



*“Learning is Fun...  
Together as One.”*



# January 2025

**A prayer for the**

**NEW YEAR**

**PRAYERSCAPES**

Dear God,  
Thank you for all the exciting things  
this New Year will bring.  
Thank you for the chance to make changes and set goals.  
Please help me to make realistic resolutions,  
and remind me to keep trying even when I fail.  
Thank you that you give me  
a fresh start every day.  
I know you are beside me to cheer me on.  
It's good to share resolutions  
and encourage each other.  
Thank you for this New Year.  
Amen.



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8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Tel: 028 87 784620

## *'Learning is Fun... Together as One'*

Dear Parent/s

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year, and also, to thank you most sincerely all for your support and well wishes over the last few weeks.

I am both privileged and delighted to have been appointed as Principal of St Peter's. I look forward to embracing this new role and look forward to our partnership in the nurturing and education of your child/ren.

I would also like to wish Mr McAlinden good health and happiness in his retirement and to welcome Miss Megan Gorman as she commences this new term as my partner Primary One teacher.

### SAFEGUARDING

#### Safeguarding Team

Whilst all members of staff in our school have a responsibility for Safeguarding in our school, the Safeguarding Team with direct responsibility for Safeguarding are:

Principal	Mrs Farrell
Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Mrs Bradshaw
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Mrs Vallely

\*Chairperson of our Board of Governors is Mr Pat Brannigan

\*Governor responsible for Safeguarding is Mr Thomas O'Hanlon

Our Safeguarding Team are here to protect the children in our care. We are also here to support families and signpost you towards services that may be useful in times of difficulty.

Please do not hesitate to phone the school to make an appointment with any member of The Safeguarding Team if you feel that you, your child, or any member of your family would benefit from a chat with ourselves or a referral to support agencies.

### Safeguarding Policies

Our Safeguarding Policies are currently being updated. In the coming weeks our key Safeguarding Policies and procedures will be published on our school website. We ask that you consult these within the time frame given. There will be an opportunity arranged for both pupils and parents to give input before these policies are ratified by our Board of Governors.

### Road Safety

With the ever increasing dangers on our roads we place a huge emphasis on Road Safety. In order to ensure maximum safety of all our children we must insist that:

- ✓ NO pupil or parent uses the main entrance gate – access is by the pedestrian gate only. Parents / pupils are NOT permitted to walk through the staff car park; there is a significant risk with reversing cars / limited staff parking.
- ✓ Pupils in P1- P4 MUST be held by the hand as they exit the pedestrian gate / return to the car.
- ✓ Pupils should be safely secured into the car on the side furthest from the road.

## NO NUTS policy

Please remember that we have pupils in our school with severe nut allergies.

It is therefore vital that no nuts or nut products be brought to school.

Please be particularly vigilant, especially when sending in birthday cakes. Cakes will only be accepted if the label clearly states that the cake has no nut content.

## Administration of Medicine

Please ensure that children who are sick do not come to school until they have fully recovered. This is especially important during this flu season for the health and well-being of all our pupils and staff.

Remember to sign and return the Administration of Medicine form if your child needs to receive medicine during the school day.

## Contact Details

It is vital that your contact details are up to date. This is extremely important in case an emergency situation arises.

## COMMUNICATION

Please remember that your child's class teacher is the first point of contact for communication. Please phone the school if you would like to arrange either a phone call appointment or a face to face meeting. You may also email your child's teacher directly.

In order to comply with Safeguarding regulations it is important that teachers or other members of staff are not contacted by either their own personal mobile phone or social media messaging services.

Please continue to check the school website [www.stpeterscollegeland.com](http://www.stpeterscollegeland.com) for upcoming events, extra curricular activities, newsletters and dinner menus.

## Feis Dhun Geanainn

Please see Mrs McKenna's letter.

## PARENT PAY

85% of our parents have now activated ParentPay. This is an excellent response and will make the management of fees so much more convenient, Thank you. Please contact Mrs Campbell if you would like any more information regarding ParentPay.

Please remember to be specific when selecting options ie which days your child is taking dinners / going to After School etc

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week commences week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity to celebrate the vital role that we all play in forming the minds, attitudes and spirits of the children in our care. The theme this year is Faith. Excellence. Service.

Children will participate in related activities during this week.

As part of the celebrations for Catholic Schools Week, Fr Garrett will celebrate a special Mass for Grandparents on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 10am; tea and coffee will be served in the school hall immediately after. Please let Grandparents know that they are very welcome to attend.

## HEALTH and WELL-BEING

High Five Friday is an ongoing whole school Emotional Health and Wellbeing initiative run by the Education Authority.

We will have our first **High Five Friday this Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January**. On this day pupils:

- May bring a toy / game / Christmas present to school. (no cameras / recording devices)
- May wear their own clothes.
- May eat their snack outside, if they wish.
- Will go for a “Welly Walk” Please bring wellies / old shoes in a bag with name marked clearly.



## ICT SUITE

In order to enhance the teaching and learning of ICT in our school we are in the process of re-purposing our former lunch room.

It is hoped that by bringing together our ICT resources we will create a space where children can:

- ✓ Be taught ICT skills specifically
- ✓ Engage in a wider range of ICT software packages
- ✓ Integrate ICT more effectively into our curriculum

We thank our classroom assistants for their efforts in re-purposing this area on the Staff Development Day.

We are grateful also to our Parents Support Group for their financial assistance to date in ICT provision.

## PUPIL LEADERSHIP

Over the next few weeks it is my intention to ensure our children are given opportunities to be active in the decision making process in our school. I will be developing mechanisms whereby our children will be given specific leadership roles and responsibilities.

We currently have Primary 7 pupils who carry out their Buddy role with our Primary One children in an exemplary fashion.

We also have our Eco Council and Our Mary's Meals Committee.

In addition to this, we will be appointing members to our School Council, Digital Leadership Team, School Ambassadors and our Outdoor Learning Leadership Team.

Keep an eye on our social media and website for these announcements!

## PRIMARY ONE ADMISSIONS

Admissions criteria for applications to pre-school and Primary One for September 2025 are now live on the EA website.

Applications open on EA Connect at 12 noon on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for pre school and Primary One.

More information is available on [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions).

Please advise family members / friends who may have an eldest child who is approaching pre-school or Primary One age.

Appointments can be made to visit on request.

I look forward to leading our school into the future, ensuring that our children are afforded a rich educational experience, allowing them all to reach their full potential, socially and emotionally, as well as academically.

Thank you for your continued support,

Every Best Wish for 2025,

B Farrell

Principal

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