



1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

### **WELCOME BACK**

A huge welcome back is extended to all our pupils throughout the school, with a particular welcome to our new pupils commencing Primary One and other pupils who are joining the upper classes. We hope that everyone will have an enjoyable and rewarding year ahead!

### **COVID-19 – GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS**

The DE COVID-19 Guidance for schools has been revised (August 2021) and our updated COVID-19 Policy is available on the school website. We still have many measures in place to reduce the transmission of the virus and will follow the latest PHA guidance if a positive case is reported within our school community.

### **REMINDER - SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND PICK UP TIMES**

**All school arrivals (from 8.50am) and school pickups should take place at the back entrance of the school via the Church carpark.** Please note only children who are attending the morning club or who are arriving by bus should enter the school via the front entrance.

The school pick up times are as follows:

- P1-P3 (2pm)
- P4-P7 (3pm)

As always we ask that when arriving and exiting the carpark you drive slowly and consider that children are making their way out of the school. We ask that adults follow the government's guidance on social distancing and avoid gathering in groups at the school gates by making the most of the large space available. Thankyou in advance!

Should you need to collect a child during the school day please come to the main entrance of the school as usual and your child will be brought to you.

### **MORNING CLUB PROVISION**

The morning club will recommence on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** and will operate from 8.15am at a cost of £2 per child per day. Please note children attending the morning club should use the front entrance of the school and make their way to the school hall.

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS -2021/2022**

A list of the school holidays is available on the school website under the PARENTS tab.

## **REMINDER - P1 STARTING DATES**

To help progression into school life and routine we ask that during the month of September the P1 children be collected at the following times:

- **Wed 1<sup>st</sup>/Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 12 noon**
- **From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September P1 the children will stay until 2.00pm** (*Please note the children will need dinner money or a packed lunch from this date – details of this to follow*)

## **AFTER SCHOOLS (P1-P3)**

The daily afterschool club (2pm-3pm) will commence on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** at a cost of £2 per child per day. Please note P1 children cannot use this club until **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. Information will be sent home next week but please note first preference will be given to children who have older siblings in the school.

## **SCHOOL DINNERS**

The cost of dinner money is **£2.60 per day** and **£13.00 per week**. Please send all monies to school in a clearly labelled envelope (name of child and class) every Monday to avoid unnecessary confusion.

**The dinner menu for Term 1 can be found on the school website under the PARENTS tab.**

*For next week only please note the following changes:*

- *Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> - there is no mashed potatoes - chips instead and dessert will be biscuit and fruit*
- *Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - there is no roast potato only mashed potato*

## **HEALTHY EATING POLICY**

We operate a healthy eating policy at break time. Please ensure your child/ children bring fruit or vegetables with either milk or water. Please note, this does not include yoghurts, breakfast bars or sandwiches. Though this policy does not operate at lunchtime, we would encourage healthy options for those children who bring packed lunches. We also ask that all pupils bring a clearly labelled plastic water bottle to school. Unfortunately, we are no longer in a position to distribute cups as we would have done in the past.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

We would ask that all the children's clothing is labelled clearly to avoid unnecessary confusion.

## **MOBILE NUMBERS**

Anyone who has changed their mobile numbers over the summer holidays is asked to notify the school to ensure that our records are up to date and that the school text messages are going to the correct number.

## **ENTRANCE EXAM REGISTRATION**

For any parents who wish their child to sit the Grammar School Entrance Exam, the closing date for registration is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm**. Please note a passport photo of your child and a birth certificate are required for this registration. Registration packs can be obtained from the local Grammar schools or at [www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk/](http://www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk/)

## **NON-UNIFORM DAY**

The last Friday of each month will be a non-uniform day organised by the Parent Support Group. Children are asked to bring in £1.00 as a contribution to school funds. Reminders of this will be sent out later in the month.