

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESKRA



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

Monday, 26th August, 2024.

Dear Parent,

- I hope you and your children have had a happy, relaxing and safe summer. All our staff have been working very hard to ensure that a bright and stimulating learning environment, both indoor and outdoor, awaits your child and we are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils on **Monday, 2nd September**.
- Our class arrangements for **2024 – 2025** are as follows:

| Class | Staff | Classroom |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Year 1/2: | Mrs. Barrett (Class Teacher - Monday to Wednesday) Miss. McNulty (Class Teacher – Thursday and Friday) Mrs. McCrory (Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant) Mrs. Shevlin (SEN Classroom Assistant) | Mobile Classroom |
| Year 2/3: | Mrs. Mullin (Class Teacher) Miss. O'Donnell (Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant) Miss. Maguire (SEN Classroom Assistant) Mrs. Dodenciu (SEN Classroom Assistant) | Main School Building |
| Year 4/5: | Mrs. Mulligan (Class Teacher) | Main School Building |
| Year 6/7: | Miss. Devine (Class Teacher - Monday to Thursday) Mrs. McCallan (Class Teacher – Friday) Mrs. McGarvey (SEN Classroom Assistant) | Main School Building Dinner Hall |

- Please note that our school day starts at **9.00am** for all pupils and ends at **2pm (Year 2)** and **3pm** for pupils in **Years 3 to 7**.
- Pupils in **Year 1** will go home at **12pm** from **Monday, 2nd September** until **Friday, 13th September (inclusive)**. From **Monday, 16th September** Year 1

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pupils will remain in school **until 2pm**. All Year One pupils start on **Monday, 2nd September**.

- If your child has any novels or textbooks belonging to school, please return them on **Monday, 2nd September**.
- Our Class Teachers deliver annual **Information Sessions For Parents** at the start of the school year. The **Year 1, 2 and 3** sessions were held last week.

The remaining sessions are as follows.

Year 4/5: Wednesday, 4th September @ 6.30pm.

Year 6/7: Wednesday, 4th September @ 7.00pm.

Class Teachers will display their PowerPoint Presentations on our school website for any parents who are unable to attend. These presentations will outline specific procedures and arrangements for each class. If you have any further questions, please contact the Class Teacher by telephoning or e - mailing the school.

- I am delighted to inform you that our school will be continuing to offer an **After Schools Nature Rangers Club** for all pupils, starting the week beginning **9th September**.

We have teamed up with **Northern Ireland Forest School Association** to organise this exciting and innovative programme for our pupils where they spend the time outside, playing games, meeting new friends, learning about nature and above all, **having fun!** We are very fortunate to have such dedicated members of staff who are willing to deliver the programme to all pupils in our school.

We have expanded the number of classes that we provide, so please make sure that you register your child for the correct club.

At present, the following **Nature Ranger Clubs** have been arranged.

Year 1: Friday (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

Year 2: Monday (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

Year 3: Thursday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

Year 4 and Year 5: Monday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

Year 6 and 7: Tuesday (3.00pm to 4.00pm)

Each session costs **£5** per pupil (to cover a subscription to NIFSA and the cost of training and materials.)

Each Class Teacher will provide further information at her **Information Session For Parents**.

Please click on the link below for further information on what to expect from our Nature Ranger Clubs.

<https://www.forestschoolsni.com/?r3d=joining-a-nature-ranger-club&>

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We will send out the registration link for parents to book places online at the beginning of September.

Please note that parents have to register their child through the NIFSA website, not our school. If you experience any technical difficulties with the NIFSA website, please let us know and we can contact their administrator.

Please checkout **Forest School Families** on the **Forest School Website** – www.forestschooolsni.com and on our school website for fun ideas that all the family can get involved in in the evenings and at weekends.

- Pupils in **all classes** are asked to wear their full school uniform on a **Monday and Friday** and to wear their **PE uniform** from **Tuesday to Thursday (inclusive)**.
- **Mr. Darragh Maguire** will deliver coaching sessions to all classes on a **Tuesday** during school, starting **3rd September**.
He will also be delivering **After - School Multisport** sessions on a **Thursday** afternoon, starting **Thursday, 12th September**. Further information to follow shortly.
- I am delighted to inform you that **Mrs. Tracey Scullion** has very kindly offered to continue to deliver her **Cross Country Running Session** every **Wednesday** to pupils in **Year 6/7**. This session will take place during school hours and all pupils are expected to attend as it forms part of their PE curriculum. Many thanks to Mrs. Scullion.
- If your child is in receipt of medication that needs to be administered in school, please send it into school with your child on their first day back, in a sealed plastic folder.
- If your child is absent from school at any time, please contact the school in the morning to inform the Class Teacher. On your child's return to school, please write a short note detailing the reason for your child's absence in his/her Home School Messages Book. This information is required to ensure that accurate and up – to - date attendance records are maintained.
- To aid speedy administration in the morning, please send in all monies in the money wallets sent home shortly. Additional wallets are available from the Parents' Noticeboard at the entrance to our school. Wallets must be marked with your child's name, class, date, what the payment is for, how much money is included for each item and the total amount of money enclosed. Pupils are asked to send the wallets into their Class Teacher each day. Alternatively all monies for the week can be sent into the Class Teacher in one money wallet each Monday morning.

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- The school office will be open at the following times:

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Monday: | 8.30am to 4pm |
| Tuesday: | 8.30am to 4pm |
| Wednesday: | CLOSED |
| Thursday: | 8.30am to 4pm |
| Friday: | 8.30am to 12.30pm |
- School bags are not permitted in school as space is limited. Pupils will be provided with a red folder to carry all their books
- Teachers have requested that pupils do not bring pencil cases into school. All necessary stationery will be provided by the school. Pupils are asked to keep any stationery purchased for the start of the new year at home for completing homework tasks.
- To avoid distraction during teaching and learning time, pupils are asked to refrain from bringing in water or juice bottles into school. Pupils who take lunch may continue to bring water in as part of their lunch. Fresh water will be available in each classroom throughout the day. Pupils will be permitted to bring water with them when attending sports events outside.
- Please note that **chewing gum** and **football cards** are **not permitted** in school.
- Teachers will be posting their **Learning Support Sheets** on their class pages of our school website shortly. Each Class Teacher will notify parents in advance. Please take a few minutes to read about all the wonderful learning that will be taking place in September.
- I will be delivering an **Afterschool Transfer Club** for all pupils in **Year Seven** on a **Monday** afternoon from **3.00pm to 4.30pm**, starting on **Monday, 9th September** for approximately 9 weeks. Please note that this club is voluntary. Please complete the permission slip attached and return it to school by **Friday, 6th September** if you wish for your child to attend. Please send an extra snack in with your child if they are attending.
- A **PowerPoint Presentation** and a **Leaflet For Parents** entitled **How Children's Learning Is Supported In The Primary School** are available on our school website under **Parents - Pastoral Care**.
- We are hoping that all our **Annual Parent - Teacher Meetings** will take place on **Tuesday, 29th October**. These meetings will be **face – to - face**. More information to follow shortly. **Teachers will discuss your child's test scores with you at this meeting.**

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- Our **Beginning Of Year Mass** will take place on **Thursday, 19th September @ 7pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.
- A copy of our **School Closures** for **2024 – 25** is available to view on our school website under **Parents – Info – School Closures**.
- We hope that school meals will be provided from **Monday, 2nd September**. Dinners are priced at **£2.60** per day. If you think you may be entitled to **free school meals** please go to the **eani.org.uk** website to apply for this academic year. This process **must** be carried out **every** year as it is not carried over. The **Education Authority** have requested that **dinner money is paid for on a weekly basis**. Please use the money wallets provided. If you wish your child to avail of **school milk** please put a **note** in their **Home School Message Book**. Milk for Term 1 is priced at **£10 (September - December)**. A copy of our **School Dinner Menu** for September will be distributed once we receive it.
- **Canon McGahan** and the **Pastoral Council of St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** invite the children from **Year 6 and 7** to participate in **Sunday Mass** by saying the **Prayers of the Faithful**. Their names will appear in the **Parish Bulletin** several weeks before their designated Sunday. Prayers of the Faithful are located in the Church Foyer in a blue folder marked **Sunday Readings and Prayers of Faithful**. Please indicate on the reply slip attached if you wish your child to recite these Prayers at Mass and return it to school by **Friday, 6th September**. Thank you.
- The **Monday Note** will be available on our website by **5pm** every Monday. Parents will be texted if any additional notes or information is posted on our website throughout the week. If you would prefer a paper copy of the Monday Note and any additional information to be sent home, please contact the school office by **Friday, 6th September**.

Take care and stay safe. See you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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Permission Slip
St. Patrick's Church, Eskra

I wish my Year 6/7 child to say Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday Mass.

Signed:

Date:

Permission Slip
After – School Transfer/Homework Club

Please circle/underline as appropriate.

I do/do not give permission for my Year Seven child _____ to attend an After - School Transfer Club delivered by Mrs. McCallan on a Monday.

Signed:

Date: