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January / February Newsletter 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to all in our school community for the Spring Term. A total of £500 was raised for the SVDP on our Christmas Jumper/Dress Up Day by pupils and staff and this will be donated to the local branch of SVDP. £1200 was raised by the Christmas Raffle and congratulations to our prize winners. This money will be spent on equipment for all our pupils in school.

Adverse Weather

In Adverse Weather the school as a public organisation has clear policies and procedures to follow.

Please note that in adverse weather you will receive a text message only to notify if the school is closed or is to be closed. In the event of a Red Weather Warning the EA/DE will normally advise the school to close. For other weather alerts or snow, the Principal must decide to close. This decision may be made in the morning as every attempt must be made to open the school to pupils and is dependent on the local weather conditions and forecast. The operation of school transport/buses is managed by the EA and not by the school. Not all staff may be able to travel safely to school and the school may operate on a limited capacity. If the school is open during adverse weather, it is at the discretion of parent/s whether their child can travel safely to school as each families circumstance are different. During adverse weather homework clubs do not normally operate as pupils and staff must arrive home safely in daylight. Access to the school in icy or snowy conditions will only be made by the main entrances to Nursery and the Primary School.

Applications for Nursery and P1.

Applications for Nursery and Primary School are now open. You can apply through the EA Website. I will add Nursery School and Primary School Prospectuses and links to the portal on our school website. Applications open on the 7th January online at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place> and close on the 21st January 2026.

Please contact the school office if you need help or advice when applying. Children completing a second year in Nursery School need to reapply.

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

Post Primary Applications

Applications for P7 Parent/s to Post Primary Schools will open online via the EA website on the 27th January 2026. Information regarding applications will be posted on Google Classroom and on the school website.

School Dinners.

The EA has had to increase the price of a school dinner to **£3.10**. This is quite an increase from the last rise in 2017 from £2.60. The school dinner still represents good value with choices for dinner and a dessert. It is worth checking if your child is entitled to free school meals and there are links on the school website.

Sacramental Preparation

Well done to all families who have attended the Masses and liturgies for the children making their Sacraments this year.

The next Mass for P4 pupils preparing for First Holy Communion takes place on Saturday 10th January 2026 at 6.15pm – please note the change of Mass*

The next P7 Mass will take place on Sunday 25th January 2026.

School Uniform and Healthy Breaks

Remember to keep the high standards of school uniform up. And a reminder that pupils should only wear school shoes or trainers to school especially for play time. Also, only stud earrings should be worn at school and please keep jewellery to a minimum.

We operate a healthy eating policy at break and play time so please keep treats to a minimum at lunch. Thank you.

Mrs. Shelley is presently our Designated Teacher for Child Protection. If you have any concerns, you can speak to Mrs. Shelley or Mr. Mc Gurk Principal by contacting the school.

Midterm Break

The school will be closed for midterm break from Monday 9th February 2026 to Friday 13th February 2026 and will reopen as normal for the remainder of the school term on Monday 16th February 2026.

We wish you all a successful term.

Many thanks,

Mr. B. Mc Gurk
Principal