

St Patrick's Primary School

13 Castlewellan Road, Ballymaghery, Hilltown, BT34 5UY

Principal: Mrs Geraldine Smith

Phone: (028) 406 30061

Email: info@stpatricks.hilltown.ni.sch.uk

Web: www.stpatrickspshilltown.com



Progress Through Partnership

19th August 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back!

We hope you are having a wonderful summer! We are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils for the new academic year.

Please read and discuss the following information with your child/children to ensure they are feeling happy and confident about returning to school.

Parents of Primary 1 pupils will have already received their start dates and times in a separate letter.

Primary 2 to Primary 7 pupils will return to school on 30th August for a half day induction from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Please note there are **no School Meals or Transport Services on this day** and **all children must be collected at 12:00pm**.

The buzzer gate will open at 8:30am and all children should go straight to the assembly hall where their teachers will meet them and take them to their new classrooms for 9:00am. Please remember the school gate closes at 9:00am sharp and pupils arriving after this time must be accompanied by an adult to the school office where the adult will have to sign the late register, giving the reason for being late.

Check List:

- School bags are permitted for pupils in P.3 - P.7 pupils only. We have a number of brand-new past season Cul Camp bags available to any families who would like to avail of them. Pupils in P.1 - P.2 do not require a school bag, as they will use school bags provided.
- All pupils' lunch bags and water bottles should be clearly labelled.
- Please be advised, we promote the 'Healthy Eating' policy. Nuts are not permitted or any foods with nut extract.
- Only water is allowed during class time.
- Only fruit or vegetables should be eaten at Breaktime.

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled, as it makes lost or misplaced items easier to return. All pupils must wear the correct school uniform at all times. We thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Classes

The teachers allocated to the classes are as follows. Please note new arrangements in place for some classes.

Classroom Number	Teachers
Room 1 and Room 2	P1 Miss McAnulty P1/2 Ms McNeill
Room 3 and Room 5	P2 Mrs Reavey P3 Mrs Kearney/Mrs McClory
Room 4 and Room 7	P3/4 Mrs O'Hare/Mr Trainor P4 Miss Fegan
Room 6 and Room 10	P5 Mrs Colgan P5 Mrs Austin/Mr Trainor
Room 8 and Room 9	P6 Mrs Clarke P6 Mr Flanagan
Room 11 and Room 12	P7 Mrs O'Neill P7 Mr McConville

Arrival Time: Pupils walking to school and arriving by bus should enter through the roadside pedestrian gate. All pupils being dropped off by car should enter school through the buzzer gate at the Parochial House. The lay-by is for buses ONLY, and children should NOT be dropped off here for Health and Safety reasons. The morning drop-off and afternoon pick up will be closely monitored to ensure safety in the carpark and at the roadside pedestrian gate. Please **DO NOT** park or turn your vehicle in the lay-by or along the front of the school. This area must be kept free of all traffic to ensure our children's safety. The lower church carpark should be used for parents/carers to drop children off and pick children up. The entrance to the Parochial House must be accessible at all times and should not be used for parking.

All P.1 to P.3 children should be accompanied to the Buzzer gate by an adult. When the weather is dry, we will have a staff member on duty at this gate from 8:40am. Parents are not permitted to go through the buzzer gate, with exceptions for P.1 pupils and parents until week beginning 23rd September 2024 and those arriving late to sign the late register.

Home-time Arrangements

P.1 – P.3 : 1:50p.m. on Monday - Thursday

Parents/carers should park in the church carpark.

All pupils in P.1 – P.3 **must** be collected from their teacher or classroom assistant at the class line in the playground at home time. Please be patient as it is busy and staff will dismiss your children as promptly as possible. Children can only go to their parent/carer when the staff give them permission to do so.

P.4 – P.7 : 3:00p.m. on Monday to Thursday

All pupils in P.4 – P.7 must have consent given on the Home-Time Permission Section of the Pupil Data Form and return it to their teacher who will keep a record of how children will be getting home.

For those children going home by car, on arrival at the church carpark, if a child cannot see their parent or car, they must WAIT on the footpath beside the gate to the Parochial House.

For the safety of all, we remind you that it is never permissible to stop or wait in any of the YELLOW BOX JUNCTIONS. There is a yellow box at the top of the church carpark. Please be alert to this and adhere to the one-way system on entering and exiting the church carpark. Please make all care givers transporting your child to school aware of this information.

Friday Home-time P.1 – P.7 will all be dismissed at 1:50pm. All P.1 – P.3 children must be collected by an adult for safeguarding reasons. We anticipate the carpark will be extremely busy and would encourage that you walk your children home from school, where possible. For those who will be driving and parking in the carpark, please be mindful of the children and adults crossing the carpark.

Breakfast Club

We will be continuing with Breakfast Club from the week beginning Monday 2nd September from 8:00a.m. to 8:30a.m. Monday to Friday. Due to rising costs, we have had to increase the charge £2.00 per child per day. Please book online no later than midnight the night before.

Dinner Menu - The dinner menu is on the website. Please remember that we are a NUT-FREE school. School dinners cost £2.60 per day. Dinners must be booked online on SchoolMoney before 12:00pm midnight the night before.

Free School Meals

If you applied for free school meals but have not had confirmation all dinners must be paid for until notification is received. We strongly encourage any household who might qualify, to apply for School Meals and/or uniform assistance using this link: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

As a school we get more money in our budget if we have more children entitled to free school means.

General points

- Please note that communication with class teachers can be facilitated by phone calls through the school office after teaching time as soon as is possible. Please let the school secretary know what your call is in relation to.
- Parents of children requiring medication during the school day should contact the school from 27th – 29th August before their child returns to school.
- **Homework** will begin during the week beginning Monday 9th September. Homework will be completed in an exercise book (P4 – P7) or folder (P1 – P3) and will be corrected in class by the teacher. All homework must be signed by a parent/care giver every night.
- **Water:** Pupils will need to bring their own bottle of water to school each day.
- **Hygiene:** Pupils are encouraged to bring a packet of tissues to catch sneezes or coughs.
- **Hand Dryers:** All toilets have hand dryers for children to dry their hands with. Please talk to your children about the importance of washing their hands with soap and water after using the toilet and drying them using the hand dryers.
- **Pencil Cases:** Only P4 to P7 should bring pencil cases. All pencil cases should be labelled and contain 3 sharpened pencils, a rubber, a sharpener, a small ruler, a glue stick and a small set of sharpened colouring pencils. **All equipment should be clearly labelled with your child's name.**
- Pupils in P.1 – P.3 will be provided with all the writing/drawing/colouring equipment they need in the classroom and should keep their personal writing equipment at home.
- We will continue to use our school website/app and messaging service to keep you up to date over the course of the year. Please delete and re-download the school app to ensure you are getting up-to-date messages.
- Please refer to our school app and website for the school calendar dates year ahead.
- Sacramental dates are yet to be confirmed but we will update you as soon as we know.

All school forms will be sent home on Friday 30th August. Please read them carefully and complete as appropriate and return on Monday 2nd September 2024.

If you have any queries, please email info@stpatricks.hilltown.ni.sch.uk

Yours in partnership,

Orla Reavey
Plunkett McConville
Catherine Clarke
Geraldine Smith
School Leadership Team