

**Information Meeting 19th September:** We shall be having an Information day/evening on Monday 19th September. School will be closed for children in the primary school on that day

**R1/P1 Parent Meeting:** At 1pm parents of children in R1 and P1 are invited to a short meeting (30 mins) where the class teachers will outline how you can help your child in their first year at school.

**Year 2- Year 7 Parent Meeting:** At 7.15 pm parents of children in years 2-7 are invited to an Information Evening, This will consist of a short talk in the hall and then parents will have an opportunity to go to teacher's classrooms where teachers will outline the year ahead and their expectations. This should last about 15mins and will then be repeated. This will allow parents who have children in other classes to attend another talk. Parents of P1 and R1 children will have already met their P1 and R1 teachers earlier in the day will not be involved on that evening. The meeting should last no more than 60 minutes.

**Extended Schools Clubs for Years 4- 7:** Clubs begin on week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> September

Football will be on Monday's (Years 6 and 7) and Wednesday's (Years 4 and 5). (3.15pm – 4pm)

ICT Club Arrangements are as follows. The children will be using iPad's and PC's and will work in blocks of 10 weeks of groups of 15 children. There will be a focus this year on Coding. This will work on a rota if over subscribed Monday –Yr4 Tuesday -Yr 5 Wednesday – Yr6 Thursday – Yr7 Fridays will be used as well depending on uptake.

On Friday's the popular drama group will recommence for children in Year 4, 5,6 and 7 children who wish to join. (2pm -3pm)

Forms will be issued shortly and children should return the form by Wednesday of next week. If numbers are too large we will have to organise rotas.

**After Schools Youth Club for Years 1 -3:** All parents should have received a letter regarding this and by now should be enrolling their children for the various sessions on the notice board placed outside. This will start on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September for Years 2 and 3 and then Year 1 children will join on 5<sup>th</sup> October after they have settled in to their new school environment.

**UNIFORM:** The children looked great in their new uniforms on Monday. Thank you to everyone. Please make sure that all garments have the child's name and class on it. Please ensure that school shoes are black. Thank you. Children should wear their uniforms at all times and bring their PE gear to school to change in to. There are changing areas set up in the school for children to change in. These afford privacy to the children.

Children in Years 1 and 2 may wear their track suit bottoms to school on PE days up to Christmas. By the New Year they will be more independent and should also come to school wearing their uniform.

**School Meals:** Meals now cost £2.50 day and should be paid retrospectively on a Monday for the previous week. Money should be placed in an envelope marked with amount and child/children's name. Younger children can pass the envelope on to their teacher whilst the older children can drop the envelope into the post box outside the office. It would be really appreciated that any outstanding dinners from last year will be paid ASAP. Following advice from LEA dinners will not be given to children if money is owed more than two weeks. Thank you.

**SWIMMING** Due to an increase in numbers swimming will take place in a rota this year. P6 shall begin swimming on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> September in Newry. Each session is a double session and will take place on alternate weeks for 6 sessions. The cost of a double session (including Transport) is £3.50

### Cool for School Photographs

Individual and sibling group photos and P1 / R1 photos will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Orders forms will then be sent out.

**Great opportunity to play Traditional Musical instrument and sing**  
**Comhaltas will return for registration in school on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**Healthy Break:** At St Patrick's we have had a Healthy Eating at Break time policy for a number of years. Please send in fruit or healthy sandwich for your child's snack. No yoghurt, cereal bars etc, Thank You.

### **Playground**

It was great to see the playground being used so much during the summer. It will now revert to school opening times ie after 3.05pm during the week (2.05 Friday ) and open at weekends and holidays. Please continue to look after it well and remind other children that the equipment is for primary aged children. There should be no balls or cycling etc in the playground. Thank you

## Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to the new children and their families. Hopefully everyone had a relaxing and pleasant summer.

The safety of every child in the school is paramount at all times and the school needs to take the appropriate measures to insure this. Please continue to assist us by saying "Good Bye" and "Hello" at the appropriate gates. Adults on duty will insure that children move directly to their playgrounds and children are not in the way of traffic. **Please do not park on the childrens walking path marked by continuous white lines or to drive into the school gates at any time.** Be extremely vigilant when pulling in and driving off in the vicinity of the school. Thank you.

It is important that children have coats and that they are also picked up punctually. As already mentioned pick up times are 150pm(R1-R3) and 250pm(R4-R7) for Gaelscoil children whilst children in English medium will finish at 205pm (P1-P3) and 305pm (P4-P7). This will reverse in February.

Whilst we highlight the necessity to keep our children safe it is important to emphasise that parents are very welcome to our school. We are usually available and will try to see you if we can. If not please contact the office to arrange an appointment either with myself or other staff members. Most teachers are available after 3pm. Other ways of communicating include writing messages in the children's diaries or sending emails. All problems issues should be initially directed to the class teacher

Please remember that school is a place for children to learn. Children cannot learn if they don't attend school- please ensure your child attends school when possible. Attendance rates are monitored closely by school and the Education Authority.

Punctuality is also very important. Please make sure your child arrives in school on time. This allows them time to socialise and play with their friends before school and sets them up well with their peers for a good day. Coming in late unsettles both the child coming in late and also their class. If late please send your child through the front door of school.

A number of children in school have severe nut allergies. Whilst specific requests have been made to the parents of the children in these classes to avoid sending in nuts and nut based products we are asking all families to avoid sending in nuts and nut based products. Thank you.

Tin whistle tuition is available for those children in Year 3 and above who wish to avail of it. Letters are being sent home. Older children who have already availed of the service will also receive letters.

Galaxy coaching will also start shortly with their programme of after school sporting activities. Basketball will be the first activity Leaflets to follow.

Our website is being updated and will be available shortly There will also be a school Facebook page. Its use will be for passing on information and exhibiting photos. Instructions for online solutions will be passed on shortly

Congratulations to all of our past pupils on their recent exam successes and to those who have been successful on the sports field, stage or otherwise over the summer months.

Best wishes for the year ahead. M Madine

# Newsletter September 2016

## St Patrick's Primary School

Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa  
St Patrick's Nursery School



54 Carran Rd

Crossmaglen

Newry

BT35 9IL

Tel: 028 30 861 667

Fax: 028 30 868 997

**E-mail:** [info@stpatricksp.s.crossmaglen.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricksp.s.crossmaglen.ni.sch.uk)

[mmadine527@c2kni.net](mailto:mmadine527@c2kni.net)

### September Diary

1<sup>st</sup> (Thu) Classes return

7<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Swimming for P6

9<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Amazing Space Shared Education Peace Pledge @ St Paul's HS

12<sup>th</sup> (Mon) P1 and R1 normal school timetable

After School begins for Years 2 and 3 in Youth Club

15<sup>th</sup> (Thu) 10 Week Mindfulness Programme starts for P7/R7

16<sup>th</sup> Football Blitz for local school @ Rangers

19<sup>th</sup> (Mon) School Closed for children Staff Training in using SIMS (ICT)

Information Meeting for P1/R1 Parents @ 1pm

Information Evening for Parents for Years 2-7 @ 7.15pm

21<sup>st</sup> (Wed) Swimming for P6

28<sup>th</sup> (Wed) School photos – individual/family and P1 R1 year groups

26<sup>th</sup> Chinese Mandarin starts for Year 6/7

**REMEMBER : School finishes at 2pm on Friday for all pupils.**

**Holidays:** Mid Term 31<sup>st</sup> Oct/ 1<sup>st</sup> Nov (inc)

Christmas 21<sup>st</sup> Dec (Half day) -5<sup>th</sup> Jan

Mid Term 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

St Patrick's Day 17<sup>th</sup> Mar

Easter 12<sup>th</sup> Apr (Half Day)– 21<sup>st</sup> Apr

Bank Holidays 1<sup>st</sup> May / 29<sup>th</sup> May

School closes for children 28<sup>th</sup> Jun

**Staff Development Days- School will be closed for children**

19<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Sept –SIMS School ICT

28<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Oct –Parent Teacher Meetings

8<sup>th</sup> Dec(Thu) SDD-

6<sup>th</sup> Jan SDD- Moderation

5<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Jun - Assessment

**Further School Development Days when children do not attend school will also be added.**