



171, Newtownsaville Road,
Eskra,
Omagh,
Co Tyrone.
BT78 2RJ

Phone: 028 82 841067

Fax: 028 82 841067

email: info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk

www.stpatrickspeskra.co.uk

Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH

Monday, 14th September, 2020.

Dear Parent,

Please read the following notes carefully:

- **St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra** is delighted to be involved in a **Forest School** project delivered by the **Northern Ireland Forest School Association** and the **Dufferin Foundation** as part of the '**Learning Without Walls**' initiative.

Forest School is an exciting and innovative educational experience that has been shown to be hugely beneficial to all those taking part.

Year 3/4 and Year 7 pupils from the school will be participating in **Forest School Sessions** in our own school grounds, on the following dates:

Tuesday, 15th September, 2020 - Year 3/4

Tuesday, 22nd September, 2020 - Year 3/4

Tuesday, 29th September, 2020 – Year 7

Tuesday, 6th October, 2020 – Year 7

Each session will last approximately one hour and will take place outside. These sessions will include activities such as den building, camouflage games and exploring nature.

Please ensure pupils have wellington boots with 2 pairs of socks or stout footwear, waterproof coats and warm clothes.

These Forest School sessions will be delivered by the **Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA)**. NIFSA is a local charity that has been set up to promote outdoor environmental education for children in Northern Ireland. For further information please visit their website on www.forestschoolawards.org

Mrs. Barrett (Assistant World Around Us Co-ordinator) and **I** (World Around Us Co-ordinator) are currently completing a course to become **Forest School Leaders** and once completed, we intend to extend these sessions to all classes.

Further information will follow, as we progress through this project.

You can support our involvement with **Forest Schools** in two ways:

- a) Register your family as a Forest School Family for free - <https://www.forestschoollawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi?page=Family%20Zone;vat=1568197831>
You will get monthly ideas on how to have fun with your family in your local park.
- b) Visit Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Ireland-Forest-School-Association-527218757325407/>

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

- **AB Coaching** Sessions on a **Friday** will take place in the **Community Centre**. A sincere Thank You to Eskra Community Association for facilitating us.
If your child is attending the **After-School** sessions, please collect him/her from the school when their session is over. The coach, Paul, has kindly agreed that pupils in **Year 1/2** who normally get the bus home at 3pm can remain with him until 2.55pm and watch the Year 3/4 session. A member of staff will collect any Year 1/2 pupils getting the bus @ approximately 2.55pm. Please note that if you would like to avail of this arrangement, you must contact AB Coaching to inform the coach.
- The following information may be of interest to you, if your child brings a packed lunch to school with them:

A flyer entitled - **Healthy, Happy Kids: Lunchbox & Snack Ideas** is now available on our website Homepage under Letters.

Are You Packing A Healthy Lunch?

www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/are-you-packing-healthy-lunch-english-and-irish-translation

Healthy Breaks For Schools

www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/healthy-breaks-schools-leaflet-english-and-irish-translation

Healthy Choices

www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/healthy-choices-choose-wisely-advice-parents

- In an effort to save money, we have decided to try to reduce the amount of money spent on paper, ink and photocopying. Consequently, the **Monday Note** will be available on our website by **5pm** every Monday. Parents will be texted if any

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

additional notes or information is posted on our website throughout the week.

- A gentle reminder that due to normal financial constraints combined with extra Covid – 19 expenses, the Board Of Governors respectfully ask for a voluntary contribution of at least **£20** per family. This contribution will replace the Raffle that we normally have in the first term. Thank you to everyone who has already donated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
- Due to Covid – 19 restrictions, **Fr. McGahan** has arranged two **Beginning Of Year Masses**:
A Mass for pupils in **Years 5 - 7** will take place on **Thursday, 17th September @ 7pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.
A Mass for pupils in **Years 1-4** will take place on **Thursday, 24th September @ 7pm** in **St. Patrick' Church, Eskra**.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions one parent only per family is permitted to accompany pupils. We ask that each parent and child/children sit at either end of each pew to ensure social distancing. Seats will be labelled with your family name and staff will be there to assist you. We respectfully request that all adults wear face masks.

- A **First Holy Communion Practice** will take place in school on **Monday, 21st September**. Pupils will receive a second **Confession** during the practice, which will be held in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.
- **First Holy Communion** will be held on **Saturday, 26th September @ 2pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**. Each family will be assigned a pew which will be labelled with your family name. We respectfully request that all adults wear face masks. There will be a photographer present to take group and family photographs. Unfortunately, there won't be any refreshments afterwards due to Covid – 19 restrictions.
- **September** is **Roald Dahl** month and yesterday was **Roald Dahl Day**. Pupils will be learning about Roald Dahl and his books during this month. Perhaps you could read a Roald Dahl book with your child or watch a film based on one of his novels. There is also a website dedicated to his life and works- www.roalddahl.com
- Thank you to all the boys and girls in **Year Seven** who have applied for the positions of **Head Boy** and **Head Girl**. Interviews will be held on **Friday, 25th September**. Additional information has been sent home with pupils today. Please note that pupils are permitted to bring notes in with them to the interview.
- Our **Annual Parent-Teacher Meetings** will take place as follows:
Year One: December
Year Two: Monday, 26th October and June (Transition Meeting)
Year Three: Monday, 26th October
Year Four: Monday, 26th October

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Year Five: Monday, 26th October

Year Six: October and June (Transition Meeting)

Year Seven: Monday, 26th October and January/February (Transfer Meeting)

- Please send in **one snack only** for **Healthy Break** as pupils have a very limited time to eat their snack due to increased handwashing and cleaning practices taking place. Our **Healthy Break Policy** is available to view on our school website within Parents – Policies. Thank you for your co-operation.
- A flyer for **European Languages Week** can be found on our school website within Letters. Unfortunately we are unable to hold our European/Irish breakfast, this year, due to Covid – 19.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan
(Principal)