



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

****ALL P2 - P7 CHILDREN WILL FINISH SCHOOL TOMORROW AT 1pm AS STAFF HAVE A CHILD PROTECTION COURSE IN THE AFTERNOON. P1 WILL FINISH AT 12 O' CLOCK****

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.

Morning Drop Off We have had a change to our morning routine. This change is to support a smooth transition in the mornings. Parents are asked to drop their children off at the main doors into both buildings in the morning and children should make their own way to their classrooms. Parents are asked not to enter either building in the morning. Their teacher will be waiting to welcome children in their classroom from 8.50am with lessons beginning at 9.00am. Parents are reminded that no child should enter the school grounds prior to 8.50am as a matter of health and safety.

If parents need any information passed on to their child's teacher, they can share this with our secretary, Joanne, who will ensure the information is shared with your child's teacher. Alternatively, you can phone the school on 028 2177 1619 outside contact time to speak with your child's teacher. However, no teacher will be available during the morning routine as they will be with their class.

Dates for the Diary Holidays this Term:

The school will be closed on Monday 29th September for a Staff Development Day (pupils do not attend).

Halloween Holidays: Monday 27th - Friday 31st October (All pupils will go home at 1pm on Friday 24th October)

School will close $\frac{1}{2}$ day on Friday 19th December. Christmas holidays: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January 2026 (inclusive). School starts on Term 2 on Monday 5th January 2026 for all children.

Health & Safety: At the start of the year, we always encourage parents to be particularly vigilant regarding 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 will be sent home next week for P2 - P7 children.

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 Wednesday/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, school trips etc. (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 £15.15. The final order will be sent on Wednesday 10th September. Please have all milk paid on Parentpay by Friday 12th September.

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 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.

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, grandparents or carers 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.

Nasal Flu Vaccination Flu Vaccine The nasal flu vaccination letters will be sent home tomorrow from the school nursing team. Can these be returned on Monday please.

