



May- June 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers, Boys & Girls,

Welcome to our May Newsletter and let's hope that the weather picks up in the next few weeks, so that we can enjoy a wide range of summer activities.

Thankfully, the Covid situation has eased in school, over the past two weeks. It was a very difficult time and I would like to thank everyone for their care and consideration as pupils and staff had to isolate.

It is very noticeable that our guidelines around the school are being adhered to in all year groups. There are a few minor changes to the drop off plans for the morning that are listed in the school website- I would ask parents in P1A & P1B to exit the school via the gate on Ean Hill. By continuing to follow the guidelines, we hope to organise our usual Summer activities for each year group.

C O'Neill

P7 Leaver Hoodies

The P7 Pupils started on their transition journey with the presentation of their 'Leaver' 21 hoodies on Friday 23rd April. The hoodies were kindly sponsored by the PTA



P7 Leavers Photographs - Friday 7th May

The next milestone for our P7 pupils will be their Leaver's Photograph portraits. There are two formats: - 1. A formal class photograph with their full winter school uniform. 2. A casual image that relates to their interest outside of school e.g. sports kit, musical instrument, artistic flair, reading etc

P1 Photographs Friday 7th May

The P1 pupils will also have their individual P1 portraits taken. All P1 pupils should also wear their full winter uniforms for these photographs.

P6 PARENTS INFORMATION MEETING PREPARATIONS FOR TRANSFER TESTS & Post Primary Transition (and the application process)

There will be a meeting in school for all P6 parents' considering entering their child into the transfer test procedures, on **Thursday 10th, June**. TIME TBC, the format of the meeting is subject to Covid regulations and will be confirmed at the start of June.

AQE & PPTC (GL) have very useful information available on their websites.

School Development Update

Due to the impact of the Covid restrictions and school lockdown closures, our focus in school has been on ensuring the pupils return to learning and settle back into school, this has impacted on Term 2 and Term 3 improvement tasks. The staff will refocus on the school improvement plans in September.

School Reports June 2021

Individual pupil reports will be issued towards the end of the summer term. The report will be a shortened version due to the impact of school closures on teaching time in school.

School Year 2021/22

An update on the next school year 2021/22, including an outline of class provision for 2021-2022 will be made available on the school website, subject to DENI School Budget allocation and plans being approved by the school Governors, in early June. Due to Covid restrictions, we will be unable to hold an opening meeting to discuss our plans for 21/22.

If you have a very specific question, it would be appreciated, if you could send in an email: coneill951@c2kni.net and I will include responses in a FAQ section for 20/21 update. Thank You.

ECO GARDEN PROJECT - DIY SOS SPH



In term one, our application to Groundworks funding for our eco project was knocked back and received no funding. In the interim, Beautiful NI & Danske Bank included the school in an Eco project which involved some planting of fruit trees and hedges (on Ean Hill side) and a seating area, under the big chestnut trees. This project will continue from an educational perspective until June 2022. This is a welcome start but the project needs impetus and additional support. Some funding providers have been approached for more funding, however, I think the best way to proceed with the plan, is a DIY - SOS approach, where the school community take on the task of creating environmental projects around the school grounds. This will be achievable once, Covid regulations are relaxed. This would involve using all the expertise that we have in our school community to create an eco-space, support from the PTA and school community to provide materials and labour to complete the task. The eco area will be 'fenced off' in Early June as a starting point.

'we can build it'- ' yes, we can'

Standardised Testing Update

Standardised testing is used in all schools to measure the level of progress made by each individual pupil, class and year groups from P3 to P7. In school, we use three tests GL Progress in Maths (PTM), Progress in English(PTE) and CAT4. The range of scores in standardised test range from 69 to 141. They are calculated to give age equivalent scores and make very small allowances for dates of birth and gender.

As a school, we use the data generated to make a comparison from one year to the next, on how each individual pupil, class and year groups make progress.

A score of 100 points is deemed an average score in standardisation. Two-thirds of all pupils will be in the 95 to 105 scoring band.

One-sixth of all pupils will score above 105 and one sixth will score below 95. This is the normal bell curve of standardisation scores.

Generally, pupils should improve by between 3 and 5 points per year.

These scores are a very reliable indicator as to your child's academic performance. This is measured against their Cognitive Ability Test score (called CAT4 or NRIT), which indicates a child's overall academic ability. As a school we use these three scores to measure the level of progress made by each pupil. A pupil's CAT4 score should be commensurate with their PTE and PTM scores.

Due to Covid, we had to make a few changes to the standardised testing programme for 2020/21. The P3-P7 pupils undertook a delayed standardised test in November 2020 and we will do a follow-up paper test for P3- P5 pupils in May/June time. P6 did not undertake a standardised test in November but will undertake a computer based test in June. This was to ensure they are in a cycle of assessment that would support them through the transfer test procedures.

In anticipation of a return to normality in September, the cycle of assessment should return to the normal cycle for 2021/22 school year.



Yearly Cycle of standardised testing

Year Group	NRIT	CAT4	PTE	PTM
P3	X - Paper Test		X - Paper Test	X - Paper Test
P4		X	X - Paper Test	X - Paper Test
P5			X - Paper Test	X - Paper Test
P6		X	X	X
P7 Jan/Feb			X	X

School Sports Days

Provisional arrangements for Sports days are as follows

Thursday 3 rd June	P1-2	9:30 -11:30 @ school
Tuesday 8 th June	P 6-7	9:30 - 12:00 @ St.Paul's Grounds P6-7 Children finish the day @ 12:00
Tuesday 8 th June	P 3-4-5	12:30 - 3:00 @ St.Paul's Ground

These events are subject to some relaxation in the Covid regulations, currently up to 100 are allowed at a sporting event. And are subject to the wonderful NI weather, of course!!

Engage Art Project

As part of our return to school Engage funding programme, an exciting Art project will start on Monday 10th with P3, P4/5 and P7 taking the lead for this term. Mrs. Therese Gorman, Art Teacher, will work in a small group setting with the pupils, in these classes, over the next seven weeks.

P7 Summer Show

The P7 Summer show will take place on Monday 31st @ 7pm & Tuesday 1st June at 1pm, subject to Covid restrictions, which will be reviewed by 23rd May, we hope to at least get the pupils' parents into the School hall, in a social distanced setting.

New Sandwich Shop opened in P2/3

The P2/3 Class held a sandwich sale for their parents to explore the use of money in a real-life context. They explored the business concepts of budget and profit, created advertisements, labels and wrapping paper for their sandwiches and used their knowledge of coins and giving change when selling the sandwiches to their parents. They made a grand total of £40 profit, which was used to buy equipment for growing plants for their new topic.

And finally

Please check the school website calendar for all updated events

<https://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/parents/calendar/?calyear=2021&calmonth=5&>

- **Please note school will be open as normal on 31st May.**
- **Please provide a packed lunch for that day- maybe call in at the sandwich shop with Mrs Hamill !**

P2/3 Sandwich Shop

Sandwich making team



Selling the products



Accountancy Team calculating the profit !

Thank you to our P2/3 parents for their 'voluntary' donations. The event raised £40, which the class have re-invested into their next topic on plants. Dragon's Den better watch out!