



WELCOME BACK

On behalf of myself and the rest of the staff in St Patrick's Primary School, I hope your children have had an enjoyable first week in school.

I am very much looking forward to the opportunities which lie ahead for myself, for our staff, and especially for our children in the coming months. We have an experienced and dedicated staff, who endeavour to ensure that all children in our school are valued and enabled to do their best.

Mark Dinsmore
Principal

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please ring the school office and an appropriate time will be arranged for the teacher to call you back.

Dates for the Diary Holidays this Term:

The school will be closed on Friday 27th September for a Staff Development Day (pupils do not attend).

Halloween Holidays: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November (All pupils will go home at 1pm on Friday 25th October)

School will close $\frac{1}{2}$ day on Friday 20th December. Christmas holidays: Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January 2025 (inclusive).

School starts on Term 2 on Monday 6th January 2025 for all children.

Primary 1 From next Monday 9th September Primary 1 children are welcome to remain in school for lunch/dinner and should be collected at 1pm.

Further information will be provided next week regarding Primary 1 finishing times.

Health & Safety: At the start of the year, we always encourage parents to be particularly vigilant with regard to children's hair. It is good practice to check your child's hair on a regular basis. Should you feel your child needs treatment, there are various products available in the pharmacies. We would kindly ask that children with long hair have their tied back, please.

Data Collection Sheets

Thanks to all who returned their DATA and GDPR sheets so promptly. It is very important that the contact details we hold on the computer are up to date and correct. Please check that your contact details are exact, make any necessary changes, sign and return the form to school immediately (even if there are no changes). It would be beneficial if you could add your e-mail address. Please ensure that any medical condition details are updated also and that the children bring in their **inhalers/EpiPens** etc. which will be kept in school.

Dinners

Set dinner (dinner, dessert and a drink) costs **£2.60** per day. Menus will be sent home to all Primary 1 - Primary 7 children on a Thursday and uploaded to the school website. We ask that parents fill in and return them on Friday and that all money be paid by **Monday** of the following week even if it's for break time snacks only.

ParentPay We would ask that all Primary 1 parents set up the cashless system as we will not be accepting cash for milk or meals. (Letters with passwords have been sent home). If you have any issues setting up your account, please contact Joanne in the school office on 21771619. We ask that all parents keep their ParentPay accounts for school meals & snacks up to date and pay weekly.

Milk The price for milk for the first term is £13.00. The final order will be sent on Wednesday 11th September. Please have all milk paid on Parentpay by Wednesday 11th.

Free Meals If you have applied for free school meals and have not yet received a letter from the meals department you must pay for your child's or children's school dinners or send a packed lunch with them.

Healthy Breaks We operate the healthy breaks scheme. Children should bring fruit, milk, water etc. (no fizzy drinks, crisps, chocolate etc.) for the school break at 10.45am. **Please note that one snack is enough for the children at breaktime.** The Healthy Breaks team has stated that yoghurt is no longer considered a healthy snack. The kitchen provides scones, wheaten, soda, fruit, baguettes and toast at break (details on the dinner menu).

Absences If your child is absent or has to leave school during the school day for an appointment you **MUST** send an explanation note for our records. You must also inform the school in advance, in writing, if your child is going to be absent due to a family holiday. In accordance with advice from the Department of Education and our Pupil Attendance Policy, no family holidays should be taken during term time - this will result in your child being marked absent.

Sickness

We encourage all of our children to attend school, if they are well enough to do so. It is important for their education and developing relationships. However, children **MUST NOT** attend school for at least 48 hours following their last episode of diarrhea or vomiting. This is vitally important, as we do not want any illness spreading through the school and impacting on other children or staff.

Any child with a high temperature should also remain at home until it returns to normal as per the NHS guidelines.

Flu Vaccine The nasal flu vaccination letters were been sent home yesterday from the school nursing team. Any outstanding letters must be returned on Monday.

Cards, Gifts & Invitations We would ask that you do not send gifts, invitations or cards etc. in to school. They should be given out to children outside school.

School Car Park

The school car park is for staff & delivery vehicles only.

Parents are **NOT** permitted to leave children off in the car park in the morning/afternoon. A child who is to be collected for an unavoidable appointment or because of illness may be collected in the car park during the following times only: 9.30am-12.00pm, 1.15pm-1.45pm, 2.15pm-2.45pm.

It is too dangerous to have children or parents crossing the car park especially when the weather is bad.

Safety Precaution We will continue to operate a one-way system for entering and exiting the school premises. All children must come in via the Bayview entrance and exit via the Waterfoot gate. We would ask you to please remind all children of the rules for safely crossing the road, including the school car park. We will also be instilling these messages in the classrooms.

Children going home by car: Please let your child know on which side of the gate you will normally park and come out of your car to collect your child. Please take care when crossing between the two entrance gates. Delivery lorries or other vehicles may be entering or leaving at this time. Please **DO NOT** park in the school bus layby in the morning or between 2.15pm & 3.15pm.

P.E. Shoes All children must wear suitable P.E. shoes or a pair of trainers when doing P.E. classes. This is essential in reducing the risk of injury through slips and falls.

Uniform We are proud of our school uniform as it gives the school its own identity and offers to all children a common form of dress. It is important that each child comes to school neat and tidy with full school uniform as outlined below, unless otherwise advised.

- Navy knee length skirt/pinafore OR - Navy trousers/tracksuit bottoms

If tracksuit bottoms are preferred, please purchase **plain navy - no stripes or writing**.

- Navy sweatshirt (with school crest) - Sky blue polo shirt (with school crest)

Children are not permitted to wear make-up or jewellery to school. In the interest of health and safety, children with pierced ears must only wear studs. Due to child protection children must not wear smart watches.

Recycling - Cash for Old Clothes - No collection date arranged. We will keep you informed. The money raised will go towards school funds. Please tell your neighbours who may not have children at the school, about the collection. You can put in clothes, shoes, handbags, curtains etc. but no pillows or duvets. Leave your black bin bags at the door to the right of the school kitchen, during school hours. Cash for Old Clothes is a great fundraiser for the school as well as giving you a chance to clear out. Many thanks for your support.



