

St. Patrick's School News

Living and Learning, Today and Tomorrow



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

Settling back into the new normal...

In September, we have focused on ensuring everyone feels safe and settled back into school, reconnecting with the routines of learning and how to learn.

We will continue to focus on the recovery of learning and expanding the children's curriculum. This will help develop the pupil's creativity, support a healthy mind and healthy body and we will also develop aspects of connected learning.

Promoting Positive Behaviour Assembly was held on Friday 14th October. It is important that every child is a good role model in school. There have been a few issues raised by staff members regarding aspects of pupil behaviour, which were addressed at the assembly.

As a school community, I would ask for parental support in developing the following areas of learning and positive behaviour which build into our 'Learning to Learn' wall. We are developing the following aspects of school life to support the children as learners

1. Develop Resilience.
2. Become More resourceful.
3. Be Focused on their learning.
4. Be able to learn from what others do and say.
5. Be a good role model.
6. Be respectful of others and the property Of others and that of the school
7. Take ownership and responsibility of their own things. e.g., Jumpers!!!
8. Be a good listener in class.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Impact of Industrial Action by Teaching Unions (Action Short of Strike/ASOS)

As you may be aware the Teaching Unions have balloted their members and have voted for action short of a strike. These actions are focused on aspects administrative duties, not undertaking additional duties and attendance at meetings. There will be no impact on teaching & learning.

P1-P6 Baseline Assessment Meetings: In normal circumstances, the staff would organise a baseline Parent Teacher meeting and discuss the outcomes of the GL Standardised Assessments from May 2022 and map out the strengths and areas for improvement of each pupil.

These meetings will not take place as result of ASOS. This will enable a full PTM to take place in Term 2.

Curriculum presentations: Please visit the school website for a year group presentation for the academic year 2022-23. These will be available by the end of next week

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

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Look smart, think smart and act smart

Our school uniform is a very important part of our school identity. I would like to congratulate everyone on the fabulous uniforms and turn-out of all the children BUT please put your child's name on each uniform item.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Alana McCausland & Jackie McKee are our new Kitchen staff, and they are very welcome to SPH.

The cost of a school dinner is **£2.60**. (£13.00 per week). 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 (or Money pockets) with the child's name on the front.

The Menu for the school year will be displayed on the school website or copies available from Mrs Blaney.

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

FSM funding

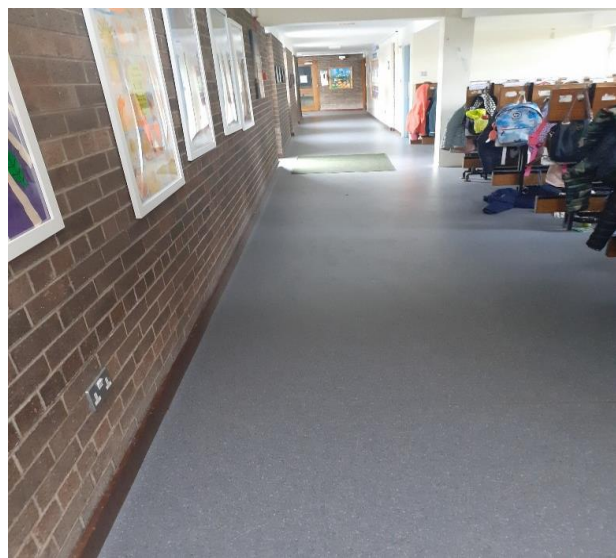
Please note, that entitlement to Free school meals, is a factor in the school financial budget. If you feel you may be entitled to apply, please ask for the form at the office, even if, your child does not wish to go to school dinners. Additional funding is provided by DENI per FSM pupil.

School Building Renovations

The EA Maintenance teams and contractors completed the planned classroom renovation projects in P4 and P4/5. They completed the re-flooring projects in P2/3, P4, P4/5, P5 and P6/7 and the corridors at the rear of school. The re-roofing project was also completed. The P4 and P4/5 classroom are now bright and encouraging learning environment. The corridors are safe and tidy. The roofing has secured the premises from further water damage.

There are a few additional pieces of work to complete a full renovation of the entire school, including new window blinds and cupboards in P6 MS, P5 TO and P6/7 CMcK.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Parents' Association in supporting the renovation project by providing additional funding.



Corridor at rear



P2/3 classroom completely refurbished.

- SCHOOL GROUNDS-

Outdoor learning space is making progress with the additional fencing and the provision of the Poly tunnel. We are waiting on the delivery of a Shed for storing all our fantastic outdoor learning equipment.

Two Requests

1. Please note that the outdoor learning area is **not a play space** and children should not enter the space after school, as some pupils have been damaging the resources in the area.
2. A Poly Tunnel team - If a small group of parents with 'green fingers' could volunteer to help set up the polytunnel and help plan with planting and maintenance it would be greatly appreciated. Speak to Mr O'Neill.



Please note

That Parents / carers are not permitted to use the school car park for drop offs and that Parents **should not** block the entrance gate by parking in an irresponsible manner. This is to ensure the health and safety of the pupils moving in and out of the school. Pupil should only use the entrances at Ean Hill and Church View. The Main gate is for vehicle access only

HEALTHY EATING BREAK/ Nut allergies

Please ensure you provide a healthy snack for break

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



GDPR

As a school organisation, we are currently updating all our data information in line with the GDPR guidelines. The school's privacy policy and statement on GDPR data has been updated and is available on the school website. As part of our commitment to GDPR, all our consent forms have been updated and need to be renewed by all parents. Please check your inbox as Mrs Blaney has sent them out via email week beginning 20th Sept. This can be return via email, due to Covid restrictions.

Medical Needs

Our Medical Needs register and information of children with medical needs has been updated. Consequently, all parents of pupils with a Medical Need, like an allergy, have been contacted directly to complete the required documentation. Please be aware, that it is a parental responsibility to inform the staff of any allergies, to provide the required medication e.g., EpiPen - in date and prescribed by a GP and have all admin up to date.

Gaelic Games

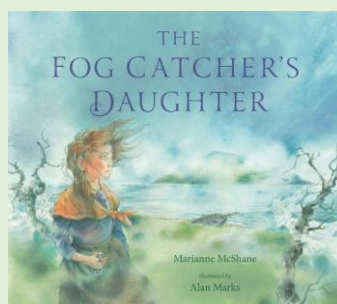
Well done to the P6 and P7 Girls & Mr. Sherlock, who have qualified for the Semi Finals of the Cumann na Bunscoil league playoffs.



The boys will play their qualifiers on Wednesday 19th. Best wishes to the Boys



All pupils in P1-P7 will participate in the 4th Year of our Shared Education project, working together and sharing their learning experiences for Term 1 & 2 with the teachers and pupils of Knocknagoney PS



Celebrating Writing in St. Patricks
-Author in Residency - Marianne Mc Shane
The Fog Catchers Daughter

As part of our school improvement plans, Marianne visited P6 & P6/7 this term, to work with the children and focus on theme of story building. The pupils developed their own creative stories based on their learning. The programme was kindly sponsored by Cine magic, who also kindly donated tickets for a Cinemagic show for these classes

Maths Week Celebration w/b 17th Oct

This week the pupils are participating in maths activities supported by Maths Week Ireland

Themed Learning for ICT & Using Data Handling in Numeracy Week
w/b 7th November

All classes will be focusing on their data handling skills through ICT within the Numeracy Curriculum



Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones - Reminder



The appropriate use of mobile phones by pupils, particularly P7s, is something that doesn't cause many concerns in St. Patricks. However, I would ask parents to be cognisant of what apps their children are using and ensuring that phones and social media are used in an appropriate manner for all. All mobile phones are left in reception during the school day.

Communication Strategy

St Patrick's PS School - Parents - Stakeholders

Endorsed by BOG on 18/10/2022

Communication Statement:

Open and effective communication is vital to the health and wellbeing of the School community. Effective communication encompasses the exchange of ideas, where people feel they have been heard and their opinions valued, and where information is clear and accurate. All communication needs to be timely, relevant, accurate, well targeted, well delivered, clear and concise, open honest and frank, reciprocal and interactive.

This statement outlines how the implementation of communication strategies enhances the quality of School community through:

- Providing a framework for effective communication;
 - Promoting understanding and co-operative teamwork between the school, parents/ guardians and pupils.
- Promoting active participation of the whole school community in effective communication
 - Contributing to the best learning outcomes for pupils
- Ensuring principles of effective communication are displayed by staff in their work in the school
 - Collective understanding that parents/guardians, pupils and staff have a common goal.

Aims

1. To improve the quality of service given to pupils, parents, families and community by ensuring that effective communication and consultation takes place between the school, parents, pupils and other stakeholders.
2. To improve the quality of service by ensuring robust processes for consultation between the school, parents and pupils on key service areas.
3. To be effective, communication between staff and parents remains polite and professional.

Communication Tools

School Communicating with Parents & Stakeholders

- (a) Teacher to Parent - this will normally be via the SEE- SAW App
- (b) School Principal to Parents - will normally be via email or NI School app/ School website
- (c) Emergency or Short Notice announcements will be via the Teacher 2 parent Text Service e.g Emergency school closure, after school club

cancelled due to absence. All parents/guardians are asked to keep the school up to date with any changes to a mobile or email address.

(d) Provision of all school policies are the school website and email.

Written copies available on request. P1 parents will receive a copy of the school's child protection policy.

(e) SEN documents e.g Pre- Code and IEPS will be issued via email, parents will need to verify that the document has been received. Parents are welcome to arrange a meeting with the class teacher to discuss.

Parents Communicating with Staff

(a) Learning & Curriculum issues - e.g. forgot a homework should be addressed by contacting the class teacher via SEE SAW or parents should ring School Reception on 028 90 424 772 or send an email to

info@stpatps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk

- Our aim will always be to return a telephone call to a parent within 24 hours.
- Return calls may be made by someone other than the person to whom the original call was made, should it be felt that this is more appropriate.

(b) Safeguarding - please ask to speak directly to Mr Sherlock, our Safeguarding Designated Teacher. In his absence, Mrs Tunney will offer advice as his deputy.

Please check the school website for all safeguarding procedures.

(c) Reporting an illness - Parents should ring School Reception on 028 90 424 772 or send an email to info@stpatps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk

(d) General enquiries - Parents should ring School Reception on 028 90 424 772 or send an email to info@stpatps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk

(e) Alternatively, a note to the class teacher can suffice.

Key Points

1 The initial point of contact should be with the class teacher.

2 At initial point of contact can you give a brief outline of what your query is about so that it can be dealt with efficiently and effectively.

3. Effective telephone communication can be a problem in school, where teachers are teaching full-time or taking after school clubs.

Parents may be disappointed or frustrated if they feel that a message does not receive an immediate reply, when in fact there has been no available opportunity for the member of staff to reach a telephone or return a call. Be assured, a member of staff will deal with your request as soon as possible.

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@stpatpsps.hollywood.ni.sch.uk will also receive a personal response.

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And finally...

Just a little reminder that we encourage a healthy snack at break time for all pupils.