

# September Newsletter (1) 2023.

## ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

10, Annaghmore Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. N.I. BT71 4QZ

Principal: Anne Mc Guinness

Web Site: [www.stpatricksannaghmore.com](http://www.stpatricksannaghmore.com)

Telephone : (028) 87740661

Email: [info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk)



### Welcome.

Welcome to our new school year of 2023/24!

Together we will make it: ***"The best it can be, every day in every way!"***

I hope you have all had a great Summer and together we can move forward into the next school term with a renewed sense of optimism and hope for every child who enters through our doors .

### **Our Mission Statement.**

*"Inspired by our faith in Christ,*

*St. Patrick's Catholic P.S. will provide:*

*A happy, secure and caring learning environment*

*Which promotes all to be the best they can be*

*Full of optimism, ambition and with a love of learning.*

*Working in partnership with our community*

*We will ensure St. Patrick's P.S. makes a difference."*

Welcome to the new Primary 1 cohort of 2023/24 and we wish them 7 years of happiness and learning, fun and development as they move through their primary school career with us.

We also welcome, for the first time in the history of St Patrick's PS, the children of our SPECIALIST Early Years Foundation Classes – The Daffodil Room & The Snowdrop Room - and their teachers and Teaching Assistants and we are excited for all the magic that this will bring to St Patrick's PS.

We say a heart-felt 'Goodbye' to our out-going Primary 7 of 2022/23. We wish each one of you girls and boys every success and blessing as you begin your secondary school careers.

We welcome back all our pupils into their new year groups under their new teachers. Together we will make this year as big a success as we possibly can, making you the centre of all that happens. A special welcome to the new children joining P2 – P7 for the first time this year at St Patrick's PS. We are delighted to have you and hope you will settle in very quickly making friends you will have for life.



**New Teaching Staff for 2023/24:-**

**Miss Kathy Hughes** will be taking Primary 2 alongside Mrs Bradley this year as part of a job share.

**Mr Leon McErlean** will be taking Primary 4 alongside Mrs Kinsella.

**New Teaching Assistants for 2023/24:-**

**Miss Nadiene Nicholls** is joining the staff in the Daffodil Room this year and **Mrs Hollie McGahan** has moved across from main school to Additional SEN Assistant into the Daffodil Room also.

**Cleaner:-** Mrs **Alaine McKillen** is our cleaner for this year.

**Retirement:**

**Mrs Anne Kane, Head Cook** will be saying 'Good bye' to St Patrick's PS School Kitchen before the end of September. We wish Anne every health and happiness in the years ahead and sincerely thank her for all the years of dedicated service to the children – and staff – of St Patrick's PS.

**Routines for School Day:**

**Parents and Carers.**

**Communication for parents/carers:**

**Phone** into the school and ask for a call back from teachers or principal if you have a concern or a query for us to respond to; staff will ring back when they are available to do so and at the first opportunity they can.

Please do not engage staff at the gate for any reason. We must clear the gates as quickly as possible at all times and ensure we reduce the cars parked at the school for drop offs and pick-ups.

**Email** the school using:

[info@stpatrickps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatrickps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk)


This email address can be found as part of the school letter heading on all letters on website. It defaults to the principal and will receive a reply the day it is received. **DO NOT email to inform of a child's absence, early finishing or late arrival; such communications must be made by phone call.** Such messages may not read until after later in the day. Please understand that emails will not be picked up during the evenings or during weekends to allow staff to have some work-life balance.

**A meeting can be arranged** through Mrs Lucille Conway in the Main Office, preferably for when all pupils have left the school and after 3:00pm. Sanitising facilities at all doors should always be used and you must complete the COVID19 Register when entering and leaving the school.

COVID19 is very much still with us, and we will continue to do all we can to prevent it travelling through classes. Once again, ventilation in all classrooms will be ongoing along with hand washing. Please do not send children into school if they are unwell and if COVID symptoms are present.

**Staggered Start and Finishing Times** (Attached at end of Newsletter)

must control the volume of parents/carers and cars at the gates at any single time to avoid traffic jams and local residents unable to enter or leave their homes. Thank you in advance for following these times.



**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL OR ANY CLASSROOMS. PHONE IN AS FOR LAST YEAR.**

Teachers cannot hold unannounced meetings with parents as they have a class of children to attend to and children will always be our priority. It is extremely disruptive and never productive to interrupt any teacher in class. Please, phone in and arrange an appointment or a call back with the teacher.

**Reports on any child can only be given by their teacher. Support staff will always defer any enquiry made to them by any parent, back to the teacher in charge of the class.**

### **Morning Club – Beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 8:00am (P2 – P7)**

**ALL** children attending must be registered for the club. **£5 a week is the contribution for each child and must be paid at the start of each week.** A register will be kept of attendees. Forms were given out in June for immediate return. Numbers must be restricted to the first 30 children registered for safety and supervision reasons.

P1 pupils should not attend the Morning Club until at least after Halloween when they have been allowed time to settle into life at school first.

Children going to Morning Club will follow the path from the top pedestrian gate, around the side to enter the Hall via the rear yard as usual.

A waiting list is already in place; should anyone registered fail to pay or attend, their place will be reallocated to the first name on the waiting list.

### **Buses**

Parents wishing for their child to travel on EA buses (yellow bus) need to have applied to EA for this. Go to [eani.org.uk](http://eani.org.uk) and look for Transport to locate application form.

Trans Link is an independent company who simply provide a service; you pay daily/weekly for travel on this bus and you can also purchase a Travel Pass from bus station in Dungannon.

Children travelling on either bus will arrive at school after 9:00am. They should go straight to the hall via the path leading to the back yard and enter the hall by the back door from the yard. If their class have already been taken in by the teacher, they should go straight to class and not to the hall. Please be aware that there will not be an allocated member of staff to take the bus children in.

**At home time, children waiting on the bus will follow their teacher's direction.**

### **Late Arrivals & Attendance:**

**ADULTS should NOT ENTER SCHOOL GROUNDS** with children who arrive late to school with the exception of P1 and P2 pupils who can be brought to front door. Other child/ren go straight to their classrooms following the arranged route for their class. Adults should drop children at the gate and leave and **can phone into the office to say you are dropping the child/ren off so they can be marked present.**

- Please be aware that after 9:30am arrival, pupils will be marked late before close of registration; Registration closes at 10:00am.
- Any pupil arriving after 10:00am will be marked as late after close of registration and absent for the morning session in class.
- Children leaving early will have a note added to their attendance for that day.

**Education Welfare Officer will monitor the attendance each term and will follow-up any concerns.**

**Toilet blocks** have been allocated as far as possible to each area in the school to avoid groups of children from different classes gathering in them.

**Routine hand washing** will continue throughout the school day and tables, hard surfaces, door handles and toilet areas will be routinely wiped and disinfected as for last year to continue with increased hygiene at school.

### **Break and Dinners**

**Every pupil will require a healthy break every day** preferably brought to school in a clear bag that can be discarded when contents are eaten. ***Please ensure it is fruit, veggie sticks, pancake or crackers or yoghurt sent in for break. Crisps and chocolate bars are not in line with Healthy Breaks and children are not to be sent in with these for their break. They will be kept for Lunchtime in school.***

ALL parents whose child/ren are entitled to free dinners must apply for them. Unless you have returned the form sent to you by EA or filled out the form on the EA website for free school meals, for 2023/24, and had notification from EA that they have been granted meals, then your child will not receive free school meals until you do so.

We receive a list each week of children entitled to free dinners; **unless your child's name is on this list, they will not receive dinners and you must either pay for dinners or provide lunch** for your child until you apply and your application is processed by meals division at EA and the school notified.

**Please note, we are just an agent for EA and Meals; EA will not reimburse nor will they allow dinners to be taken without payment before they have authorised Free School Meals Entitlement.**

**Dinners can be bought for £2:60 per child a day or £13:00 per week.**

**ALL dinner monies MUST be paid on a Monday morning ONLY for dinners your child will be taking during that week. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT DINNER MONEY during the week.**

**Dinner Menu is now on the website under Parent Area for your attention.**

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL EACH DAY WITH A COAT** and ensure their name is written clearly on their coat in multiple places.

All lunch boxes and water bottles should be clearly labelled also. ***Please look at the content of all snacks sent in to school and check for nut content. We are a Nut Aware School due to children with allergic reactions to different types of nut.*** Should they accidentally consume this in an item swapped or given to them by another child, the reaction will be severe and life-threatening for child concerned. Such treats should be kept at home for health and safety reasons for other children.

**'Water in school is cool!'**

**Children should only bring still water to drink in class.**

**No fizzy drinks or energy drinks are allowed at any time in school and these will be confiscated immediately when seen.**

**2 – 3 Club (P2 and P3 only) from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

P1 pupils will not be allowed to join the 2 – 3 Club before Term 2 and this will only be permitted if your child is not attending Morning Club and spaces are available for them to do so.

Once again, £5 per full week which must be paid at the start of each week; each child attending must be registered to do so and even if your child only attends a part week, **full contributions must be made to retain their place in the club. A waiting list will be kept.**

**Staggered Home times.**

Ensure you are on time to collect your child at their allocated time each day and do not enter the school grounds to collect them. Teachers will bring them to you at the gate as for the morning. Avoid conversations at the school gates and keep traffic moving at all times.

**Flu Vaccine**

St Patrick's PS is scheduled to have whole school flu vaccine by way of nasal spray. It is essential that all children are vaccinated against flu to minimise the risk and complications of contracting both flu and COVID19. We urge all parents to sign the consent forms when they have been issued to you and return them as soon as possible thereafter. We need to keep our school community safe and this is yet another way you can protect both your child and all other pupils and staff this winter.

**Transfer - PPTC Entrance Assessment (GL)**

Any parent who is entering their child for the Transfer Procedure in December this year must complete their online application form for GL Assessment for both St Patrick's Academy and St Joseph's Grammar.

**Registration closes Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 2:00pm.**

**Paper 1 is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November with**

**Paper 2 is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**Results issued: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Finally, we are delighted to be welcoming your children back into the school again – it is they who give it life and meaning and we continue to have exactly the same mission today that we have always had and our motto remains the same:

***“To be the best we can be, every day in every way!”***

Every blessing and good wish to you all as we step forward into 2023/24.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September – STAFF ONLY day (No pupils attend)**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Parent-Teacher Meetings throughout the day (NO PUPILS ATTEND)**

**Mid-Term Break: SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ALL**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November (INCLUSIVE)**

\*\*\*\*\*  

---

***Our School Prayer.***

***Dear St Patrick,***

***Help us to make our school***

***A happy, caring and safe place***

***Where we can be***

***The best we can be***

***Every day in every way,***

***A-men.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

**If you have changed your phone number over the Summer, please give the new number to Secretary to update your contact details on SIMS. You will not receive text messages from the school if we do not have a current mobile number for you.**

Staggered Starting Times.

**P1 - 9:05am** (after week 1) Teacher will collect from gate - enter via front door)

**P2 - 9:05am** (Teachers will collect from gate - enter via front door)

**P3 & P4 - 9:10am** (Teachers will collect from gate - P3 via bottom of front yard and into the Mobile at the bottom of the front yard; P4 will be met by their teachers for the first couple of days and led round to the back yard via the pathway round the pitch to the rear yard. P4 are in the first 2 mobiles.)

**P5, P6 & P7 - 9:10am** (Teachers will collect from gate on first two days to ensure all know where to go; then pupils only follow path from gate past canteen and into rear yard.)

Home Times

**P2 & P3: 2:00pm** (Teacher will bring class to line up point on front yard; parents wait at gate.)

**P4 & P5: 2:50pm** (Teacher will bring class to line up point on front yard; parents wait at gate.)

**P6 & P7: 3:00pm** (Teacher will bring class to line up point on front yard; parents wait at gate.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Primary 1 children: Parents already have start and finishing times for September.

The teacher and Teaching Assistants will collect children from gate and bring them into class when all have arrived.

For collection, please remain at the gate and teacher and Assistants will bring the children out to you so they get used to school routines as quickly as possible.

Please ensure on day 1 that you send in a full change of clothing, labelled, to stay in school for your child to change into if needed.

Please ensure you download the calendar from parent area on website; KEEP CHECKING REGULARLY.

Dinner menus also available on website.

**PTA Fund Raising 2022/23:**

Thank you all for the ongoing contributions to all our fund-raising events in school especially the non-uniform days. During 2022/23 and with the addition of Morning Club and 2 - 3 Club contributions, we have been able to begin the replacement of the 4 Interactive White Boards in the Main school which have simply become outdated. Changes in technology and in ICT are rapid and the boards we now have in the classes in main school are reaching their end-of-life stages.

**£2, 860 has been sent to Education Authority from the PTA fundraising pot to replace the P6 board upstairs.**

**We hope to have the money to replace the second board in P2 room in the next two months and to replace P1 board by New Year.**

Last year we also hired and paid for the engagement of Healthy Kidz on Thursday mornings for P1 - P4 classes through the Morning and 2 - 3 Club contributions.

Additional outdoor play equipment was also added to the area at the front and to the small hand equipment for use by children at break and lunchtimes; once again, paid for through Morning and 2 - 3 Clubs and PTA fund raising events.

**In June 2023, a total of £12, 550 was donated by several Anonymous Donors to the school. This money has been lodged into the school EA Budget Account as an initial contribution towards the costs of maintaining current staffing levels and classes for this year.**

On behalf of the Governors, staff, and every pupil at St Patrick's PS, we say a sincere 'Thank You' for the generosity and support shown towards our school. It is very humbling but energising to be a part of this all and the supportive spirit shown is what makes us a school grounded in the community in which it serves.

**We will issue a date for the first meeting of the New Friends of St Patrick's Fund Raising Group in the very near future.**