



Our Lady and St Patrick, Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig



Parent Update

March 2021

Please see below some very important updates regarding the school day, clubs and general school life.

March Recap

We believe that in school, not only has March brought back brighter days, it has returned life to our school.

On Monday 8th March we welcomed back our P/R 1-3 classes and on Monday 22nd the remainder of our school. Each and every member of staff was delighted to see this and it was fantastic to once again have the school filled with joy and laughter.

Even though we were remote learning for part of March we still celebrated St Patrick's Day by dressing in green; Superhero Day, World Book Day and World Down Syndrome Day. In addition, we took part in the Journeys Art Workshop and our P7 pupils put together their ideas for a mural at the old Downe Hospital.

We brought the term to an end by celebrating Mass on Wednesday 31st. We would like to thank Father Murray for his blessing and kind words.

We now look forward to Term 3, the beginning of April and hopefully brighter days all round.

Easter Break

We would like to thank everyone for their support towards our Easter and in particular Ms Weatherall for her kind donation. The raffle was a great success.

In addition to this, the money raised from the sale of our Easter Chicks will go towards our Trócaire appeal. We are extremely grateful for your support.

We would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Easter, may God bless and keep everyone in our community safe.

PTA

A huge thank you to our PTA who donated £50 per class to the school. This money was used for a wide range of activities and resources including sensory areas, ice – creams and pizza.

Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication to the school.

Returning on Monday 12th April

On return to school our timings and running of the school day will remain the same as before the Easter break. We would like to remind parents about the need to social distance in the school yard and ask once again that everyone adheres to the one-way system.

<u>Start Times (drop off)</u> <u>Supervision in the Yard begins at 8.30am</u>	<u>Pick Up Times</u>
8.45am – Primary 4-7 9.00am - Primary 1-3 and Rang 1-7	2.00pm Primary 1-2 and Rang 1-2 (Fri 1.50pm) 2.55pm P / R 3 (Mon – Wed) 1.55pm (Thurs – Fri) 2.55pm R4 (Mon – Thurs) 1.55pm (Friday) 2.45pm P4-7 and Rang 5-7 (Fri 2pm)

Drop off and Pick up times are under constant review and we will update all parents on any changes as soon as possible.

- **Clubs:** The Minister for Education has suspended all Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs at present. Once we have permission these clubs will be reinstated as soon as possible.
- **Homework:** We will reintroduce homework on the return to school and this will be increased for each class based on their teacher's professional judgement to ensure a good balance for all children.
- **School Bags:** At present school bags are still not permitted in school. Therefore, we request all lunches to be sent in disposable bags. This will remain under review and follow guidance from DE.

Important Dates

All upcoming events are available on the school website and notifications are sent via the website app.

Monday 12th April – School reopens for Term 3

Monday 3rd May – School closed for Bank Holiday

Friday 28th May – School closed for Staff Development

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June (inclusive) – School closed

Wednesday 30th June – School closes for Summer

What to do if your child develops C-19 Symptoms.

As you are aware Covid-19 is prevalent in this area. We would ask parents to be mindful of this with regard to school. Please note that the school will only contact parents if one of the following two situations arises:

- 1 – A child in a particular class tests positive- then all families within that class will be informed.
- 2 – A member of staff tests positive- then all families in the school will be notified.

Birthday Bubbles

We are delighted to announce that we will celebrate our Birthday Bubbles for January, February, March and April at the end of April.

We look forward to celebrating your child's special day and showing them that we care and value each and every one of them

Child Protection and Safeguarding

If you have any concerns regarding your child's welfare, please do not hesitate to contact the school safeguarding team.

Designated Teacher: Mr Robinson

Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Madine

Get school updates via your phone

Please download our school website app to keep fully up to date with school life: To install the app, open <https://www.ourladyandstpatrickpsdownpatrick.com/> on your phone or tablet and click the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.

As Term 2 draws to a close we would like to remind all parents that we are here for you! This year, more than most has been extremely challenging for us all, but please be assured that if you need anything at all you just need to ask.

We are thrilled to have all our children back in school with us and are all looking forward to finishing this year in school, learning and with a smile on our face.

Happy Easter, take care and stay safe.

'Beannachtaí na Cásca'



On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your continued support!