



## September 2025 Newsletter

<https://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/>

### School Information Update

We welcome all our new P1 pupils, returning families, new pupils in the other year groups and our staff.

We look forward to a successful school year.

### Staffing Update

P2/3 Miss L Burke has returned to St. Patricks to lead p2/3 for the full year.

P5 - Job Share - After her maternity leave, Mrs N Beegan, is returning to a part-time contract ( M/Tu/Fr) with Miss A Glennon( W/Th)

We welcome Mrs C Mc Nabb as a Classroom Assistant in P4 with Ms O'Malley.

The school's Management Structures and Curriculum Responsibilities will continue to be shared amongst the Senior Leadership Team

Teacher	Additional Responsibility (Acting)
Mrs T Orr (P7)	Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator Deputise for the Principal
Mrs S O'Reilly (P4/5)	Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs S Hamill (P7)	School Improvement Co-ordinator School Data Manager



## **Board Of Governors of St Patrick's PS**

Every school is managed by a Board of Governors. They work with Mr O'Neill to meet the educational needs of the school pupils in a secure and safe environment.

The Board of Governors includes:

- members representing the Parish. They are Trustee members.
- A Parent and a Teacher Rep who are elected by the parents and teachers associated with the school.
- Members of the public with an interest in education appointed by the Department of Education or the Education Authority (EA) - DENI & EA reps.

### **What school governors do**

The role of the Board of Governors is to make sure that the school provides pupils with a good education. The Board of Governors, work alongside the leadership team in the school to set the goals over the period of the School Development Plan:

- They review the school's plans and policies.
- They sit on interview panels to recommend teaching and non- teaching staff appointment to the Employing Authorities (CCMS & EA)
- They review the school budget.
- They support the Principal in delivering school improvement plans.

A governor is appointed in a voluntary unpaid capacity for four years. The Board of Governors meets as often as its business requires, usually 3-4 times at full board level. They undertake training programmes delivered by EANI.

The Board have members with different skills, knowledge, and experience. The business of the school is progressed by the whole Board of Governors working together in the best interests of the staff and pupils.

### **St Patrick's BOG 2025-26**

Mrs. Fiona Mc Anespie (Chair)	Trustee
Mrs Cecilia McMahon (Vice Chair)	Trustee
Rev. Fr. Stephen Mc Brearty	Trustee
Mr Ciaran Mc Collum	Trustee
Mrs Stacy Hamill	Teacher Rep
Mrs Jan Houston	DENI Rep
Mrs Heather Jennings	Education Authority Rep
Mrs Oonagh Mc Evoy	Education Authority Rep
Mrs Sheena Ferguson	Parent Rep
Mrs T Orr	Teacher Rep



## School Improvement Plans 2025-28 (SDP)

For 2025-28, the staff are currently refreshing the current school improvement plans for 2025.

What are School Improvement Plans (SDP) ?

The SDP is a strategic plan for improvement. It should bring together, in a clear and simple way, the school's priorities, the main measures it will take to raise standards, the resources dedicated to these, and the key outcomes and targets it intends to achieve. This leads to a self- evaluation process and is monitored by ETI.

Self-evaluation leading to sustained self-improvement is therefore at the core of the school improvement plans. Effective self-evaluation, and the actions that flow from it, should deliver improved educational outcomes and experiences for all pupils. Self-evaluation must be an integral part of the school development planning process with the resulting actions and targets captured in School Development Plans (SDPs).

In 2020, ETI found 'The school provided a range of relevant evidence to reflect well-embedded processes for self-evaluation which inform systematically the whole school improvement priorities and the planning to improve the children's outcomes.'

### Developing the self-evaluation process

We have analysed the feedback from our surveys of parents, pupils, staff and Governors for 2024/25. The outcomes of these surveys are available here (<https://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/parents/surveys/>)

The parent's survey focused on 4 key areas-

1. Standards.
2. Quality of Provision & Curriculum.
3. Strategic Leadership & Ethos.
4. Ethos, Care, Welfare & Safeguarding.

The Pupil's survey focused on Learning and Ethos.

We are working on finalising our plan and will share with everyone in due course. Another aspect of school development has been a review of our school vision & mission statements. We have updated our school mission statements to be more inclusive of our inclusive ethos.



### Vision, Aims & Mission Statements Parental Consultation.

As part of our school development plan, the school staff have reviewed and modernised our Vision, Aims and Mission Statements. This information is available at this

Live link <https://www.stpatrickspshollywood.com/adminlite/pages/articlemanage.php?ID=175>

As part of the process, please complete the form provided and feel free to add any additional comments about our Vision, Aims and Mission statements.

- <https://forms.office.com/e/guXjJK0yA9>

### **Vision**

In today's modern world, guided by our Catholic ethos, we strive to nurture pupils for *living and learning both today and tomorrow* within a school community that fosters belonging, celebrates individuality and inspires every child to flourish.

**Aims** - St. Patrick's P.S. promotes high levels of achievement and learning for life through:

- promoting the growth of the whole child and nurturing personal and spiritual development.
- fostering high self-esteem, celebrating diversity, promoting collaboration, and nurturing respect for others and their beliefs.
- nurturing enquiring minds, a growth mindset and a vibrant love for learning.
- high expectations and achieving high standards for every child.
- promoting digital skills and e-safety.
- becoming independent learners, critical thinkers, good communicators and leaders for the future who impact and are active contributors to society .



### **Mission statements - *We believe that each child will succeed through***

- a caring ethos, based on the values of Catholic education, within which all pupils feel accepted, respected and loved as individuals.
- a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum.
- a happy and challenging learning environment that is encouraging and celebrating for our pupils, staff and community.
- innovative teaching and the development of thinking skills and mental strategies.
- meeting the educational, social, emotional and well- being needs of all our pupils.
- a positive partnership between school, home, parish and the wider community.
- showing respect for the diverse traditions, values, and beliefs of others, within an educational setting that encourages mutual understanding.

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### **Free School Meals Entitlement (FSME)/ Uniform allowance**

Please note that applications for these allowances should be made on an annual basis. FSME entitlement is used to provide additional funding into the school budget. Your child doesn't have to have the meal every school day or at all, if desired. Eligibility criteria is as follows:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) can apply if your son or daughter is in full-time education and if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits: -

- ☐ Income Support;
- ☐ Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- ☐ Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- ☐ Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- ☐ Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less;
- ☐ Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grant-eligibility>.



## Breakfast Club



Breakfast club has an earlier starting time of 8am through to 8:45 in the Dinner Hall access via Ean Hill gate. £2 per day. Booking form at reception or pay on the day if not pre booked.

### Starting/finishing times

#### Starting times

Mon - Fri @ 8:45am for all pupils.

#### Finishing times Mon - Thurs

P1 - P3 @2pm

P4- P7 @3pm

#### \*\*Friday finishing times\*\*

P1 - P3 classes @1:45pm & P4 - P7 classes @2:00 pm

#### Accessing school

P1A & P1B - Green door at Ean Hill side of the school. P2, P2/3, P3, P4 & P4/5 - Canopy door.

P5, P6, P6/7, P7- Extension door



#### Wet Morning starts

If it is raining in the morning before 8:45am all pupils in P1 - P7 should come to the School Hall from 8:35am , where pupils will be supervised. Access is ONLY by the double doors at the church side of the school.



### **See - Saw Communication Tool**

The teaching staff will continue to use the SEE-SAW in a reduced capacity, staff will continue to send out information regarding their class, class activities, samples of class work. This will be a one-way flow of information. (Teacher to Parent only).

This is to encourage the more established interactions between staff and parents, via face-to-face meetings and phone calls to the office.

Emails to [info@stpatps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk) will also receive a personal response, from the appropriate member of staff.

### **P7 Transfer Test (SEAG) Registration process**

The closing date for the Transfer test is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September @11:59pm  
Please note that it is a parental responsibility to complete the application process. Details are available on the SEAG website. The test will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov & 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov at the designated exam centre.  
Any requests for access arrangements must be requested ASAP.

### **Year Group Curriculum Content Delivery P1 -P7**

Ove recent years, the staff have found the delivery of their year group curriculum delivery to be most effectively delivered via the school website pages. I have viewed the viewing figures around accessing the curriculum content on-line and they are very healthy and they are being used monthly. On this basis and due to teacher time budget constraints, it has been agreed to continue to use this format.

### **Reporting to Parents**

#### **P1 - P7 Baseline Parent Teacher Meetings**

P1 - P7 Baseline Parent Teacher meetings will take place w/b 21<sup>st</sup> October from 2:15pm - 4.30pm. Appointment timetables will cater for families with siblings first and then individual pupils. Please note that school will close at 1:45 & 2pm for all pupils P1 -P7, that week. There will be no teacher led after school clubs. External clubs will operate as normal.



A second teacher Parent meeting will take place in March and your child's annual report will be issued on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

### After School Clubs

Teacher led clubs will be advertised in due course and hopefully will commence on w/b 15<sup>th</sup> September. A full list of clubs and application forms will be sent out next week.

### Swimming lessons

P4, P4/5 and P5 will attend swimming lessons in 24/25 school year at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre in Castlereagh, using EA yellow buses. The cost per week is £4, to cover cost of transport, swim coaches and hire of facility. Parents can pay the full amount in advance or pay weekly. Please ensure your child wears their PE uniform on Thursdays for swimming and bring a towel, swim hat, goggles, and an extra snack.

Swimming is a key element of the primary PE curriculum and a child should be competent to swim 25 metres by the time they leave P7. The programme is as follows:-

Class	Dates	No. of weeks	Pay in Advance	Pay weekly
P5	12 Sept- 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 24	12	£54	£4.50
P4/5	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan-20 <sup>th</sup> March 25	11	£49.50	£4.50
P4	27 <sup>th</sup> March-12 <sup>th</sup> June 25	11	£49.50	£4.50

### ICT Fund Initiative Update

We continue to thrive in our ICT activities and learning throughout the school. We are purchased 10 additional i- pads to update and maintain our hardware in tip top condition.





## Fundraising for 2025-26

### **Hello from the PTA**

A big warm welcome to all our parents, guardians, and families from the St. Patrick Primary PTA! Whether you're new to the school or returning, we're so glad to have you as part of our community. Thanks to your amazing support, we had a fantastic year of fundraising last year, and we look forward to even more exciting plans coming up to make this year even better for our children. Keep an eye out for details of our AGM, where we'll be sharing plans and ways you can get involved. Together, we can make this a fun and rewarding year for everyone!

If you'd like to get involved, please contact a PTA Member or email us at [stpatspta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stpatspta@hotmail.co.uk). We'd love to hear from you!

Focus of our PTA Fund raising for events for this year will be as follows

1. New carpets in P1, P2 & P3
2. Tables and Chairs in P4 & P4/5
3. New Cupboards and sinks in P5, P6 & P7
4. Doors painted to each classroom.

#### ICT Fund

10 X I -pads



Thank you to the Parents who cleaned the street outside of the school, this morning, way beyond the call of duty. You did a great job!

Ards & North Down Council please take note



## **SEN Parental Request for Statutory Assessments**

### **SEN Parental Request for Referrals**

#### **School Support Under current procedures within the SEN Departments school consultation policy.**

As part of the school's SEN & Inclusion policy, it is noted that Parents who wish to make a parental referral for statutory assessment should consult the school's SENCo - Mrs Hamill, in preparation for any referral.

It is essential that this consultation takes place as the school team have to develop the educational evidence to support any referral that is accepted by EA's SEN department. The EA will not consider an application without consultation with the SENCo

If you have any concerns, please speak to Mr O'Neill or Mrs Hamill.

### **Our Healthy Eating Policy for Break /Snack**

<b>We recommend</b>	<b>We do not recommend -</b>
Water or Milk Fruit · Sandwich with nutritious filling · Vegetables Cheese	Crisps Chocolate Sweets Fruit yoghurts Fizzy drinks including flavoured water Biscuits Cereal bars Lunchables Cheese strings



**DUE TO ALLERGIES,  
ST PATRICK'S  
IS A  
NUT FREE SCHOOL.**



# HOLLYWOOD YOUTH CENTRE

## Junior Youth Club

### TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS 6-7.30PM

ENTRANCE VIA 61 CHURCH VIEW CAR PARK

## Sports

- POOL GAMES
- TEAM CHALLENGES
- CONSOLES
- SOFA GAMES
- SNACKS
- VR
- TRIPS

**P5-P7**

Hollywood Youth Centre  
Hollywood Family Trust,  
108-112 High Street,  
Hollywood,  
Co. Down,  
BT18 9HW

028 9042 7842

holywoodyc@gmail.com

Holywood Youth Centre

holywood\_yc

Labels ...Labels...Labels!!!!



Not a name label in sight !!!!

*PLEASE, take 10 minutes of your time and put your child's name on their school jumpers and cardigans.*

A "sniff" test is not always the most reliable source of ownership.

This would be greatly appreciated by all the staff in school.





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No Dogs on school grounds, PLEASE



PLEASE NOTE - NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED  
ON SCHOOL GROUNDS due to HEALTH & SAFETY  
REQUIREMENTS, at any time of the day.

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**CAST**  
**SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA**

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**CAST@ St Patrick's PS**

Dear Parents

We are so excited to be back for another jam-packed new year this September! We would be absolutely thrilled to welcome any new students if your child is keen to join us! Our 1<sup>st</sup> class of our new term will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

Classes will take place within the school and will begin at 2pm for P1-P3 and 3pm for P4-P7. Our classes last one hour and pick up for parents after class is outside the main school entrance.

We are assuming that all those who were with us last term will be continuing with their lessons unless we have already been informed otherwise, but if that is not the case, can we ask you to contact us as soon as possible so we know the number of spaces we have available. **Spaces are limited!**

We would be delighted to welcome new students so if your child has not previously been attending lessons but would now wish to do so could we ask that you **contact us directly, text, phone, whatsapp or email (details shown below), to reserve a place.**

All students returning from last year do not need to re-register, parents will be contacted via our class WhatsApp groups.

**Classes are available for all pupils (P1 - P7) throughout St. Patrick's Primary School**





In each class students will participate in a range of activities such as verse and prose speaking, acting, mime, improvisation, story-telling and drama games. All classes are designed to foster the ability to speak out clearly and articulately, increase confidence, develop performance ability and provide skills that will be invaluable as each child grows and matures and that will last them much longer than their primary years. Throughout the year our pupils work towards our Christmas concert and will be offered the opportunity to compete in the Lagan Festival and complete their LAMDA examinations.

Classes for the upcoming term are £8.75 per lesson payable on a term-by-term basis.

If you require any further information on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you so much for your continued support,

Sarah Steen-Calderwood

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**Sarah Steen BA(Hons) PCertLam**  
**Vice Principal of CAST School of Speech and Drama**  
**07885243386 [cast.stpatricks@gmail.com](mailto:cast.stpatricks@gmail.com)**  
**[facebook/CASTSchoolofSpeechandDrama](https://www.facebook.com/CASTSchoolofSpeechandDrama)**

And Finally...





I have received two complaints this week about inconsiderate parking and an adult verbally abusing a resident about 'their right' to park wherever they like ! I would also like to highlight that it is also inappropriate to use Church View as a drop off zone in the actual live line.

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All school information is available on the school website

<https://www.stpatrickspshollywood.com/>

The school calendar can be updated to your phone

<https://www.google.com/calendar/render?cid=http://www.stpatrickspshollywood.com/al.php?download=1694072480>