with them to eat at this time.

Healthy Lunches are also highly recommended. Do make sure your child has a sandwich, pancake, bread roll etc as part of their lunch with them along with fruit or yogurt. Once again, we will send home any uneaten food with children so you are aware of what your child has or has not eaten for their lunch.

Please ensure all lunch boxes are clearly labelled with your child's name and class on it.

Uniforms, Coats and PE Gear.

PLEASE: make sure all clothing for school including coats and jackets are labelled clearly with your child's name and class. This is the only chance we have of returning "lost and found" items back to their rightful owners.

Precious Possessions.

No pupil should have a mobile phone, MP3 Player or any expensive watch or electronic device in school at any time. St Patrick's will not accept liability should such item be brought in and go missing or get broken.

Any pupil who brings such items to school will have them removed by a member of staff and they will be kept in the office until the end of the school day when they will be returned to go home with them.