



St Patrick's Primary School, Ballymaghera

Progress Through Partnership

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County Down BT34 5UY

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28th September 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are delighted to see all our children well settled into the new school year, especially our new children who joined us this year. A special well done to our Primary 1 children who are now staying in to 1:50pm. Well done children!

Start of year curriculum meetings for Parents and Guardians:

Many thanks to those parents and guardians who took time to attend the curriculum meetings for their children. These meetings are important for you to find out how you can help your child with their learning, and it is part of our programme for engaging parents and guardians in helping their children in the year ahead. A summary of the meeting will be shared with each class but unfortunately, we are not able to include everything that was covered at the meetings. P1-P6 Parent/Guardian Teacher meetings will take place on Monday 24th November and over the course of that week. Those parents of children on Individual Education Plans will have been invited to an earlier meeting taking place over the coming days. Please check your child's schoolbag if you have not received yours.

Uniform

Thank you for your effort in ensuring that your children are wearing the correct school uniform on the correct day. Our school uniform is so smart, and when worn well by our children it sends out a very clear message regarding the high standards we have in St Patrick's. Please ensure your child is wearing their PE uniform on PE days only. Please see the PE timetable below. This is posted in the Parent Area of the school website for each half term. For After School Clubs, children should bring their PE uniform in a bag for changing into at the end of the day.

PE TIMETABLE					
P.1LMcA	P.1/2MMcN	P.2OR	P.3UK/KA	P.3/4SO'H / KA	P.4KF
Tues & Thurs	Tues & Thurs	Tues & Thurs	Tues & Wed	Tues & Wed	Tues & Wed
P.5NM	P.5AMcG	P.6CC	P.6SF	P.7SO'P / KA	P.7PMcC
Tues & Thurs	Mon & Tues	Tues & Thurs	Tues & Thurs	Mon & Wed	Mon & Wed

School Crossing Patrol Update

We are pleased to inform you that the school crossing patrol site has been assessed and was found to have met the minimum requirements for the operation of a school crossing patrol. We are now

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waiting for the education authority to arrange a time for training for a school crossing patrol officer and until such time the site WILL NOT have a School Crossing Patrol Person on duty. We are reminding the children how to be safe crossing the road on daily basis and we ask that you reinforce road safety rules with your children.

Traffic management:

Please **do not park or drop off /pick up in the old site of the old parochial house. This space is for staff parking only.** There have been several reports of children being dropped off and picked up in this area where children have been nearly knocked down! **Please park in the church carpark.** There should be NO parking or turning at the Bus Layby, the school vehicular gates, the footpath along the Castlewellan Road or at the entrance to the old site of the Parochial House. **Anyone doing this is endangering lives of our pupils and members of the public.**

Music Tuition

If anyone is interested in their child learning to play string or woodwind instruments please get in touch as soon possible as places are limited and the timetable is being finalised this week.

Communities Leading Change grant

We are delighted to inform you that the **first step** of an application to the Communities Leading Change grant has been successful! In August we applied to be selected to have the opportunity to get a grant of £1000 to develop a well-being sanctuary garden at the back of the school where the outdoor classroom is situated.

Why did we apply?

For a number of years our pupils have expressed they would like the garden to have pathways and areas to sit, with areas to grow vegetables and other plants. A quieter sanctuary than the busy yards! Currently this garden is waterlogged and is not accessible enough for the children to make best use of it.

How do we win?

To win the grant we have to create a presentation to show what our vision is, and why we should be selected **at a Market stall in Warrenpoint Town Hall next Saturday, 4th October, between 11am and 2pm**, where members of the public are invited to come and visit all the stalls and cast a vote on the stalls that should be awarded the £1000.

Next steps:

We will set up a "Market Stall" in **Warrenpoint Town Hall on Saturday 4 October at 11am – 2pm** where we will showcase our project to the Crotlieve local community.

Members of the public are invited to visit our stall, listen to our project idea and get a stamp on their voting sheet (stamps will be provided).

Once all stamps have been collected they will vote for their top 5 favourite projects.

The projects with the most votes will receive funding, with the aim of funding as many groups as possible.

Some key details to keep in mind:

- You can vote for your own project but you must also vote for others, you can't vote for the same project 5 times
- You must vote for 5 projects

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- You must visit all stalls / collect all stamps on the voting sheet
- You must complete all the steps in order for your vote to be valid

Please come and help us win a much-needed grant for our school community.

The ECO, Rights Respecting, School Council, Digital Leaders and Anti-Bullying Teams are meeting tomorrow, Monday 29th September, from 3pm-4pm in the school assembly hall to work on our presentation!

We hope you will support us and get as many family members and friends to support us in our quest for the grant to make this vision a reality. **Save the date: Warrenpoint Town Hall on Saturday 4 October 11am – 2pm** where we will showcase our project to the Crotlieve local community!

Early Closure 3rd October 2025 at 12:30pm

Due to staff training taking place as part of the Education Authority 'Being Well Doing Well' Project there will be early closure at 12:30pm on Friday 3rd October. There will be early dinners and lunches available and the bus service will take the bus children home at 12:30pm. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Communication with school

Please check that you have redownloaded the school app to ensure you are receiving up-to-date information. Please check relevant information on the Parents Area of the school website.

Classroom queries: If you have any general queries, please contact the office on 028 40630061 or email the school at info@stpatricks.hilltown.ni.sch.uk. Teachers will not be able to respond during teaching time, or where they have meetings to attend after school, therefore it may be a few days before they can reply. If the matter is urgent, please state this when you are calling the office, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

As a school family, we want you to know we are here to support you in any way we can. If there are occasions when issues, activities or events become a problem, please contact a member of the School Leadership Team and we will work together to ensure every child gets the best opportunities in school. It would be much appreciated that any complaints be brought to the attention of the School Leadership Team so that we can work together to come to a resolution. The school Complaints Policy is available on the school website, or a copy can be obtained from the school office.

Yours in partnership,

Orla Reavey
Catherine Clarke
Plunkett McConville
Geraldine Smith
School Leadership Team

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