

Information Meeting 24th September: We shall be having an Information day/evening on Monday 24th September. School will be closed for children in the primary school on that day

R1/P1 Parent Meeting: At 6pm parents of children in R1 and P1 are invited to a meeting where the class teachers will outline how you can help your child in their first year at school. These parents can then join the School Information meeting at 7.15 in the hall.

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 The meeting should last no more than 60 minutes.

Extended Schools Clubs for Years 4- 7: Clubs begin on week beginning 10th September
Football will be on Monday's (Years 6 and 7) and Wednesday's (Years 4 and 5). (3.15pm – 4pm)

Traditional Group will be starting next week. Auditions for new members will take place on Friday 7th Sept.

Due to the ICT Room being used as a classroom (for a short period) The Coding Club will not begin until the new classrooms arrive. We will have further information in due course.

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

After Schools Youth Club for Years 1 -3: All will shortly receive a letter regarding this and will have an opportunity to enroll their children for the various sessions on the notice board placed outside. This will start on Monday 10th September for Years 2 and 3 and then Year 1 children will join on 1st October after they have settled in to their new school environment. Year 1 children can register at a later date.

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 predominately 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 .
Make sure all jumpers are labelled or initialed.

School Meals: Meals now cost £2.60 (Nursery £2.50) 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: As P7/R7 have a very busy year with various activities and events including Confirmation, Antrim/Donnegal Residential, Mindfulness and various sporting, musical and drama events we have decided to continue to allocate swimming to Year 5 and 6 children. Swimming will take place in a Rota this year. R5 and 6 children shall begin swimming on Tue 4th 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 £4 . It is anticipated that all children will participate in this activity –it is one of the few things in school that could save your life at some stage!

Cool for School Photographs

Individual and sibling group photos and P1 / R1 photos will take place on Tuesday 2nd/Wed 3rd October. Orders forms will then be sent out.

Great opportunity to play Traditional Musical instrument and sing

An Bonnán Buí Comhaltas will return for registration in school on Tuesday 4th Sept (6pm -8pm in school)

Playground

It was great to see the playground being used so much during the summer. It will now revert to school opening times i.e. 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, dogs or cycling etc. in the playground. Thank you

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 NUTS ,yoghurt, cereal bars etc.,
Thank You.

Dear Parents/Carers

Faillte /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 children's' 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. We have a staggered dismissal system. For the first part of this school year pick up times are as follows - 150pm(P1-P3) and 250 pm(P4-P7) for children in English medium whilst children in Irish 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 that are life threatening. Whilst specific requests have been made to the parents of the children in these classes to avoid sending in nuts and nut based products including peanut butter, 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.

Our Shared Education with Market hill PS will also begin shortly. Programme to follow,

Healthy Kidz will continue with their schools programme. They will also start shortly with their programme of after school sporting activities. Soccer will be the first activity. Leaflets to follow.

We have a school Facebook page. It can also be found in embedded in our website. Its function is for passing on information and exhibiting photos of school activities. We ask parents /family to refrain from commenting on our posts. The online safety of our children is important and we would like to minimise identification of our children.

Our new School App will soon be live . Thank you to those who have already downloaded the app from Google and Apple store. It will be our primary mode of communication for the future. So please download the App. Instructions for any 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, music stage or otherwise over the summer months.

Budget shortfall continues to be a major issue for most schools in this country. There will be further communication on this matter shortly.

Newsletter September 2018

St Patrick's Primary School

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September

3rd (Mon) P1 and R1 begin their staggered start along with Years 2-7

4th (Tue) Swimming for R5/6

10th (Mon) P1 and R1 normal school timetable

After School begins for Years 2 and 3 in Youth Club

12th (Wed) 10 Week Mindfulness Programme starts for P7/R7

14th (Fri) Football Blitz for local school@ Rangers (Provisional)

18th (Tue) Swimming for R6/7

24th (Mon) School Closed for children

Information Meeting for P1/R1 Parents @ 6pm

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

REMEMBER: School finishes at 1.50/2.05pm on Friday for all pupils.

Holidays: Mid Term Mon 29th Oct- Fri 2nd Nov (inc)

Christmas 24th Dec (Mon) – Mon 7th Jan

Mid Term Mon 18th /Tue 19th Feb

St Patrick's Day 18th Mar (Mon)

Easter 18th Apr (Half Day)– Fri 26th Apr (inc)

Bank Holidays 6th May (Mon) / 27th May (Mon)

School closes for children 26th Jun

Staff Development Days First Term- School will be closed for children

24th Sept (Mon) – Staff Dev Day –Parent Information Evening

1st Oct (Mon) – Active Moths Training

26th Oct (Fri) –Parent Teacher Meetings

10th Dec (Mon) SDD- Monitoring/Evaluation

Further School Development Days when children do not attend school will also be added. Sacrament Dates will also follow when they have been organized.

Comhghairdeas to Cross camoos on winning the Chamnionshin