



September 2022

Welcome back to a new school year.

We welcome all our new P1 pupils and lots of new pupils in the other year groups. We welcome all our returning families and look forward to a successful school year

Staffing Update

We welcome all our staff back to school for our new school year. There have been a few changes to the staff in school over the summer months.

P3 Job Share - Mrs C McKee will job share with Mrs S Hamill.

P1B Classroom Assistant - Mrs J Mc Carter

P4 Classroom Assistant - Mrs E Mc Cormack

School Renovations

There have been lots of work going on at school this summer. The roofing refurbishment has been completed, all scaffolding has been removed.

The old floor tiles in P4, P4/5, P5, P6/7, P2/3 and the corridor have all been replaced with new vinyl flooring

P4 and P4/5 classrooms are in the process of being renovated. They are being decorated with new cupboards and window blinds. This work is running behind schedule and as a consequence P4 and P4/5 classes will operate from the school assembly hall for the first few days of term.

In the grounds the development of the outdoor learning area has continued over the summer. The fencing has been extended and the poly tunnel is in the process of being completed.

COVID UPDATE

If your child does test positive for Covid, then please inform the school using the school email address info@stpatps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk

Positive test result

If you have [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (COVID-19), however mild, you should stay at home and begin self-isolating.

Advice for those who test positive

If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, it's very likely that you have COVID-19 even if you do not have symptoms. This means you can pass on the infection.

If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, you should follow the advice below:

- stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **five days** after the day of the test, or from the day symptoms started (whichever was earlier).
- as **children, tend to less infectious than adults, this period is reduced to three days** for children and young people under 18 years of age.
- as a precautionary measure, you should **avoid contact with people you know [to be at higher risk from COVID-19](#)** for **10 days** especially those with a weakened immune system to make sure you are no longer infectious.
- do not visit others in a health or social care setting during this 10 day period.
- continue to take precautions, such as regularly washing your hands and wearing a face mask, particularly in crowded indoor places.
- let everyone in your household know about your positive COVID-19 test result as COVID-19 is infectious for up to two days before you begin to feel unwell, or the date of your test and it can take up to 10 days for infection to develop in close contacts
- tell anyone you had close contact to be aware of signs or symptoms during this time.

Testing to end self-isolation following a positive COVID-19 test is no longer advised.

How to get a free lateral flow test -

- If your GP or a healthcare professional has asked you to take a test
- you're working in or visiting high risk or vulnerable settings, for example care homes and hospital environments
- you're a carer who provides close personal care for someone who is at higher risk if they get COVID-19

You should not collect tests from a pharmacy if you have symptoms. You should [order online\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#) or ask someone who does not have symptoms to collect the lateral flow tests on your behalf. If you cannot use the online or pharmacy collect service, call 119 to order a lateral flow test (free from mobiles and landlines). **Lines are open:** Monday to Friday, from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Saturday and Sunday, from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Further information available on

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-and-stay-home-advice#toc-0>

Mitigations in school

Please be reassured that school is a safe environment for all pupils. The school staff continue to follow and apply the relevant mitigations at all times. Good hand hygiene is followed in school. Every class has a CO2 monitor.

Thank you for continued support in following our guidelines during this difficult time.

Keep safe and keep well.

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-mealsuniform-grant-eligibility>

Accessing school & starting/finishing times

The following access points will be used for start (8:45am) and end (2 and 3pm) of the school day.

Starting times

Mon - Fri @ 8:45 for all pupils.

Finishing times

Mon - Thur

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, P3, P2/3, P4 & P4/5 - canopy door.

P6/7, P5 & P7 - Extension door

P6 - PE Hall side door

GL & AQE Registration process

The closing dates for AQE () & GL() are fast approaching.

Please note that it is a parental responsibility to complete the application process. Details are available on the AQE and GL websites (OLSPC Knock website has all the information for GL)

See - Saw Communication Tool

As a consequence of the Covid pandemic, school closures and remote learning experiences, the school staff availed of and used the SEE- SAW app to communicate directly with Parents.

As we return to normal schooling, the teaching staff will continue to use the SEE- SAW but 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@stpatssps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk will also receive a personal response.

After School Clubs

All teacher -lead and external clubs will recommence week beginning 12th September, apart from Kidz club which will start on Monday 5th. A full list of clubs and application will be sent out next week.

- P1- P3 Kidz club will re commence on Monday 5th September - applications at the office.
- Irish Dancing on Tuesday 13th contact Denise - 07900608668
- CAST Drama on Thursday 15th contact Sarah - 07885243386

Shared Education Update

Our Shared education programme with Knocknagoney PS will continue for most of 2022-23 school year. The focus for every class will be outdoor learning. The classes will get to visit each other at their schools, visit o Holistic Kidz and a trip to W5.

Department of Infrastructure



The Dept. of Infrastructure are introducing a part-time 20 MPH SPPED LIMIT, in the area around the school. This work has been delayed.



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.

Sunflowers

At the end of last term, the children all worked with Mr O'Neill in planting some sunflower seeds. We all had a great time planting the seeds. How have you got on - did they grow at all?

Send in any photos to - info@stpatssps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk