



St Patrick's Primary School

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6th March 2018

Dear parent / guardian,

I just wish to update you on upcoming items and also events, some of which have been re-scheduled following last week's school closure on Thursday and Friday.

ATTENDANCE:

All school attendance is now computerised and attendance is recorded for 2 parts of the school day (1 for am and 1 for pm). The Department of Education (DE) now carry out monthly audits of school attendance recording and seek information from schools relating to this. It is therefore very important that parents provide a written reason for a child's absence on their return to school so this can be coded accordingly. In cases where **NO WRITTEN REASON** has been provided, an N Code applies. This is something DE or Education Welfare Services would look to make direct contact with parents about if schools have an N code consistently used for individual pupils.

Children's absence from school last Thursday & Friday due to the adverse weather is granted by DE as an Exceptional Closure and does not affect a child's overall attendance level.

UNIFORM:

From before Christmas, more and more children have been coming to school wearing non-uniform type tracksuit bottoms and also sports tops etc... We remind pupils and parents that there is a specific school uniform, as outlined in our school prospectus and which is required to be worn. We ask for your cooperation in this regard before going down the road of sanctions for pupils in breach of uniform policy.

PARENT PUPIL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS:

Thank you to the parents who have already returned their Reply Slips. Please ensure any remaining replies are sent in on/before **Friday 9th March**, so I can confirm the details with Liz Jones (facilitator) in advance of Monday's first workshop.

BOOK FAIR / DRESSING UP DAY:

We had a very busy beginning to our Book Fair last week, but the weather didn't help our cause in sustaining the impetus. Sincere thanks to all who visited the Fair and purchased books. As a result, our school will receive commission to allow us to augment our existing school reading resources for pupil use in school. This **Friday 9th March** – we will host our rescheduled **WORLD BOOK DAY – Come to School as Your Favourite Character Day**. We encourage ALL pupils to redouble their efforts for the occasion.

SHARED EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

Our Primary 3 pupils and staff continue to participate in our planned shared programme with Hardy Memorial Primary School. Both schools have been invited to Co-operation Ireland's Amaze The Space event in the Eikon Exhibition Centre, Lisburn on **Friday 23rd March**. Further details to follow.

SUSTRAN'S SCHOOL CYCLE PROGRAMME:

Sixteen of our P6 pupils will be fortunate to participate in **National Standard Cycle Training**, as part of Sustran's Active School Travel Programme. The lucky 16 will be notified shortly.

GREEN DAY:

Friday 16th March is delegated as **GREEN DAY** in school. In advance of the Feast Day of our Patron Saint on Saturday 17th March, pupils are asked to come to school in their best 'green attire'.

We hope to have a special assembly on the day where we will look for our pupils to showcase some of their talents from our own specific Irish culture. We ask that pupils **donate £1** on the day, with the money going towards assisting with transport costs for a number of sporting and cultural events taking place over the next couple of weeks.

ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL:

Mrs Bennett and our school SAMBA Band will once again play a central role in this year's St. Patrick's Day Festival activities and parade on **Saturday 17th March**. We encourage all to go along and add your support.

LENT:

As we progress through this Lenten time, we are finalising plans to help raise money for our annual Lenten Trocaire Campaign and possibly make a donation towards a local charity cause who have asked for our assistance.

We plan to host our class **Easter Egg** raffles with tickets going on sale from **Monday 12th March** in each class. There will be prizes of 3 Easter eggs per class and there will also be 2 separate Key Stage raffles (P1-4 and P5-7 respectively) for 3 other prizes. We encourage pupils to bring in their money daily from next Monday. The raffle draws will take place on **Wednesday 28th March**.

EASTER OBLIGATION:

Fr. Thomas and priests of the parish will visit school on **Wednesday 14th March** for the purpose of hearing CONFESSIONS during this Lenten period.

EASTER BREAK:

School will close at **11.00am on Thursday 29th March** for ALL pupils. There will be NO dinners on this day. School will resume again for Term 3 on **Monday 9th April**.

CREDIT UNION QUIZ:

The rescheduled Chapter Level competition will now take place on **Friday 9th March** in Armagh City Hotel at 7.00pm. We wish Aimee, Orlaith, Lochlan, Conall and Anna the best of luck following their competition win earlier in the year.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

We wish the Primary 4 pupils, parents and staff well as they continue with their preparations for the children to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation/First Penance at 6.00pm on **Wednesday 14th March** in advance of our Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 13th May.

SERVICE OF LIGHT:

The Service of Light for Primary 7 pupils will now take place at **7.30pm on Thursday 12th April**.

PARISH NEWS:

Fr Peter has asked me to inform parents of the following: A special Novena of Prayer in honour of St Patrick will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral and in St Malachy's Church, **Armagh from 8 -16 March**. On the eve of St Patrick's Day, Friday 16th, there will be a special **celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral at 6pm** at which the Novena of Prayer will be closed. It's hoped that the main celebrant will be Archbishop Jude Oklo who is the new Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland. This will be his first visit to Armagh and to the See of St Patrick, since he was appointed to represent the Holy See in Ireland a few months ago.

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS:

Primary schools will post out letters to parents of children due to commence primary school in September 2018 on **Thursday 26th April** indicating which school their child has secured a place.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS / UNIFORM GRANT ALLOWANCE:

Please find attached updated information on eligibility criteria for pupil entitlement:

In partnership,

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S. Mc Kinley
PRINCIPAL