

**St. Patrick’s Primary School**

**September 2023 Newsletter**

**The Board of Governors of St. Patrick’s P.S., will inform you, (or I will send a message on their behalf) regarding arrangements for my replacement when CCMS authorises.**

**Best wishes for a wonderful year ahead!**

**#we are all stars we just shine in different ways! ☺**

**Miss McGarrigle**

**SPECIAL DATES…**

**Tuesday 5th September**

P7 Transfer club

**Thursday 7th September**

P7 Transfer club

*(Every Tuesday and Thursday thereafter)*

**Friday 8th September and Every Friday thereafter**

Violin with Brenda

(some P5 / P6 / P7 children)

**Friday 8th September**

Swimming commences for Primary 5/6 children

**Tuesday 12th September**

(Every Tuesday thereafter)

**P4 – P7 PE with the Fermanagh GAA Coach: Mr Cadden**

**Wednesday 13th September**

**Roald Dahl Day**

**Thursday 21st September**

10am: Start of Year Mass in the Church

**SAVE THE DATE…**

**Friday 24th November 2023: Parent- Teacher Meetings**

**Sacramental Dates to follow when Father meets the Bishop.**

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**Welcome –** A big welcome back to everyone!!! ☺ ☺ ☺ I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Special words of welcome to our new Primary One children. We also welcome Katie Corrigan (P2) and Karson Love (P2) to our school.

**Teaching Arrangements –**

P1 = Miss McGarrigle

P2 = Miss Treacy

P3 = Miss Maguire

P4 = Miss Power

P5/6 = Miss Cassidy

P7 = Mrs Scollan

**School Uniform -** Can I please commend everyone on how well the children are turned out. Please remember to put your child’s name on their school jumper(s). A gentle reminder that school trousers, must be plain navy trousers, track suit bottoms. Leggings or trousers with logos/stripes are not acceptable. School t-shirts and jumpers must be worn with the school crest. Please ask the school if you require specific items as we have some stock left over from the ‘swap opportunity’ in June. Remember to bring a coat to school and continue to bring your smile! ☺

**Free School Meals and Uniform grants -** Please have a look at the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants> to register your child for free school meals and uniform grant.

**OVER £100,000 of School Works –** I am delighted to say we have been approved funding from the Department of Education to undertake work in our school, both internally and externally. This will NOT be an expense to our school! This is absolutely wonderful news and something I worked tirelessly on last year with our Board of Governors.

**School Football Playing Kits –** I am delighted to say we have been successful in securing a grant from the Donnelly Group, Enniskillen. This money will fund a new school playing kit: jersey, shorts and socks. Children have been busy designing our brand NEW school jersey! Thank you to the Donnelly group. Watch our school website in the coming weeks/months for when these arrive. #Exciting times!

**Transfer Procedure – SEAG Entrance Assessment-** If you wish your child to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment 2023, please ensure that you register your child directly through <https://seagni.co.uk/> by Friday 22nd September 2023.

**Happy Birthday -**Please can I ask parents to refrain from sending in birthday invitations, cakes or birthday treats. Thank you.

**Swimming –** Primary 5/6 will begin swimming lessons on Friday 8th September. The lessons will continue during term 1 with a final session on 15th December.

P7 class will commence swimming after Christmas.

**Roald Dahl Day –** Children will celebrate Roald Dahl day on Wednesday 13th September. Children will undertake buddy reading, activities in their classroom and a movie afternoon.

**Dinners -** cost £2.60 per day (£13 per week). A dinner menu can be found on the school website (Parents Area – School Meals). Please book and pay for school dinners using our school money app – thank you to parents who indicate that their child is taking ‘Packed Lunch’ as this helps the system operate more efficiently. If your child requires a ‘special diet’, parents are asked to contact the school office for a form to be completed and forwarded to the EA Catering Service (via our school office). This form must be signed by a medical professional (as stipulated) and stamped by a Health Practice.

**Healthy Eating –** The school promotes healthy eating which is important for mental and physical development. We strongly advise parents against sending sugary drinks, chocolate and sweets for break and / or lunchtime. The food value in these items is small and does not add to a balanced diet. Children may bring a water bottle to school to drink during class time /snack time. This bottle can be topped up each day with water.

**Active Travel -** As we are a Silver Active Travel School we encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Since we have been blessed with good weather on the return to school, it may be an idea to think about walking with others to school. As well as the health benefits, less traffic around the vicinity of the school leads to less congestion and a cleaner environment.

**Attendance –** It is important that children attend school regularly. This ensures progression and success in learning as well as building and maintaining strong friendships with peers. Parents must complete the online absence form which can be found on the school website ([www.stpatrickspsderrygonnelly.com](http://www.stpatrickspsderrygonnelly.com) – Parents – Absence). If absence falls below 90% or a pattern of absence emerges, the school will contact parents to find a way to improve attendance.

**Punctuality –** Lessons begin at 9:10am sharp. Pupils will be admitted to the school building from 8:45am. No supervision will be available before this time.

The school day for P1 and P2 pupils finishes at 2pm. P3 – P7 pupils finish their day at 3pm.

**‘Stay and Play’** – Stay and Play for Primary One and Primary Two children from 2pm – 3pm will be available at a cost of £3 per day. Please book through the School Money app by close of day on Sunday for the week ahead.

**School Money app –** Please utilise the school money app to pay for dinners, snack, milk, music, swimming, trips in advance. *Unfortunately, we are unable to refund trips booked/activities due to these being pre-costed and school only requesting the exact money to cover expenses of all children, in advance of any bookings. Thank you for your understanding.*

**Safeguarding -** The school has a Safeguarding and Child Protection Team in place:

Deputy Designated Teacher Miss McGarrigle

Chair of Board of Governors Mrs Anna Corrigan

**Morning pupil drop-off –**We encourage you to please continue to drive into the Community Centre carpark and drop your child/children off. Children are encouraged to enter the school grounds via the open side-gate.

You are strongly discouraged to park or drop off children on the road side.

This is for the safety of our children and following EA guidance.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation. 

**2pm and 3pm Home Time** **Collection**– Thank you for your observance of getting out of your vehicle to accompany your child to your vehicle. Please can EVERYONE continue to do so.

**Website app / Communication –** We no longer utilise seesaw. Unfortunately, this was another added expense to our school that we are unable to afford. Our school website is our primary means of communicating. Our preferred method of communication is a phone call in to the school office to Mrs McGovern and leave a message for the class teacher. If a teacher needs to message you, we will do so via our school website. If you need to send an email; please do so to: [info@stpatricksps.derrygonnelly.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricksps.derrygonnelly.ni.sch.uk). Mrs McGovern picks up these emails.

**Easy Fundraising – Please, Please, Please…** Can I ask you to sign up to easyfundraising and raise FREE donations every time you shop online with over 6,000 retailers, John Lewis, Argos, Amazon, eBay and many more are waiting to give a free donation. Plus once you’ve signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 bonus donation!

Sign up to support us here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpatspsderrygonnelly/>

Download the app (see image above) and then click on the app to order from your usual retailers! Honestly it’s that simple! We currently have 25 supporters and have raised **£106.33** for our school. Please share with your family and friends!

**School Calendar 2023 - 2024 –** Can now be viewed on our school website. <https://www.stpatrickspsderrygonnelly.com/parents-area/holiday-list/>

**Regular Diary Dates…**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
|  | **P4 – P7 PE with Mr Cadden** | **P4 - PE** | **P1 – P7 Mandarin**  **Buddy Reading:**  **P1 & P7**  **P2 & P5/6**  **P3 & P4** | **P1 – PE**  **P2 – PE**  **P3 – PE**  **P5/6 Swimming**  **Violin with Mrs McAleer** |

In appreciation

Miss A. McGarrigle

(Principal)