



St. Patrick's Primary School
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Rathfriland.
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Principal: Mrs N. Magee
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9th March 2023

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Bingo Disco Fundraiser, a great night was had by all! Thanks to the Friends' Group for all their work in organising the event and to Drumgath GAC for the use of their premises.

Green Day

As part of our Lenten Fundraising campaign in aid of Trócaire and the Turkish/Syrian Earthquake we will be holding a 'Green Day' on Wednesday 15th March, all donations will be added to the collection. The school is closed on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th March.

First Confession

Congratulations to the Primary Four children who made their First Confession last Thursday – well done boys and girls!

Parent Questionnaire

We are currently working on our next School Development Plan and we would welcome your feedback. A questionnaire will be shared with you via email tomorrow. Please take the time to consider and respond to the questions. Your responses will help us to improve.

SusTrans

Dave Wiggins, from Sustrans NI, was in school this week to speak to the P4-7 children about the Five Steps to Wellbeing. We will be commencing the Sustrans 'Big walk and Wheel Challenge' after the St Patrick's break, Mrs Kane will send home further details.

School Money

Issues with the School Money platform have now been resolved and meals can be booked and paid for via the app. Mrs O' Hare has noted that an increasing number of parents/carers are not booking their meals online. Failure to use the booking system correctly causes unnecessary and time-consuming work administration work, to prevent this **from Monday 13th March all meals must be booked online the day before they are taken.**



www.stpatricksdrumgreenagh.com

Road Safety Issues Update

Last Thursday a multi-agency meeting was held to discuss the traffic issues at the school. Several recommendations to improve the children's safety, particularly at the 2.45pm pick-up, have been made.

- The layby area at the school will be marked for parking
- There will be a designated 'No Parking' area immediately outside the school gates – this will allow the children to exit safely from the yard and will allow safe exit for disabled children
- Children walking home will use the side gate at the Community Centre to exit the yard, this will prevent them walking on the road at the school between cars
- The footpath is to be cleared of moss/ leaves
- School crossing signs are to be erected on the roadside at the chapel crossing
- Signage on the road coming from Newry is to be improved to
 - a) alert drivers to the main route to Rathfriland, and
 - b) to make the school more visible to road users
- The Police Community Partnership team will highlight road safety issues with the children

In January the EA Health and Safety Team reviewed the home-time procedures. The report concluded that the current system of collection at 2.45pm would be improved by

- Parents/ Carers parking children in the chapel carpark and walking to the school gate
- All road users adhering to the 'one-way' system
- Remove all car parking along the footpath leading to the junction

The report noted that parking at the school along the road is hazardous as it forces the children to walk along the road to their cars, this danger is further exacerbated by cars double parking along the road.

We are committed to keeping every child safe on the school premises and it must be emphasised that parents/carers are responsible for the safe collection of their children from the school gates. In recent weeks we have witnessed a number of 'near misses' at the 2.45pm collection i.e. children walking to their cars stepping out in front of cars driving into the layby; and parents/carers allowing their children to enter cars at the roadside as traffic passes. We would like to prevent any future incidents, so I would ask you to consider the points raised in the EA report and see if there is any of these actions you could implement to improve the safety for all of our children.

As always, we welcome your input and if there are any additional measures you feel we could consider to improve parking, alleviate the issues and improve safety, please do not hesitate to contact me – nmagee351@c2ken.net.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. Magee

