

St. Patrick's School News

Living and Learning, Today and Tomorrow



6 NOVEMBER – 6 DECEMBER 2020

WWW.STPATRICKSPSHOLYWOOD.COM

HAPPY RETIREMENT, LORRAINE

Mrs Lorraine Cooke has retired from her position in our school canteen. She has worked in our school for many years. She was very welcoming to all the children in her care and she always made sure that they enjoyed their dinners.

The children have made cards for her and we wish her a long, restful and happy retirement.



Mrs Lorraine Cooke
School Dinner Lady

Covid Update

We continue to maintain our appropriate levels of hand sanitation and social distancing in our class bubbles. This is working very well. There has been a very noticeable engagement with social distancing and mask wearing at pick up times. This has enabled us to maintain an excellent level of attendance for all pupils. Please continue to adhere to the guidance information.

Staggered arrival & pick up times

We are adhering to the Risk Assessment guidance for start of the day and end of the day procedures. This guidance has not been changed since August by the Education Authority. This specifically states the need to stagger arrival and departure times to manage the level of social distancing and social interaction. This has been approved by the school Governors and would have to be changed by them, subject to any subsequent change by the EA -risk assessment protocols. This is operating very successful around the school. The staggered times are in operation to enable the teachers to apply the appropriate hand sanitation procedures while entering/leaving the school.

Wet days

P1-3 children should proceed to the assembly hall, on wet days from 8:55 for 09:00am

P4 - 7 children should proceed to their classroom - 5 minutes before their allocated start time either at 8:40 or 8:55.

Please note children will not be supervised until five minutes before class starting times. Parents should continue to supervise until a member of staff assumes responsibility.

P.1 Admissions, September 2021

Prospective P1 Parents

Please note that due to the current Covid regulations our proposed school open morning will be organised entirely differently, this year.

The most up-to- date details regarding the format of our 'Open Day' for prospective parents and pupils, will be published on our school website by the first week in December.

Please call the school office on 02890424772 for further information.

Our proposed menu for 2021 will include:

1. A Virtual tour and introduction.
2. Virtual appointments.
3. Saturday appointments on request.
4. School prospectus
Please link into our school prospectus :-
<https://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/information/prospectus/>
5. Admissions criteria
Our Admissions criteria for September 2021 is attached
6. Additional Information Parish Boundary Map link
[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/291/docletter/20201104014322_85_Parish_Boundary Map.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/291/docletter/20201104014322_85_Parish_Boundary_Map.pdf)

Online portal

The Education Authority deal with the application process using an online portal

APPLICATIONS ONLINE

ONLY: www.eani.org.uk/admissions

Admissions Helpdesk Tel: 028 9598 5595

Email: primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

Changes to the school's operational hours

Planning, Preparation & Assessment Time Budget for teaching staff to be implemented from 27/11/2020

Under the agreed negotiations between the Dept. of Education, Education Authority & CCMS and the Trade Unions, Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) Time Budget allowance were established for all teaching staff. 10% of a teacher's contracted hours are to be set aside for individual teacher planning, preparation and assessment tasks, alongside teaching allowance work allocations.

An individual teacher's time budget was due to commence on the 31st October as part of the contract negotiations.

A number of options were discussed by the Governors of St. Patricks, on 5th October, this included teacher non-contact time during the school day and the use of full non-contact days for each teacher, every 4 weeks. However, these options would have been disruptive to class teaching and were less cost effective.

It was agreed by the Governors that the following PPA arrangements would be implemented in St. Patricks and will be reviewed in June 2021.

School will close for all pupils at 2pm, every Friday, commencing on 27th November 2020.

This is a popular PPA arrangement for several primary and post-primary schools, in the North down area. It was also a cost-neutral outcome and allowed for more collaboration amongst staff.

Covid regulations

Due to the current Covid regulations the following pick up times will be operating on a Friday only, at the same collection points.

P1, P2, P2/3 & P3, P4 will finish at **1:45pm**, each Friday.

P4/5, P5, P6, P6/7 and P7 will finish at **2pm**, each Friday.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Curriculum "Meetings" in October

There were over 400 hits on the class curriculum meeting power points.

Parent Teacher Meetings in Term 1: There has been a huge response to the PTM by phone. The staff have been encouraged by the responses to date and the very good feedback that they have received.

Assessment: CAT 4, Progress in Maths & Progress in English Assessments are on-going at this stage. This will enable the staff to baseline areas of the curriculum that need to additional focus, for the remainder of the year. Results will be shared with parents in due course, hopefully before the end of December.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

LOOK SMART, THINK SMART and ACT SMART

There a few points to be followed:

- **P1-7 children** should wear the school hoodie with plain black leggings with a white Polo Shirt for PE days only.
- The hoodie is NOT a substitute for a school jumper/cardigan and should be used accordingly.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CARE INSTRUCTIONS ON JUMPERS AND CARDIGANS

- WASH AS SYNTHETICS
- WASH INSIDE OUT
- DRY FLAT AND AWAY FROM DIRECT HEAT
- DO NOT USE FABRIC CONDITIONER
- DO NOT USE DETERGENTS CONTAINING BLEACH
- PLEASE PUT YPOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EACH ITEM OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

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SCHOOL DINNERS



The cost of a school dinner is **£2.60**. If your child takes dinners for the week, or on more than one day of the week, it would be helpful if the total amount could be paid on Monday and supplied to the teacher in an envelope with the child's name on the front. The Menu for the school year will be displayed on the Parents' Notice Board and has been emailed to all parents on the emailing service.

Money Pockets will be provided to all children attending dinners on a regular basis.



Parking

I would ask parents not to use the school grounds or gateways to park cars when visiting St Patrick's.

Healthy Eating Break

Please note that due to nut and seed allergies the children should not bring any break to school containing nuts /nut extract.

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

As a school community, we are focusing on the use of effective communication strategies to update and inform parents about school events and diary dates. We are attempting to give as much information about school events as possible and to ensure that the dates and times are all synchronised to avoid confusion.

(1) School website - long term

The school website is an excellent source of school information. It is regularly updated with diary dates via the calendar section. The calendar section can be uploaded to your phone by connecting to the google link on the diary page. School events are highlighted regularly throughout the year.

The website has been viewed as follows.

The school website also enables users to link into schoolsni app. **If you subscribe to the app, you will receive a reminder of a school event the day before.**

We now have 398 subscribers to the NI school app

Total (Last 12 Months)	17 645
October 2020	1706
September 2020	2097
August 2020	2065

(2) Email via Teachers2parents is the main source of short term information from school to home.

(3) Text message via Teachers2parents is the secondary source and is also used for quick messages to individual and specific classes as reminders.

The information services are working very efficiently; the number of emails not being received has been reduced to less than 10 parents in the school. We can see from the system who is receiving the emails and those that are being held.

- If you are not receiving emails, please contact the office to update your details, this also applies to any mobile number changes.

(4) See saw app - is used throughout the school by teachers to communicate directly with parents and get a response as required.

(5) Letters/Notes - We try to minimise the need for letters and notes but when we need a permission slip signed this will be in the form of a note. P1-3 parents can give permission via see-saw.

And finally.... The effectiveness of our communication to you will only continue to improve if every parent reads the information that is available. An old proverb springs to mind ... "You can bring the horse to the water BUT you can't make it read"!!!!

Anti-Bullying Campaign Week 16th - 20th November

The pupils will participate in a range of lessons and activities relating to Anti-Bullying week. It will start on Monday 16th with " Odd Socks " day. Everyone is invited to wear an odd pair of socks to school. Girls can wear their odd socks over their tights, if required.

Diary Dates -

Please log on to

<https://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/parents/calendar/?calyear=2019&calmonth=12>

- To access diary dates
- Sync your phone to the calendar
- Receive day before reminder.

Christmas Pantomime

"On yes you will...."

An online pantomime has been booked for the end of December for all classes. This will be used as a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul, as we are unable to create our wonderful Christmas hamper this year. There will be a Contribution of £2.50 per child or a family ticket at £5.

Treats will be provided. P1 pupils will have their usual Disney day alongside the panto.

Please Note:

- 11AM finish for all pupils 18th December 2020
- School reopens on Tuesday 5th January for all pupils.

Finally.....thank you for your patience and continued support through these strange times for us all. Please be reassured that the children are taking it all in their stride and they are working really well in school. The staff will continue to prioritise everyone's health, well-being and safety in the months ahead.