

# St Patrick's Primary School

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Principal: Mrs Geraldine Smith

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## Progress Through Partnership

15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your support in working with the staff in St Patrick's, who endeavor to provide the best learning experiences and opportunities for your child. The support you give your child in their learning must never be underestimated and is crucial for them to reach their full potential!

### Witches and Wizards Dress up and Village Walk

We had a great day dressing up and walking through the village on our last day of term. What an amazing effort you went to! The creativity was incredible and all in St Patrick's had a great day! **THANK YOU** to **SPAR** and **TODAY'S LOCAL** for providing all the children with treats! It was very kind of you and greatly appreciated! Parents, you very kindly donated £3070! **THANK YOU!** We will be using this money to replenish and enhance resources in school to support and develop social and emotional learning, curriculum learning, with eco gardening, outdoor play areas, school community welfare, numeracy, and sports resources.

### NSPCC's *Speak out Stay safe*, Anti-Bullying Week and Road Safety Week

Last week we participated in the **NSPCC's *Speak out! Stay safe!*** programme which aimed to help children understand what abuse is in a child friendly way. The children were taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

This week **ODD SOCKS DAY** marked the start of Anti-bullying Week with a focus on 'Reaching Out' to stop bullying and celebrating every person's uniqueness. Your children are taking part in assemblies and activities to help them know what behaviour is acceptable and what is NOT! Please see our website to see what the children are learning.

If you have any concerns relating to current bullying issues, please contact Mrs Reavey, Ms McNeill or myself. Our **Anti-Bullying Policy** is available on the website or from the office. As with all Child Protection issues the basic rule is **TELL, TELL, TELL.**

We will have a **Road Safety** focus in week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Please remember to talk to your children about the need to **Stop, Look** and **Listen** when they are crossing the road.

### Progress tests and Parent/Teacher Meetings

Your children have been completing assessments to assess how well they are progressing. These are based on what the children have been learning. They are used to help teachers identify what areas of learning need reinforcement and support. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November your child will take home their progress test. Please go through the test with your child. The tests are differentiated to suit abilities. Please be positive and support your child as they complete their corrections and return it to school on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Parent/ Teacher meetings for pupils who are not on an Education Plan will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. There is **NO school for pupils on this day.** You will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher at this meeting.

These will be face-to-face meetings. **NO children are allowed to attend the parent/teacher meetings.**

### Shoebox Appeal

The Samaritans Purse Shoebox appeal is well underway. Thanks to all who have sent in their shoeboxes. The shoe boxes are being collected on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November and we politely request that you send in any shoeboxes by then and include a donation of £5 in the envelope provided to assist with postage costs.

### Pantomime Trip

The whole school trip to the Pantomime in Warrenpoint takes place on 30<sup>th</sup> November. There will be early dinners/lunches for all children and **all children will go home at 1:50pm.**

## Christmas Events

The **8<sup>th</sup> of December** will mark our annual **Christmas Jumper Day**. The children are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper. We will attend Mass at 9:30am to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception and invite all families to attend. Christmas dinner will be served that day and **school will close for all pupils at 1:50pm that day.**

**Choir Christmas Carolling in Buttercrane Shopping Centre** – Our school choir will be carolling in Buttercrane Shopping Centre on the 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00am to 12:00pm. If you happen to be in Newry, please come and say hello.

**Christmas Concert** – We are delighted to be announcing our Christmas Concerts are back! Our Primary 1 children, supported by Primary 2 to Primary 4 will perform the traditional story of The Nativity on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December with a matinee at 10:00am and an evening performance at 7:00pm.

Our Primary 7 children, supported by Primary 5 and Primary 6 classes, will present two evening performances on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. Tickets will cost £5 and more information about the sale of tickets will be sent via the app next week.

**Christmas Carol Service** – Our School and Parish Carol Service will take place in St John's Church, Ballymaghera at 7pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022. P.1 pupils will form the Nativity Tableau and all pupils from P.2 to P.7 will sing carols to tell the story of the Nativity.

## Keeping safe and healthy:

Please continue to encourage your child to follow good hygiene practices of handwashing and sanitising, and the 'Catch it Bin it Kill it' rule as we go through the flu season. Together we can keep each other safe!

## Attendance

Pupils must attend school when they are well and it is only in exceptional circumstances that they should be absent. When your child misses school, they miss out on important learning opportunities and experiences! A letter explaining all absences should be sent to school to explain absences.

## Healthy Breaks

Children should only have **water** at break-time along with fresh fruit, dried fruit or vegetables. Please ensure your child has a healthy break to school.

## Reminder – please bring a coat daily

The weather has turned colder and all pupils should bring a coat every day as we are having outdoor learning as much as possible and classes are actively participating in 'The Daily Mile' programme.

## Sacramental dates

Sacrament	Date	Time
First Penance	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	1:00pm
Confirmation	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	4:00pm
First Holy Communion	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	10:30am

As always if you have any queries or concerns regarding classroom issues please contact your child's teacher by phone. If you wish to discuss the matter further or any other issue with the vice principal or myself, please contact the school by phoning 028 40630061 or emailing [info@stpatricks.hilltown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricks.hilltown.ni.sch.uk).

Kind Regards

G Smith  
(Principal)