

St Patrick's Primary School

13 Castlewellan Road, Ballymaghera, Hilltown, BT34 5UY

Principal: Mrs Geraldine Smith

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Progress Through Partnership

13/12/ 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter our final full week of school I would like to thank you sincerely for your support over the last term, and what a busy term it has been with many celebrations and events!

A summary of our celebrations and events since November

- Anti-Bullying Week
- Speak out Stay Safe Week
- Road Safety Week
- Progress tests and Parent/Teacher Meetings
- Shoebox Appeal -209 collected in total!
- NI Santa Daily Mile
- Opening of the lane beside our school.
- Cash for Clobber fundraiser
- P3 and P4 singing at the switching on of the Village Christmas Lights
- Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day: SVDP Charity.

Upcoming whole school events

The Christmas Raffle extravaganza will take place on Tuesday 14th December. The children will watch live through a zoom link to classes. If you're not in you can't win!

The Christmas Holidays will commence Tuesday 21st December at 11:30am. (no dinners)

Term 2 commences on Wednesday 5th January – normal school timetable.

The trip to the Pantomime in The Grand Opera House, Belfast (Covid regulations permitting) will take place on Thursday 6th January (arrangement details to follow)

Covid-19

We have been able to work through this term with minimal disruption through everyone's continued conviction as a whole school community in following the mitigations. For this we are all truly grateful and we must strive to continue to maintain this over the coming days and weeks ahead. Thank you for wearing masks, keeping on the left of the footpath and socially distancing from staff and each other and encouraging your child to following good hygiene practices of handwashing, and the 'Catch It Bin It Kill It' rule as we go through the school year. We must continue these practices to keep our school open and safe!

Please don't send your child to school if they are unwell in any way. The Omicron variant is more transmissible than the previous variants and we would advise if your child is unwell in any way to book a PCR.

Christmas Concert Recording

As you are aware, the children have been preparing performances in class bubbles which will be combined into a whole school concert with our Primary 1 and Primary 7 children playing leading roles. A massive amount of work from the pupils and the staff has gone into the preparation. Sincere thanks to the pupils for learning their parts and songs and to the staff who had added co-ordinating and organising duties to do to make everything run smoothly. You are in for a magical treat when we release the recording at the end of this week.

Applications for Admission to Primary One

Monday 10th January 2022 at 12 noon : Applications open via Online portal: www.eani.org.uk (admissions)

Friday 28 January 2022 At 12 noon : Applications close.

Thursday 28 April 2022 : Parents receive notification of outcome of applications via online portal

Applications for Admissions to Post-Primary School

Tuesday 1 February 2022 at 12 noon : Post-primary application process opens at 12 noon via online portal www.eani.org.uk (admissions)

Wednesday 23 February 2022: Post primary applications online portal closes at 4pm

Saturday 21 May 2022 : Parents receive notification of outcome of applications via online Portal.

Change to holiday list reminder

Please note we reviewed the holiday list for the rest of 2021-2022 and made the following amendments:

- Monday 14th to Friday 18th February 2022 – School **closed** for Midterm
- Tuesday 3rd May 2022 – School **open** for all pupils
- Wednesday 1st June 2022 – School **open** for all pupils

Sacramental dates/class times reminder

Sacrament	Date	Time	Class
**First Penance	9 th March 2022	Details of video viewing to be confirmed	P4 year group
Confirmation	6 th May 2022	4:00pm	P7 Miss McAnulty
		6:00pm	P7 Mr McConville
First Holy Communion	14 th May 2022	10:30am	P4 Miss Fegan
		12:00pm	P4 Mrs O'Hare

First Penance will take place during the school day with both classes celebrating the sacrament in St John's Church together. The teachers will accompany the children for the sacrament. **No parents will be in attendance at the ceremony. We will make a recording for parents to view later in the day.

Attendance

Please phone the school if your child is going to be absent. A letter explaining absences should be sent to school on your child's return.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Team Update

In St Patrick's we believe that an ethos of caring permeates all our activities. All our staff and volunteers have been subject to appropriate background checks and all non-teaching staff are informed of school procedures regarding child protection issues.

Our safeguarding team consists of our Mrs. Reavey (Designated teacher), Ms. McNeill (Deputy designated teacher) and Mrs. Smith (manager). Please contact the Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teacher or the Principal if you have any safeguarding concerns through the school office on 028 40630061 or by emailing info@stpatricks.hilltown.ni.sch.uk.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in my first term as Principal of St Patrick's PS. It is truly appreciated!

Wishing you and your family a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas! Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Geraldine Smith
(Principal)