

# SPH Newsletter Jan 2020

Living and Learning, Today and Tomorrow



Happy New Year to all our school families, I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and I hope no one boiled the turkey instead of the ham!

## New Arrival in St. Patrick's

Congratulations to Mrs Orr and her husband Clarke on the happy arrival of baby Oisin on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## New appointments to the staff of St. Patrick's

Miss Natalie Johnston was appointed by the Governors to undertake Mrs. Orr's maternity leave from January to June 2020. Mrs Coyle has taken over the responsibility of Shared Education and Miss mc Keogh has taken over developing ICT.

The governors have also appointed the following permanent posts in the support staff, Mrs Lynsey Armstrong and Mrs Caroline Noble as P1 Classroom Assistants and Supervisory Assistants. Mrs Cathy Thompson has been appointed as the P2 Classroom Assistant and Supervisory Assistant.

We will also have two student teachers working in school, this term. Miss Rachel Mc Grattan will be working alongside Mrs Coyle and Mark Moss with Mr. Sherlock.

## Developing Reading Skills

As part of the School Development Plan the staff are continuing to focus on reading in 2020 and improve the children's comprehension skills. This supports the improvements made to the delivery of how we teach reading in the school. The teaching staff in P5, 6 and 7 are continuing to use Reciprocal Reading to develop the children's comprehension and interpretation of text.

## What is Reciprocal Reading ?

In P5 -7, the focus of reading in class starts to move away from the Oxford Reading tree scheme towards independent reading and the introduction of novel based reading. Reciprocal Reading (RR) is used to develop the comprehension skills of the reader using any text type. It promotes a greater understanding of all text types. The reading group have a text at the instructional level.

RR improves understanding in reading by teaching children about the following strategies: - predicting, clarifying, questioning and summarising - key high order skills.

The purpose of RR is to help pupils to actively bring meaning to the written word. It uses their skills in problem-solving, managing information, working with others, self-management and being creative. Assessment for learning underpins the process pupils learn to monitor their own learning and thinking.

The children work in groups and are allocated a role i.e. A questioner, clarifier, predictor, a summariser and the big boss! P5 -7 Reading at Home for P5,6 and 7 children. Recommendation -at least 20 minutes each evening reading independently is crucial (fiction and non -fiction). Use some of the strategies i.e. Predicting, clarifying, questioning and summarising.

## Reading in P1-4

As part of our development of best practices in reading we have moved away from sending home the guided reading texts used in school. The main reason for this change was to enable the children to be engrossed in the guided reading texts in school as a learning tool/resource and not seen as a means to get to the next level in the scheme as quickly as possible. Guided reading texts are at an instructional level for each group. The feedback from staff in P1-4 regarding this change is very positive. As a staff, we feel that much more effective learning is taking place, in reading and writing in school.

Please remember that reading at home is an opportunity to develop fluency, confidence and enjoyment for your child.

Therefore, the readers sent home are just at the level below the instructional level and should be an easy read. Your child should also experience you participating and taking turns to read text with them (paired). There is a wide range of reading materials available, that don't have to be easy readers. Some examples are:

Oxford owls online, visits to the local library, local bookshops, audio books or online editions, or make their own reading materials by creating a story board, comic etc.

## Writing

Writing is developed in two ways throughout the school. Each half term the classes focus on a form of writing. Non-fictional writing - these are recount, procedural/instructional, persuasive, report, and explanation. Fictional- narrative/creative and poetry.

## Parent Teacher Meetings : January & February 2020

### P7

Notification of Results for GL/AQE candidates will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. I will send out a letter regarding results day later this month.

#### **Post-Primary Transfer meetings with parents:**

Primary 7 Post-Primary consultation meetings will take place on the following dates 27<sup>th</sup> Jan- 6<sup>th</sup> February. Follow up meetings on 7 Feb. This will give parents/guardians an opportunity to discuss post -primary placement options for September 2020 and complete the application process, although this does not have to be completed on first meeting if required.

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**Closing date for transfer applications in school is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Remarking** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020: AQE (CEA) re-mark request form submission deadline.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020: PPTC (GL Assessment) re-mark requests deadline (2pm).

Notification of post-primary school placement is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Appeals closing date 12<sup>th</sup> June @4pm

**PLEASE NOTE ALL PUPILS WILL FINISH AT 2PM 3<sup>rd</sup> FEB - 7<sup>th</sup> FEB TO FACILATE PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (P1-P6)**

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### P1 - 6 pupils

The PTM have been moved forward in recognition of the cancellation of the baseline meetings in October.

Parent Teacher meetings will now take place from **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** from 2pm for all pupils in Primary 1 to 6. Meetings will be organised to meet the needs of families. Each meeting will last approximately 15 minutes. You will receive a letter home informing you of your allocated day and time.

There will be no PTM meeting for Primary 4/5 and P7 pupils.

**PLEASE NOTE ALL PUPILS WILL FINISH AT 2PM 3<sup>rd</sup> FEB - 7<sup>th</sup> FEB TO FACILATE PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS.**

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**KIDZCLUB, ORCHESTRA, DRAMA, MUSIC ACADEMY, IRISH DANCING, JUNIOR DRAGONS & YOGA WILL STILL BE ON FROM 2-3PM.**

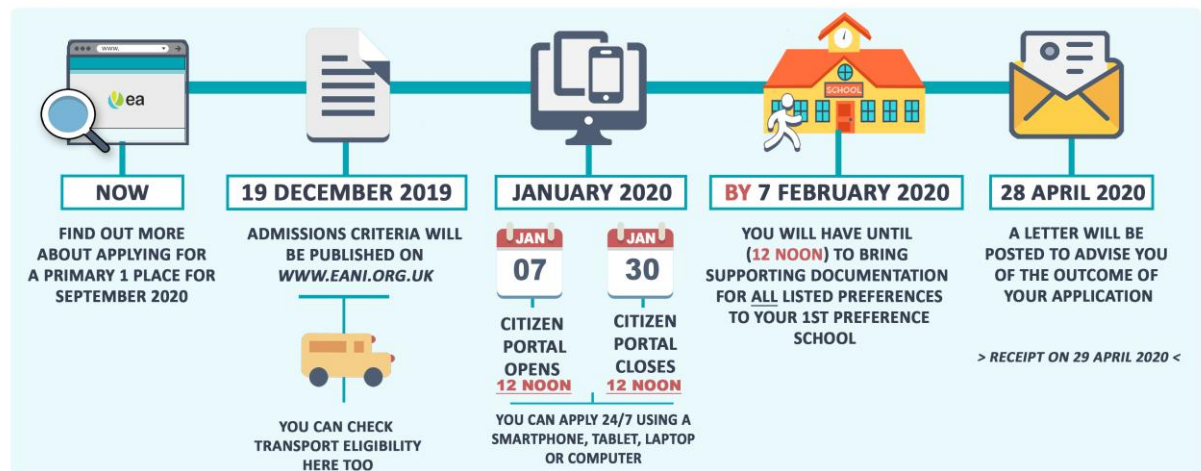
Teacher led clubs will NOT take place this week.

## Primary School



### KEY DATES FOR PARENTS : Admissions Process for Primary One Places 2020

CHILDREN BORN ON OR BETWEEN **2 JULY 2015 AND 1 JULY 2016** WILL HAVE REACHED COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE IN SEPTEMBER 2020  
CHILDREN BORN ON OR BETWEEN **2 JULY 2016 AND 1 JULY 2017** CAN APPLY FOR A PLACE IN A RECEPTION CLASS.



Online applications will close 30<sup>th</sup> January, [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

### Changes to the PE Timetable

P5, P6, P6/7 and P7 pupils will have PE every Wednesday for this term, with Oisín Mc Manus; a Down GAA coach, who will do multi sports and health life styles learning with the children. All pupils in P5 -P7 should wear their PE uniform and appropriate footwear.

The following classes will have a change of PE timetable

P1a changed to Tuesday

P3 to Tuesday

P4 to Thursday

### Diary dates

The various diary dates are attached to this newsletter for January and February, they are directly from the school website calendar pages. Please note that the school website contains regular updates on upcoming events in school. Subscribe using Google calendar to get regular diary dates straight to your phone calendar. <http://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com>

### Allergy Reminder

Please note that due to nut allergies, snacks and lunches should be nut free.