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Principal: N Mc Cloy B.Ed, M.Ed, PQH(NI)

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please keep this newsletter in a safe place. It will only be issued to the eldest or only child. A copy of this Newsletter can be found on our school website:

<https://www.stpetersstpaulsforeglen.com/>

OCTOBER SCHOOL CLOSURES

School will close for all pupils on Friday 24th October for Mid-Term Break. School will reopen for all pupils on Monday 3rd November after the Halloween Break.

FIRE DRILL

In our First Fire Drill of 2025-26 the children did very well indeed. The classes all knew this drill would take place but the next time it will be unannounced, just to make sure if we are ready if we ever need it.

SAFER SCHOOLS APP

Have you downloaded the DE app on either the App Store or Google Play? It can be accessed by children and has been split into three versions depending on the age of the young person to ensure the content is relevant. Be vigilant and keep your child safe online.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

In school October will be a special month of devotion to Mary. All classes will have a special focus on understanding the relationship of praying the rosary to Mary.



THE IRISH NEWS



Regional
Training Centre



Be the Best Person You Can Be

HEALTHY EATING

A reminder that we encourage children to bring healthy snacks and lunches to school. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR THE DIARY

The following dates have been agreed for the celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Confirmation: Saturday 28th February @ 2pm in St Joseph's Church Fincairn.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 2nd May @ 11am in St Peter's and St Paul's Church



OCTOBER DATES FOR THE DIARY

October

W/C Monday 6th October - Book Fair (7th - 11th October)

W/C Monday 13th October - Maths Week Ireland (14th - 18th October)

20th - 21st October - Parent Teacher Meetings (School closes at 1pm)

Friday 24th October - School Council Halloween Dress Up Day



Do This in Memory Programme for P4 - Sunday 12 noon Mass @ St Peter's and St Paul's Church Foreglen

12th October 2025

23rd November 2025

7th December 2025

18th January 2026

1st March 2026

29th March 2026

26th April 2026

For the attention of Sacramental Classes - P4/7

The Parish will be providing a sacramental talk for all parents whose children will be receiving a sacrament this year. The sacramental talk will provide information on the importance of sacraments, practical information regarding dates and events for your diary, and an explanation of the role of the schools, parish and parents with regards to sacramental preparation.

The sacramental talk will take place: **Monday 13th October at 7pm in Fincairn Parish Hall.**



ASDA'S CASH POT

We continue to take part in the ASDA's cash pot for schools initiative. If you shop with the ASDA rewards programme, opt into the cash pot for schools and select St Peter's and St Paul's Foreglen as your school of choice. Once signed up, every time you shop with ASDA they will donate money to the school. For anyone using the ASDA rewards app, this does not affect your own cash pot and is just a bonus for the school. A big thank you to everyone who has signed up already!

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards and we will donate **££s** to schools.

CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Only with ASDA Rewards

Download and opt-in today

With **Parentkind**

HERE'S HOW

- 1 Download the Asda Rewards app & sign up today
- 2 Opt-in to Cashpot for Schools and follow the steps in your app
- 3 Shop, scan and we donate

Redeemed at point of sale. Minimum spend of £10. Excludes online, Asda Rewards Express & Asda Rewards. Subject to availability. OCT 2014 - April 2015. Opt-in required. ££s are the value of a maximum single shop in one day. Excludes your regular weekly shop. Must register with the school by 30/09/2015. Full T&Cs on asda.com/cashpotfor-schools. Example T&Cs on asda.com/young-asda/terms. Ends 30/09/2015.

VISITORS IN SCHOOL

Please note due to Child Protection restrictions, parents/guardians should not enter the school building without permission from school staff at anytime throughout the school day.

Parents/guardians wishing to collect children from school during the school day must report to the school office. Your child will be collected from the classroom by a member of staff.

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair is due to arrive Friday 3rd October and will remain in school until Friday 10th October. It is a great opportunity for your child to buy a book of interest to him/her and a chance for you to encourage your child's enthusiasm for reading.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

School will close Monday 20th October and Tuesday 21st October at 1pm to facilitate meetings. An online booking system will be made available via our school website to book your time slot. The online booking system will go live Thursday 9th October. You will receive a text with the password needed to access the online booking system. More information to follow.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS COYLE

We're delighted to share the wonderful news that Mrs Coyle has welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world! Baby Hugh arrived safely and is already bringing joy to his family. We send out warmest wishes to the Coyle family during this special time.



ADORATION

P3 - P7 pupils continue to participate in Adoration in St Peter's and St Paul's Church on the second Monday of every month. Laura Hasson and her Adoration team facilitate this wonderful experience and we thank them for their prayerfulness and dedication. Please send rosary beads with your child if you can.

DOING WELL BEING WELL EA PROGRAMME

We are delighted to be selected to take part in the Education Authority Doing Well Being Well programme this year. This initiative is designed to support emotional health and wellbeing of all our pupils, helping them to thrive both in and out the classroom.

What does this mean for your child?

Children will benefit from new activities and resources focused on building resilience, confidence and positive relationship.

Staff will receive training to further support children's wellbeing and mental health.

The programme will help us identify and address any barriers to learning, ensuring every child feels safe, valued and ready to learn.

As part of the programme we will be asking parents/carers to share their views through a short online survey. Your feedback will help shape our approach and ensure we are meeting the needs of our school community. The survey will be sent out by text message on Thursday 9th October and will remain open to Thursday 16th October.

DERRY GAA COACHING

We have secured funding for a Derry GAA coach and they will be taking PE lessons every Wednesday. On this day we ask all children to wear their PE gear to school.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS

If you haven't already done so, please complete your online application to ensure you receive your free school meals entitlement. Please follow the following link:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Thank you for your continued support,
Yours Sincerely
Neil Mc Cloy

Principal



THE IRISH NEWS



Regional
Training Centre



Be the Best Person You Can Be

"Can I get a phone?"



"My friend has a phone, please can I get one?"



Simple question, but what is your answer?

Are you debating this question?

Do you feel smartphones are to be avoided?

Has your child just got their first phone?

We understand your responsibilities & concerns.

Parentline has gathered information to help you to make this decision and help keep everyone informed, connected and safe.



Packed full of useful links, support & guidance. Helpful Q&A's to use with your child.

For your **FREE PACK**
Call us now **0808 8020 400**



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND



PARENT WORKSHOP

Worry to Wonder

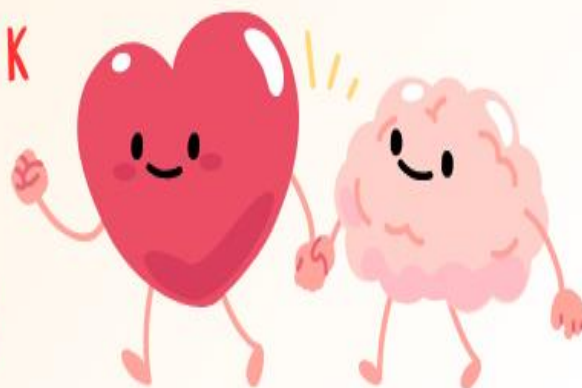
TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 10AM-11.30AM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

CALL NOW TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE

0808 8020 400



GENERAL HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS 2025/26

Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

Help your child with time management.

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime.

Be positive about homework.

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

When your child does homework, you do homework.

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too.

When necessary, play a role in homework.

This shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.

Sometimes homework is meant to be done by your child alone.

Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he/she will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.

Let your child take a short break if he/she is having trouble keeping on task

Reward progress in homework.

If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special reward to reinforce the positive effort.



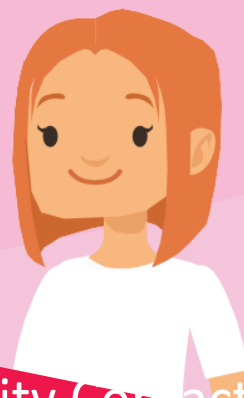
Period Dignity

St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School

Pupils in our school have access to free period products.

You can find the products in:

Staff Toilet and Secretary's Storeroom



Our School's Period Dignity Contact:



Mrs Mc Ateer



School Council Halloween Celebration Day!

To celebrate the Halloween holidays approaching we will be having a celebration day on Friday 24th October. The children can come to school dressed in their Halloween costume and there will be a £1 charge for this day with all money going to School Council.



HOW TO RAISE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

Talk to the class teacher via Showbie/Seesaw. This communication is not public.

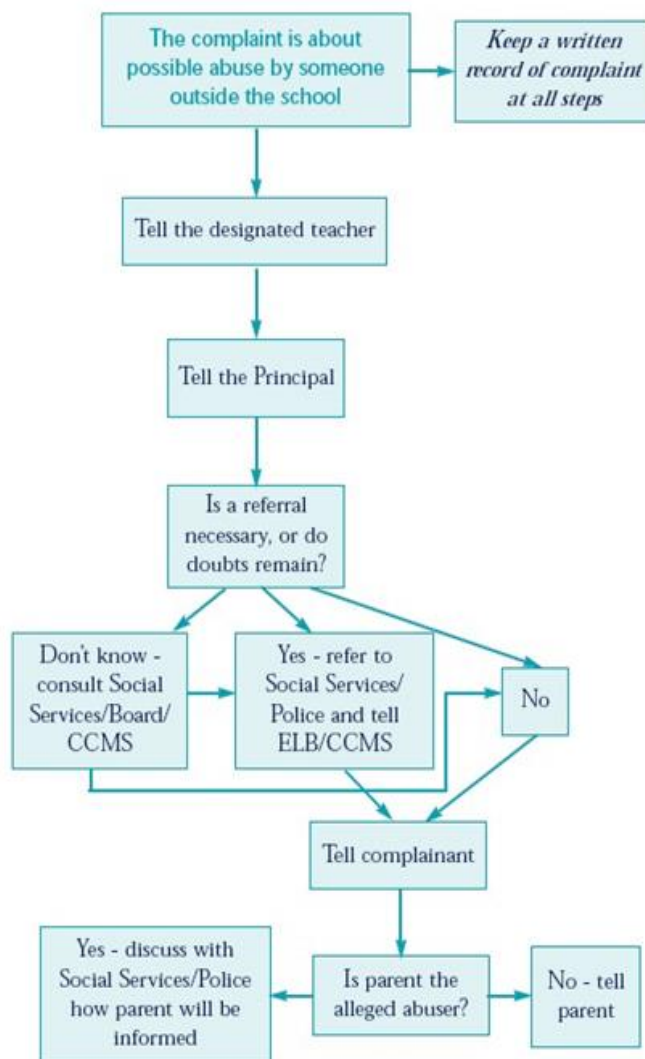
Talk to the DT (Mr Mc Cloy) or DDT (Mrs Mc Ateer)

Talk or write to the Chair of Governors (Mr Lynch)

Pastoral Care in Schools: CHILD PROTECTION

Figure 1

Procedure where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school's staff





ST PETER'S & ST PAUL'S P.S.

Online Safety Newsletter - October 2025

Coverstar

Coverstar say they are "the safe Tiktok alternative". They state, there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent. Users can post comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchase ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using the app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+ <http://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>.

Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year olds that include a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help protect themselves online, find out more here: <http://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

ONLINE SAFETY ACT

What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July 2025.

The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.



Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

How will it help protect my child?

One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access the information here:

- <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>
- <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

Further Information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search Engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of the results.
- **Virtual Assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** - Children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** - AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

Risk and Concerns

- **Misinformation** - ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy Issues** - read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** - a simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image Manipulation** - There are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfake** - There are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further Information

- Overview: <http://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend? <http://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as 'minimal' for content maturity, which Roblox define as "may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear". Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** - Strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** - this game does include in-game purchases
- **Screentime** - Set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further Information

<http://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

Grooming Online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags.

Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

<http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>