

# St. Patrick's School News

Living and Learning, Today and Tomorrow



18 NOVEMBER - 23 DECEMBER 2019

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## INVITATION TO PLAY- PLAY BASED LEARNING

"What did you learn about today?" asked Mum.

"Oh, Mum I played all day long!!" exclaimed John.

As part of our school induction programme, the P1 teachers have organised a stay and play session for all P1 parents. The workshop sessions will demonstrate the high quality teaching and learning environment experienced by all the children from Primary 1, during play-based learning.

TIME: 9:15 - 10:30

DATE: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

VENUE: starting in the Assembly Hall

### P1, P2 & P3 Morning Drop Offs

- All P1, 2 & 3 pupils should be encouraged to have a greater degree of independence by dropping them off at the pupil entrance only.
- Please note that the teaching staff should not be interrupted after 9:00am, even if your child is a little late, it adds to the pupil's anxiety.

Please note if you are using the early morning drop off-for the first time - that you should introduce your child to the supervisor.

### Access Arrangements

All parents and visitors should access the school via the front door at the reception area only. No other entrance should be used at any time.



### 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.**

### PARKWAY PHOTOGRAPHY Proofs & RETURNS

**Parkway photos will be sent home this week.**

Please return any orders for parkway school photos as soon as possible. You should also return the proof envelope, even if you are not purchasing the photos.

P7 pupils (and anyone who has missed out) will have their photos taken later in the year.

Please also check out the updated staff photo board.

## Primary One Admissions

### Prospective P1 Parents

OPEN MORNING-Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January @ 9.30am

Our Open Morning will take place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January** at 9:30am. Mr O'Neill & Mrs Tunney will introduce prospective new parents to the fantastic learning opportunities available in St. Patrick's, followed by a tour of the Foundation Stage classrooms. The pupils will be involved in demonstrating the interactive curriculum that they enjoy.

If you have family or friends with young children due to start school, please forward them this vital information.

Please note that the Education Authority have changed the method used to apply for a Primary 1 places. The process will be ONLINE only. The actual online process will not go live on until the start of January. Documents relating to the school's Primary Admissions policy will also be available at this time.

### Promoting Positive Behaviour in P1, 2 and P3 at playtime.

P1, 2 and 3 teachers have introduced a positive behaviour scheme for playtime in the yard. Unfortunately, some children had been participating in some rough play that needed to be resolved. In promoting positive behaviour strategies, good behaviour is rewarded. The classes get points for good behaviour and a lovely class line.

The class with the most points each week get the Magee Cup and a little bit of extra playtime on a Friday.

Their class photo will also be on the school website. (GDPR)

Please encourage your child to set a good example in school and be a good friend.



## Primary 7 Notes

**19<sup>th</sup> November** - School of Rock Musical @ OLSPCK, pupils will return to school at 4pm.

**27<sup>th</sup> November** - Princeton University Ice Hockey Team will visit the school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>. We will introduce them to the skills of Irish Dancing, Gaelic football and hurling and unihoc.



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 extracts. Please limit these products during the week.

## PTA EVENTS



### Christmas Lantern

**Competition** - Bring to school on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> of November with your £1 entry fee.

Use an empty glass jar or box or paper bag and decorate it anyway you would like. Put a battery powered tea light in it.

### Christmas Artisan Market

**28<sup>th</sup> November 4-8pm – Assembly Hall**

Santa, Local artisan producers

Kids crafts, Hot food, Festive drinks, Mince

Pies, Prizes & more

Everyone welcome!



### ECO-WARRIOR CLUB REQUEST

Would grateful receive any donations of bulbs, soil, plant pots etc anything that we could use to create a Spring garden outside of the P1 exit ☺

Please speak to Miss Finch.

## 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

**PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD'S  
NAME ON EACH ITEM OF  
SCHOOL UNIFORM**

**SOME UNIFORMS  
STILL DON'T HAVE  
INITIALS or NAMES on  
them !!!!**



Children's Cancer Unit Charity

Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar Competition.  
Please call at the school office to enter the competition for this very worthy cause, which is promoted by Mr.O'Neill; who was knows Charlie's story.

" Sometimes,you have to lie in the dark to see the stars."

## 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.**

Total (Last 12 Months)	15865
November 2019	575
October 2019	1203
September 2019	1639

**(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 in P1,2 and 3, it is an effective way for the Early Years 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"!!!!**

### **Parent Volunteer Programme**

As part of our new School Development Plan and to enhance the school's links with the community. It is planned to establish a School Community Partnership programme. If you would be interested in volunteering for any of the suggested programmes, please complete and return the reply slip below.

As a volunteer in school, you would have to complete an ACCESS NI application as part of the school's safeguarding procedures. This is free for all volunteers in the education sector via the Education authority.

Volunteer Role	Description
Shared Education Parental Volunteer (Pool of Volunteers)	To assist with class visits to KPS and SPPS and educational trips. As a member of the pool, you may not be assigned to a specific class.
"Bring your job to school "	Staff regularly invite parents into school to talk about their jobs usually as part of their topic based learning

Outdoor Environment Volunteer	Job Title..... To assist the Eco Council in providing gardening opportunities throughout the school.
Creativity	To assist the art club leader to deliver whole school projects to improve the internal environment throughout the school e.g. create mosaic displays, collages, outdoor art opportunities.

If you are a parent and you would be available to assist, please let Mrs Blaney know in the office, dblaney905@c2kni.net. She will give you an ACCESS NI (Child protection) registration form to complete. This is processed by the Education Authority for school volunteers.

#### I -pad/Apple charger cables

If anyone had any old spare I pad/I phone charging cables, would you consider donating them to the school's ICT Co -ordinator for use in school. Please leave at the office for collection.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS PRIMARY 1, 2 & 3



<b>P1-3 Christmas Concert</b>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> DRESS REHEARSAL Parents will receive advanced notice requesting the appropriate costume for their child.
<b>TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>P1-3 Christmas Concert at 1:00pm</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>P1-3 Christmas Concert at 1:00pm</b>

Please note that **ADMISSION TO EITHER CONCERT IS BY TICKET ONLY.**

There will be approximately 200 tickets available for each day. The tickets will be sold on a "first come, first serve". There are 135 children in P1,2 & 3, so there should be enough tickets to meet demand but I would ask everyone to be considerate in their request for tickets. Tickets available from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Diary Dates - Nov/Dec**

Please log on

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

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

### Please Note:

- **2PM finish for all pupils 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**
- **11AM finish for all pupils 23rd December 2019.**