

St Patrick's Primary School

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Progress Through Partnership

25th June 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

It is hard to believe we are at the last week of term! Time really flies when you are having fun!

We have made many wonderful memories together through our daily learning and through our outings, special visitors, and our many events, including our Sacramental celebrations, assemblies, prayer service, Market Day, bun sales, P.1- P.4 Nativity Performance, P.5 - P.7 Christmas Show, Pantomime trip, Lenten Mass attendance, Easter Bonnet Parade, Summer Funfit challenge, football, camogie, and hurling matches, Sports Day, The Connor McConville Tournament, musical achievements, and class summer trips, to name a few!

Our learning journey was very much focused on continuing to build on re-engaging with the curriculum and to that end congratulate the fantastic effort you, as parents, made in supporting, motivating and encouraging your children. But unquestionably, the learning would not have taken place without firstly ensuring your children were feeling happy and safe in a nurturing environment, where they learnt how to be a good friend, how to persevere, how to resolve conflict, how to find their own solutions and how to always do their best. To this end I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and governors for their dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout the year.

We are all very proud of our children and would like to congratulate them on completing another successful school year. They are a true credit to their parents and carers.

New Primary 1 Intake

On Monday 19th June we welcomed our new Primary 1 pupils for 2023 – 2024 with the staff of Clonduff playgroup. The children had time to look at the P.1 classrooms, play in the yard and meet their new teachers. Everyone had a lot of fun!

Primary 7 Leavers Mass and Assembly

Last Wednesday evening we saw our wonderful Primary 7 children take part in a very beautiful Mass with their parents, and then on Friday they performed a fantastic assembly for the whole school. It was an emotional time for all, with a few laughs and indeed a few tears! What an amazing group of children! We wish them every blessing for their future journey and assure them we are always here for them no matter what!

Best wishes for Retirement

On Friday, along with having a farewell assembly for our Primary 7 children, we also said a fond farewell to Mrs Yvonne Burden, who retired from St Patrick's after 40 years' service to our school! Yvonne had served as caretaker, cleaner, crossing patrol lady, lunchtime supervisor and cook in our kitchen! A lady with many talents! We wish Yvonne every good wish and blessing, for a happy,

healthy retirement, from all in St Patrick's, past and present! Yvonne was joined by her daughter Sheila, and eldest and youngest grandchildren, Jenna and Leah! Many thanks for attending our assembly!

P.6 win the Blessed Edmund Rice Shield

Massive congratulations to the 14 boys from Primary 6 who, last Thursday, travelled to Abbey CBS, Newry, to take part in the inaugural Primary Six Blessed Edmund Rice Blitz. There were 16 participating schools on the day, with four groups of four teams. Each game lasted 12 minutes with lots of football played by all! Our boys made us proud with the excellent behaviour and talent they displayed, bringing home the Blessed Edmund Rice Shield! Congratulations boys! Clonduff is in safe hands with the talent coming through from St Patrick's! Many thanks to the staff and pupils from Abbey CBS who looked after our children and staff with great hospitality!

End of Year Reports

Our end of year reports went home on Thursday along with information for your child's class next year. Please return the reply slip tomorrow to acknowledge receipt of the report. We will be bringing the classes together to their new classrooms and teachers over the course of the week so that everyone gets to meet their new teachers and fellow pupils before the end of term.

End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving

On Tuesday P.2 to P.6 classes will join with our community in St John the Evangelist Church, Ballymaghery at 9:30am Mass to give thanks for the year we have had. All families and friends of St Patrick's are invited to join us if they can. We would like to say sincere thanks to our Parish Priest, Father Charles, and Deacon Gerry for their spiritual guidance and support throughout the year!

Reading and Text Books

To help our school in the coming year we would appreciate your help in returning **all** reading books and any text books to school tomorrow, Monday 26th June. With the challenging times we are facing we will need all our resources returned to school. Thank you for your support in this.

Outstanding Money Payments

All overdue payments for dinners, breakfast club and trips should be made by Tuesday 27th June. If for any reason you need support with payments, please contact me. All matters are completely confidential.

Age Appropriate Apps

Over the summer months please ensure you are aware of the content of the apps/games your child is using. Check out our Safer School App on the school website, and <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> for guidance on parent controls and age limits. If you have any concerns regarding Safeguarding and Child Protection please remember you can call the school or email info@stpatricks.hilltown.ni.sch.uk. The safeguarding team consists of: Mrs Reavey, Ms McNeill and Mrs Smith.

Online Learning Platforms

Seesaw, IXL, Lexia, and Accelerated Reader are all excellent resources used to reinforce your child's learning. These will be available for home learning over the summer.

Summer Closing

School will close on Friday at 11:00am for the pupils. We wish our families a happy, healthy and safe summer and look forward to seeing your children all back on the 31st of August for an induction morning from 9:00am to 12:00pm, there will be NO buses or dinners or lunches on this day.

Many thanks for your support over the year. Progress will only happen when working in partnership! Best wishes for the summer!

Kind regards
Geraldine Smith
Principal