

St Patrick's Primary School

13 Castlewellan Road, Ballymaghera, Hilltown, BT34 5UY

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Progress Through Partnership



25th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family had a restful Easter break! This term will prove to be short with only ten weeks of school. Please take note of the important dates information for your diary at the end of this newsletter.

Trocaire Bun Sales and Raffles

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the bun sales and class Easter Egg raffles. The grand total raised was a magnificent £1750.

Easter Bonnet/Hat Parade and non-uniform day

We had a wonderful day of fun with Easter Egg hunts, visits to the chapel and our Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday 13th April. Well done for the wonderful creations, they were amazing!

Congratulations to Mrs Clarke

Congratulations to Mrs Clarke (Miss Murphy) on celebrating her recent wedding nuptials! We wish her and her husband many happy, healthy years together.

School Uniform

It is expected that children will be in the correct full school uniform, with PE uniform worn only on PE days. No alternative to the official school uniform is acceptable. Please make sure to label your child's uniform. The summer uniform may be worn from week beginning Tuesday 3rd May 2022. For Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils this is shortened tracksuit bottoms/school (not sports) shorts with their PE sweat shirt and yellow t-shirt. Girls may wear a bottle green and white gingham summer dress, with white socks and school cardigan.

Pupils in Primary 3 to Primary 7 may wear:

1. Boys may wear the yellow school t-shirt with the school V-neck jumper, along with bottle green school shorts (not sports shorts). No other colour of shorts will be allowed. An old pair of tracksuit bottoms can be shortened to suit.
2. Girls may wear a bottle green and white gingham summer dress with white socks and school cardigan.

Please be mindful the weather is very changeable and usually on the cooler side, therefore, please send your child to school appropriately dressed as we spend a lot of time outside this term and your child will be cold if they are not dressed appropriately.

If for any reason your child does not have a full school uniform, please do not worry as we have had a donation of new/nearly new uniforms. Please contact me and we will ensure your child has the correct uniform for school. As always confidentiality will be adhered to.

Testing Fortnight

We will be commencing standardised tests this week with Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils. These are used to measure attainment and inform future planning. It is important that your child is well rested coming to school every day but especially on these days.

School Development Planning

Over the next week you will receive an email with a link to a questionnaire. I would greatly appreciate if you could take some time to complete it as it will help our school plan for the future and your views are extremely important in helping us shape that plan.

Cycling Proficiency

Primary 7 will commence cycling proficiency starting 10th May. Parents, take note of dates sent on initial letter.

Book Fair

The annual school book fair will run from 4th May to 10th May. Please do not send money with Primary 1, 2 or 3 children. The children will have a chance to look at the books with their class and can purchase books with their parents at the following times: Masks must be worn by adults inside the school building.

8:30am - 9:00am

1:50pm - 2:30pm

3:00pm – 3:30pm

School Trips

We are delighted to be taking the children on their end of year trips this year. Please keep an eye on your emails and Seesaw announcements for more information over the coming weeks.

Age Appropriate Apps

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 Money Payment System

Afterschool Clubs and all school dinners must be booked through this system including free school meals.

Online Learning Platforms

Seesaw, IXL, Lexia, and Accelerated Reader are all excellent resources used to reinforce your child's learning. Please ensure your child is making regular use of these platforms every week. They cost a substantial amount of money and we are currently monitoring their usage rates.

Sacramental Dates

Best wishes to our Primary 7 and Primary 4 children who are very busy preparing to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion in the coming weeks.

Sport, Health and Wellbeing

This year our Primary 1 to 4 pupils are enjoying their weekly PE classes with Healthy Kidz while our Primary 6 and 7 classes are benefitting from following emotional wellbeing and resilience classes. The GAA coaches have worked this year with Primary 5, 6 and 7 classes and this term our P7 classes will be attending swimming lessons in Newry Swimming Pool. Our afterschool football, hurling and camogie are all now available. Check out our weekly 'At a glance' newsletters for more details.

Late Arrivals

The school gate opens at 8:30am and closes at 9:00am sharp. Any children arriving after 9:00am are marked late on the register. This affects their attendance records and continually arriving late has a detrimental impact on your child's education. Where there is a regular occurrence a referral is made to the education welfare service.

Covid 19 mitigations update

For the most part, these are remaining the same and we continue to request that you keep your child at home if they are unwell in any way. As a school we recognise the need, and look forward to a return, to a more 'normal' setting. With this in mind we have reorganised the yards at play times so that more classes are mixing together outdoors.

Parents Association

Can members of the Parents Association please contact me via the school email system? We are keen to compile a list of members, old and new. Thank you!

Communication

Please check the School App, Seesaw, texts and emails for communications. If you have any queries, please phone or email the school. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. It is sincerely appreciated!

Kind regards

Geraldine Smith

Principal

Dates for your Diary

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| Thursday 14 th April | School closes at 11:30am for Easter holidays |
| Monday 25 th April | School reopens for all pupils |
| Thursday 28 th April | New P1 intake for 2022-2023 issued acceptance letters |
| Monday 2 nd May | May Day Bank Holiday |
| Thursday 5 th May | Assembly Election Day (School Closed) |
| Friday 6 th May | Confirmation will take place at 5:00pm for Primary 7. |
| Monday 9 th May | School photographer taking P7 Confirmation Photos and any children who missed in February. |
| Saturday 14 th May | First Holy Communion @10:30am for Miss Fegan's class and @12:00pm for Mrs O'Hare's. |
| Tuesday 17 th May | Room 11 Miss McAnulty's P.7's St Malachy's ICT. Leave school at 9am return 12.45pm |
| Tuesday 24 th May | Room 12 Mr McConville's P.7's ICT in St Malachy's. Leave school 9am return 12.45pm |
| Monday 23 rd May | School closing @1:00pm for staff training |
| Thursday 2 nd June | Late May Bank Holiday (Baker Day 4) No school for children on this day |
| Friday 3 rd June | Bank Holiday - No school for children on this day |
| Tuesday 7 th June | Conor McConville Football Tournament |
| Wednesday 8 th June | Parent Information meeting @3:30pm for P.1 2022-2023 intake |
| Monday 13 th June | Baker Day 5 - No school for children on this day |
| Monday 13 th June | New Intake P1 2022-2023 Induction Sessions (children only) |
| Thursday 30 th June | School closes at 11:30am for Summer holidays |

There are more dates to be confirmed and we will update you when we have them.