[](http://earlylearningworkshop.com/play-learn-and-grow-together/)

ST.PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT LOUGHGUILE

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017



St.Patrick’s P.S & Nursery Unit

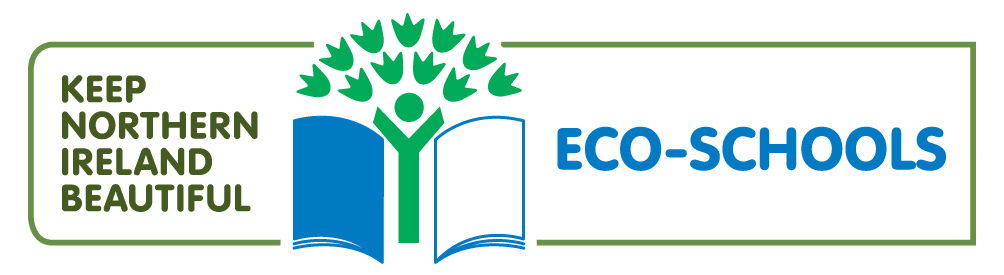
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WELCOME BACK

The staff of St. Patricks would like to welcome everyone back to school and to acknowledge all the hard work and enthusiasm that has gone into the first half term of 2017/2018 which has gotten the school year off to a great start.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following children who had 100% attendance in the 2016/2017 school year:

Rose McLean Caitrin McMullan Kevin Og McGarry

Joseph Kinney Ciaran Kinney Sophie Casey

Martin Maynes Roise McGarry Sarah Flavin

Marie Laverty Megan McCarry Mia McGarry

Shannon McLaughlin Emily Flavin Grace McLean

Congratulations to P1 who had best attendance in September and P3 who had best attendance in October

SCHOOL CLOSING 2017/2018

Monday 9th October 2017 Staff Professional Development

Monday 30th October 2017 –

Friday 3rd November 2017 (inclusive) Mid-term break

Monday 25th December 2017–

Friday 5th January 2018 (inclusive) Christmas Holidays

Thursday 15th February 2018- Mid-term break

Friday 16th February 2018 (inclusive)

Friday 30th March 2018-

Friday 6th April 2018 (inclusive) Easter Holidays

Monday 7th May 2018 Bank Holiday

Tuesday 8th May 2018 - Mid-term break

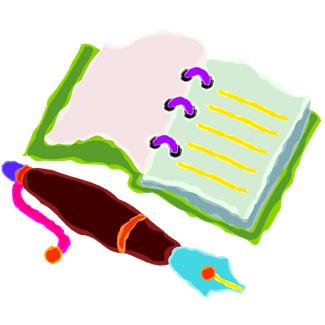
Friday 11th May (inclusive)

Monday 14th May 2018 Staff Professional Development

Monday 28th May 2018 Bank Holiday

Both of the mid-term breaks include optional closings and non-teaching days which have not been itemised. The staff development days may be subject to change; however, we will give plenty of notice if any of these dates have to be changed.

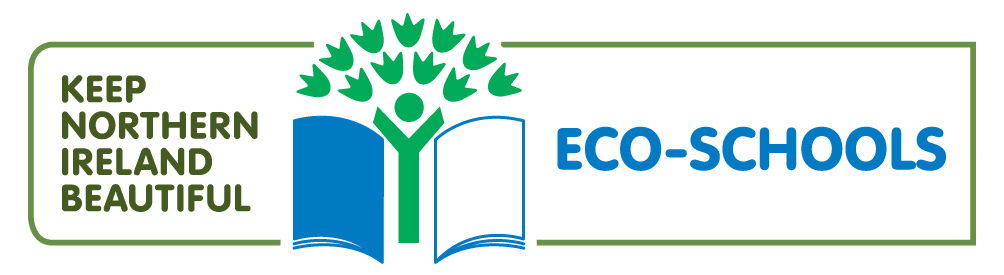
DIARY DATES



* Anti-Bullying week 13th November - 17th November 2017
* P6 Anti-Bullying assembly Thursday 23rd November
* Road of Hope shoebox appeal collection Tuesday 7th November
* M & M Production of Peter Pan in school 6th November
* PFTA meeting – 7th November at 7.00pm
* PFTA meeting – wrapping of Christmas Hampers for the Christmas Fair – 22nd November at 7.00pm
* St. Patricks PFTA Christmas Fair – Sunday 3rd December
* Whole school Christmas dinner – Wednesday 6th December
* St. Patricks Christmas concert, Millennium Centre – Tuesday 19th December

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

Primary 3 to Primary 7 held their Parent/Teacher meetings on 24th October 2017. We would like to thank all the parents who show an immense interest in the education of their children and work in partnership with us to deliver the best education possible, thank you!

ECO-FLAG STATUS 

On Friday 20th October St. Patricks had its Eco Green Flag Inspection. Two inspectors interviewed the Eco council, were given a tour of the school and we were judged against strict criteria. We are delighted to have been successful and St. Patricks has been awarded the Green Flag Eco status. Well done to the Eco council, Mr McPeake and the whole school for the effort that has gone into achieving the Green Flag!!

The Eco council are now an established part of St. Patricks and in order to maintain our Green Flag status this will be the on-going ethos of St. Patricks. Congratulations!!

Eco council members:

Grace McLean Liam Glackin Orlaith McCloskey

Criostai Connolly Bryony McMullan Eunan Johnston

Jude Kelly Ceala Casey

PARENT, FRIEND, TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PFTA)

The PFTA have got off to a great start this year with the whole school sponsored walk on the 26th September and a Movie Night on 25th October! The preparations for the Christmas Fair on Sunday 3rd December are well underway and the wrapping of the Christmas hampers takes place in the school on 22nd November at 7.00pm. We appeal for helpers for the Christmas Fair, we are asking for as little as 1 hour of your time to assist on the day of the fair, whether helping with tea, Santa’s Grotto or selling tickets!! A letter will be sent home to ask for help, please consider giving us 1 hour of your time. A big thank you from the whole school community to the PFTA!!

SHARED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This is the 3rd year of our Shared Education Programme and Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils will be taking part in shared lessons, trips and activities this year.

All teaching staff have been involved in Professional Development through the Shared Education Programme and this has had an immense impact on raising the standards of learning and teaching for our pupils.

A full timetable from P1 – P7 of shared lessons, trips and activities is in place for the school year 2017/2018 and a programme of Professional Development is also in place.

Parents will be kept fully informed of all the activities as we move through the school year. The opportunities that the Shared Education Programme offers us as a school community at all levels is immeasurable and we hope to go from strength to strength!!

NSPCC WORKSHOPS

The whole school enjoyed the NSPCC assembly which took place on 20th September and was very informative.

Key Stage 2 took part in further NSPCC workshops on 27th September. With your kind donations we presented a cheque of £212.00 to the NSPCC. A big thank you to the NSPCC volunteers for their vital work.

AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS AND IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DAY | CLASS | CLUB | STAFF/COACH | TIME |
| Monday | P7  P4- P6 | Numeracy/Literacy  Rugby | Mr McPeake  Tommy Vanwyk | 3-4pm  2.30 – 3.30pm |
| Tuesday | P4 – P7  P4/P5 | Hurling/camogie skills  Handball | Dominic McKinley  Mark McKane | During school day  3-4pm |
| Thursday | P4-P7 | Piano | Mrs Crukshank | During school day |
| Friday | P1 – P4 | GAA Fundamentals | James McVeigh | During school day |

A BIG WELCOME

A big welcome to all our new pupils who are settling into nursery

DINNER MONEY

The cost of a school meal is £2.60 per day. As the canteen operates like a shop the children must bring their dinner money every day or if you prefer to send it weekly please put £13 into an envelope with your child’s name on it. Milk and water are available each day as part of the children’s meal and/or they can purchase pure orange and pure apple juice from the canteen which costs 55p.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If at any time your circumstances change during the school year and you think your child/ren might be eligible for free school meals, please feel free to collect an application form from the secretary’s office. Alternatively, you can ring Free School Meals Branch in County Hall and request that a form is sent to your home address. Telephone: 02825662571

PERSONAL DETAILS

It is important that the school is informed immediately of:

* Change of address
* Change of contact persons and telephone numbers
* Any medical condition that the school is not aware of

**ALLERGIES**

**We have children in our school who have very severe peanut/egg allergies. Even being near someone who has peanut butter or egg sandwiches or other products containing these can result in a very serious life-threatening reaction. We would therefore ask you not to send any products with nuts or eggs in your child’s lunchbox.**

TRAVELLING BOOKS – BOOK FAIR

Our book fair took place from Thursday 12th to Tuesday 17th October and as usual this was a great success and raised £545.00 in commission for us to spend on books.

Thank you for supporting the fair and making this possible!

EVERY DAY COUNTS

I would like to thank parents for their commitment to ensuring that their children attend school **regularly** and **punctually.**

I would also point out how important **regular, punctual** attendance is.

Setting genuine reasons aside, young people who miss school without good reason are more likely to become **isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.**

It may be surprising to hear that a pupil with 90% attendance will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year, that’s nearly 4 school weeks and that 85% attendance is 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed and is categorised as “very poor” attendance by the Department of Education.

Therefore, it is of vital importance for your child to maintain a pattern of good attendance as this will contribute to giving them the best start in life.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

It is important that every child wears the proper school uniform and this has become easier than ever with both Select School Wear, Ballymena and School Trends which offers an online ordering service at [www.schooltrendsonline.com](http://www.schooltrendsonline.com).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Girls | Boys |
| School sweatshirts | School sweatshirts |
| Blue polo shirt/blouse | Blue polo shirt |
| Navy skirt/pinafore or jogging pants | Navy trousers/jogging pants |

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CHILD’S NAME CLEARLY ON ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING**.

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER IN OUR SCHOOL

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 6/9/17 | PFTA meeting |
| 20/9/17 | NSPCC assembly |
| 21/9/17 | Eco – day – whole school wearing green |
| 22/9/17 | GAA fundamentals - Key Stage 1 |
| 25/9/17 | Mobile library |
| 25/9/17 | Literacy/Numeracy afterschool’s P7 |
| 26/9/17 | PFTA Sponsored walk – Fr.Barrett pitch |
| 27/9/17 | NSPCC workshops for P6 and P7 |
| 27/9/17 | Shared Education – P3 visit Broughshane P.S. |
| 28/9/17 | Tempest photographer |
| 28/9/17 | Piano lessons begin |
| 29/9/17 | Ballymoney Times – P1 photograph |

REVIEW OF OCTOBER IN OUR SCHOOL

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2/10/17 | Shared Education – farm visit P3 |
| 3/10/17 | Shared Education – Ice breakers – P4 |
| 5/10/17 | Shared Education – Willie Drennan – P5 |
| 9/10/17 | Staff Development Day |
| 10/10/17 | Shared Education – creating whammis – P4 |
| 11/10/17 | Shared Education – P3 |
| 12/10 – 17/10 | Travelling Books - book fair |
| 11/10/17 | PFTA meeting |
| 16/10/17 | Rugby skills – Tommy Vanwyk – Ulster coach – 6 week club |
| 18/10/17 | Amazon jungle show |
| 23/10/17 | Mobile library |
| 24/10/17 | Parent/Teacher meetings P3 – P7 |
| 25/10/17 | Flu vaccine P1-P7 |

ST. PATRICK’S GALLERY