

# St. Patrick's Newsletter

MARCH -APRIL 2023

*Living and Learning, Today and Tomorrow*

## Congratulations to our wonderful P7 pupils

Congratulations to our fantastic P7 children who did so brilliantly in the P7 transfer tests. The results achieved by the whole year group were absolutely amazing. The pupils achieved 22 X A's; 8X B's and a C grade in the GL Assessment tests. (Whoop) Our AQE scores were equally as good. I am so proud of all their achievements. A big thank you to Mrs O'Neill and Miss Mc Keogh for all their support and care for the pupils over the past few months.

## P7 Post Primary Application Processing Meetings

After all the P7 children hard work, the P7 parents faced into the onerous task of making the post-primary school applications in February. I was so impressed with how organised our P7 parents were in making their applications online. All applications have been submitted on time, so well done to everyone. Placement letters will be posted out for 20th May.

## P1-P6 Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you to everyone, who attended the PTM in February. Our next parental consultation will be the end of year school report.

## Sacramental Dates

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March @2:15pm	P7 - Service of Commitment & Light <i>All Confirmation candidates should have a parent present for this Service</i>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March @ 12:30pm	P3 - First Confession <i>All First Confession children should have a parent present for this Service</i>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April @ 4:00pm	P7 - Confirmation
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June @ 11am	P4 - First Communion

# **Trocaire**

The class teachers will be organising a range of events to support our Lenten fundraiser for Trocaire, which commenced on Wednesday 1st March.



### World Book Day Thursday 2nd March

The children celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March dressing up as their favourite character. Every child will receive a free book as part of the celebration. Lots of photographs are available on the school website

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

### ICT Fund Raising Initiative

#### **Launch of St.Patricks P.S. ICT Fund**

**Update – We have had a number of generous contributions and fundraising – Total to date  
£2 950**

As you may be aware, the St Patrick's PS staff - led by Mrs Orr - have developed a comprehensive Information Communication Technology (ICT) Curriculum from P1 to P7. Our pupils experience a curriculum that fully meets the requirements of the NI Curriculum for ICT. Our pupils have developed their ICT skills in Publishing, Presenting, Coding, Managing Data, Art & Design, Music & Sound, Film & Animation and thoroughly enjoy the learning that take place. Over the past three years, we have been able to use the Shared Education partnership funding to purchase Beebots, Floor robots, Ozmo, Spheros and Lego Dacta to ensure the pupils had access to the best peripherals in meeting the needs of the curriculum.

Due to constraints within the school's financial budget, we have focused on renovating the classrooms for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however consequently, the ICT hardware, including PCs, laptops and iPads are now well past their **life expectancy** and are now obsolete.

DENI has refreshed and provided 15 new PCs and 13 new laptops; 13 of these are used by the teaching staff linked to their Interactive Whiteboards, however our stock of PCs, laptops and iPads has been reduced by over 40 devices. This has left a **significant gap** in our hardware available for teaching and learning.

As a school, we acknowledge that the cost-of-living price rises is impacting on every family and we greatly value the support that we receive from our parents and community.

In conjunction with the PTA, we are launching this fundraising campaign to provide the additional ICT resource we require to fulfil the curriculum needs of every pupil.

The following is the cost per unit that we have secured through the EA procurement scheme

PC	£595	X 8	£ 4760
Laptop	£705	X 8	£ 5640
I-pad	£240	X10	£ 2400
Total			£ 12800

Our target is to secure funds for 8 x PCs, 8 x laptops and 10 x iPads. This would be a fantastic start to replenishing our ICT resources.

We will undertake a number of fundraising activities :

**07 February** National Internet Safety Day - a non-uniform day (fee £1 per pupil)

**11 March** PTA St. Patrick's Hooley Party at Holywood Golf Club (details shared separately)

**15 March** Fitness Freddy Sponsored Fun Day (with a 10 prizes) - Please see attached - sponsorship form attached to this newsletter. Paper copies will be sent home on Monday

These are all small activities and should generate hundreds of pounds, which will be a good start, but as you can see from our target amount above, we need thousands. So, as always, if any local business owners among our wider school community would kindly wish to sponsor some ICT hardware, this would be greatly received by the staff and pupils. Please remember that the PTA is a registered charity, so any donation of this nature is tax deductible - and we can benefit further from Gift Aid too.

If you are able to support with a regular or one-off personal or business-linked donation, please get in touch with myself or Cathy Martin, PTA Chair, to take this forward. Our aim is to not only work with our existing families in school, but to extend our appeal to past families, pupils and businesses within the Holywood community.

We'd also like to encourage families to make a voluntary donation to the PTA or to the School Development Fund to facilitate our ICT goals. Voluntary contributions were halted over the initial pandemic years of 2020-21, but we'd like to re-instate these. The current contribution rate is £35 per child but based on affordability - so give what you can if you can't meet this. Cathy Martin, PTA Chairperson

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

**Attendance Notifications**

Please note that it essential that all absences from school are notified to the class teacher, either by a written note or phone call through to the office or an email to [info@stpatss.holywood.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatss.holywood.ni.sch.uk)

**Punctuality**

Please also note - School starts at 8:45 for all pupils and that it is a good habit to be punctual. It is very disruptive to class teaching if your child is absent from the start of the lesson.

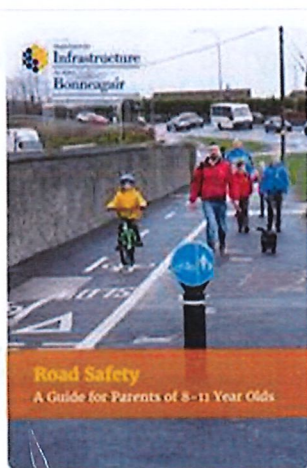
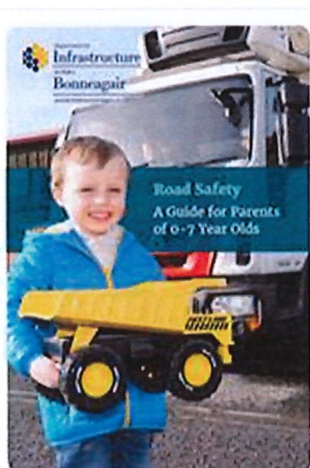
## Road Safety Education

Over the past few days there has been severe traffic disruption in and around the school at 8:45. It makes you realise how effective Ken was at managing the situation. Unfortunately, we were unable to attract any new recruits for the post last term.

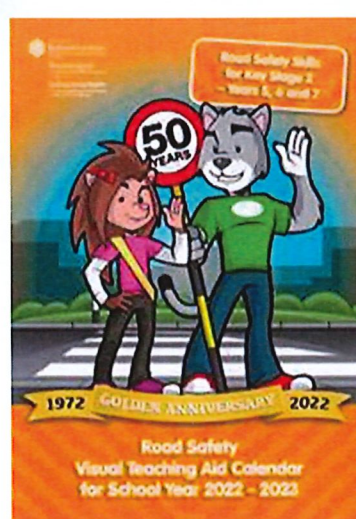
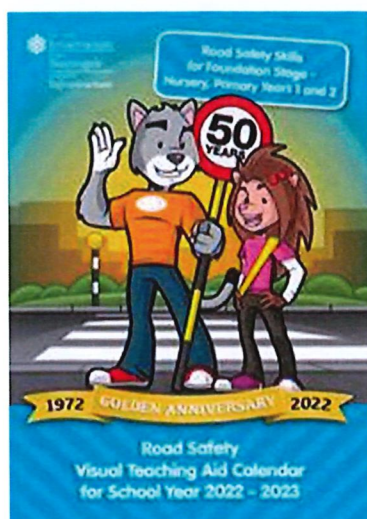
You will be aware of the recent media attention regarding the freezing of recruitment of School Crossing Patrols across Northern Ireland: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-64501641> with schools encouraged to share road safety advice with pupils and parents.

I know many of you and your staff are already pro-active in the delivery of road safety education to all your pupils throughout the school year, be that through the use of the weekly messages contained within the Road Safety Teaching Aid Calendar and/or inclusion of relevant road safety discussion and practical activities through curricular work. To assist this further, please find below some links to information and resources:

1. The recently produced road safety guides for parents (of children 0-7 years & 8-11 years) are now both available to download on NI Direct – in English and Irish at: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/parents-guide-road-safety> should you wish to highlight through your school newsletters:



2. Each classroom should have received their Road Safety Teaching Aid Calendar in hard-copy format as usual in September 2022 – electronic versions are also available for use through the classroom whiteboards: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/road-safety-teaching-aid-calendars>





## Primary 4, P4/5, P5 and Year 6 Spring Concert

Roll Up, Roll Up  
P4 to P6 classes will present their Spring Variety Concert  
featuring the school choir and Orchestra

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March @1:30pm

&

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March @1:30pm

Tickets on sale on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March from the office  
£5 per adult

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### DIARY DATES

Diary dates - all up to date diaries are available on  
<https://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/parents/calendar/?caltags=>



### PCs available

We have a number of Computer Hard drives available to anyone, who would benefit from one. They do not have a monitor, mouse or keyboard. These are from an external organisation.

Let me know if you would be interested in one.

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# Fitness Freddy



**Fun & Fitness for all.**



The pupils of St Patricks Primary School are taking part in a Fitness Freddy Challenge on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Proceeds will go to:  
School funds

The sponsor sheet is on the back of this letter and should be returned to an authorised class teacher with the funds raised. This is an extremely worthwhile venture and I would like to thank you in advance for your support.

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Energy Fitness, Co Ormeau Business Park, 8 Cromac Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2JA,

w: [www.energy-fitness.co.uk](http://www.energy-fitness.co.uk)

