

St Patrick's P.S.
and Nursery
Castledearg



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February Newsletter 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to all in our school community and hoping that everyone has a successful Spring Term. A total of £245 pounds by staff and £315 by pupils was raised for the SVDP on our Christmas Jumper/Dress Up Day. Congratulations £560 will be donated to the local branch of SVDP.

We remember those in our school community who have been bereaved over the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Industrial Action

There is co-ordinated planned industrial action across the public sector on **Thursday 18th January 2024**. All staff are participating and as a result the school will be closed for the whole day. This is an ongoing dispute about the right to fair pay and the proper funding of your child's education. There are further days of action planned and I will let parents know as soon as the school is notified.

Applications for Nursery and Primary School are now open. You can apply through the EA Website. I have added Nursery School and Primary School Prospectuses and a video and links to the portal on our school website. Applications close on the 26th January 2024. Please contact the school if you need help or advice when applying. Children completing a second year in Nursery School need to reapply.

<https://www.stpatrickspscastledearg.co.uk/applying-for-a-place-at-nursery-or-p1-/>

Sport/Gaelic Games

Ruairi from AB coaching is coaching P1 to P5 on Mondays. Our thanks to Naoimh Eoghain Castledearg GAC for their support in funding this project. Mr. Keenan's P5/6 class and Mr. Sweeney's P6 class will receive coaching from Fiachra from Tyrone GAA on Thursdays. I would encourage you to get the children involved with their local clubs.

Both the boys and girls gaelic teams will take part in the Tyrone Cumann na mBunscol indoor heats in February in the Station Centre Omagh.

The P7 classes will start their swimming lessons in Riversdale Leisure Centre Strabane in February and again we would encourage all pupils to take part.

Sacramental Dates

There will be a special Mass to celebrate Catholic Schools Week on 26th January 2024 (weather permitting) and all P4 to P7 pupils will attend. Parents and friends of the school are of course welcome to attend.

The P7 children will celebrate their Confirmation on Saturday 27th April 2024 at 11am in St. Patrick's Church.

The P4 children will make their first Holy Communion on Saturday 18th May 2024 at 11am in St. Patrick's Church.

Well done to all for the good turnout for the special children's masses and for liturgies for the children making their Sacraments this year.

The next parish children's Mass for P7 pupils making their confirmation will take place on Sunday 14th January 2024 at 11am and the next Mass for the P4 children making their First Holy Communion takes place on Sunday 28th January 2024.

Post Primary Applications

Applications for P7 Parent/s to Post Primary Schools will open online via the EA website in February. Information regarding Open Nights will be posted on Google Classroom and are also available on the schools' websites.

Midterm Break

The school will be closed for midterm break on Thursday 15th / Friday 16th and Monday 19th February 2024.

Many thanks,

Mr. B. Mc Gurk
Principal