



2018/2019 Term 1a

Our new nursery and P1 pupils have settled well into their new classes, as have all our other pupils. September is a very busy month for pupils, teachers and parents. Thank you for having your children so well prepared and presented for the year ahead. We are very proud of our uniform and reputation and want to maintain our high standards. Please ensure that all your child's items are labelled with their name to ensure that they are easily returned when misplaced.

Two newsletters will be produced per term to keep parents updated with what is happening in school. In our quest to again become an officially recognised Eco School we are aiming to reduce the amount of paper we use. Therefore, all future newsletters will be available on the new school website and paper copies will only be available in the office for those who have difficulty accessing these.

## BACK TO SCHOOL GENERAL INFORMATION BOOKLET

Please remember to read your booklet, it contains very useful information about times, staff, pupil arrivals and departures, uniform and medical issues.

## WEBSITE

The school website is a great source of information. You can obtain up-to-date information such as events, dinner menus, messages, forms, school calendar and to view photos and information about what your child is doing in class.



Remember also to download the **Schools NI** app, onto your phone and sign up for the emails and messages through the home page of our website. This is how we aim to communicate with parents in the future as this is free in comparison to our current text messaging service which can be quite expensive

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is brilliant to see so many pupils taking part in after school activities. We hope to offer a wide range of activities throughout the year. We are always open to new ideas. Please ensure that your child is well prepared for their activities. Please remember that all pupils should be collected at 3.45pm. We will always endeavour to keep activities going but on some occasions we may have to cancel due to persistent rain/snow. If this happens you will be advised by text.

**OCTOBER PARENTS' MEETINGS** Parent/teacher interviews will take place week beginning Monday 22nd October. During these meetings you will be able to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. School will end at 1pm (after lunch) for all pupils, every day that week.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 24<sup>th</sup> September  
P5/6 visit to Loughgall-Orange Tree Festival  
P4/5 Assembly
- 26<sup>th</sup> September  
P4/5 Shared Education Day 2 at St Patrick's PS
- 28<sup>th</sup> September  
Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning 9.30 am
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
Family and Individual school photos
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
P4/5 Shared Education Day 3 at St Patrick's PS  
KS2 Library Van visit
- 4<sup>th</sup> October  
PTA meeting 7pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> October  
P6/7 Cross Country (Lurgan Park )
- 17<sup>th</sup> October  
KS1 Library Van visit
- 22<sup>nd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
Parent/Teacher meetings
- 24<sup>th</sup> October Clothing Collection
- 29<sup>th</sup> October  
P1-P7 Glow Party
- 31<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov  
Half-Term

## NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please remember we have a number of pupils in school with nut allergies. It is therefore important that **NO** child brings NUTS or products containing nuts into school.

## SCHOOL MEALS

School meals cost **£2.60 per day and £13** for a full week. Cheques should be made payable to Education Authority - Southern Region. Please ensure that all dinner money is paid on a Monday for the week ahead, unless your child is absent. Money can then be sent in when your child returns. If your child/children are entitled to Free School Meals, please ensure that you complete the forms as soon as possible (even if you don't intend taking FSM every day). For more details or to download an application form please visit ([www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/](http://www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/)) This makes a difference also to our school budget.



## SCHOOL ARRIVALS AND PICK UP

Please remember pupils should **not** be left on school grounds before **8.40am**. Parents can walk their children to the black gates at the front or back each morning and then encourage them to continue to their relevant door on their own. P1 parents may still be coming to the P1 cloakroom door at this stage but please try to make the drop off as quickly as possible to avoid pupils becoming upset, they do settle very quickly. Mornings are a very busy time for teachers and they are not available to chat with parents at this time. Please pass on important messages through the office or by a note to your child's teacher. School starts at 8.50am, so please try to have your child at school before this time so they can enter their class by the appropriate door and get ready and settled for the day ahead. The staff have noticed that pupils who arrive late and have to enter by the front door become upset as they are not ready and settled like the rest of the class.

## PARKING

Please drive carefully and park in the designated parents' parking area in front of the MUGA. No parents should be parking in the school kitchen carpark unless they have obtained permission, this is for kitchen staff only and delivery vehicles. Please leave the bus stop clear and do not double park along the front of the school, beside the disabled spaces. This causes great difficulty for the bus driver who needs clear access to enter and exit the car park on time. The lowered kerb area in front of the nursery is an ideal place for dropping pupils off, please do not park over this area or leave your car here unattended. There are two allocated disabled parking spaces for those who genuinely need them. Thank you for your assistance with this.



## HEAD LICE

Please check your child's hair regularly using a special nit comb and treat if necessary. We have already had some reported cases of head lice. Long hair should be tied back.

## MUSIC PAYMENTS

Please ensure that all music payments and forms are returned by **1<sup>st</sup> October**, thank you.

## SCHOOL PENS

School pens will be on sale in school from Monday at a cost of £2.50. They are navy and silver and are black ballpoint pens.



## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Opus Photography will be in school on Tuesday 2nd October to take photos. A form will be going home this week for you to indicate whether you would like a family, individual or no photo. As in past years, family photos with brothers and sisters who do not attend our school can be taken in the school hall from 8.30 am that morning.

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 9.30-11.30 am.

P7 are planning to hold a coffee morning on Friday morning in the hall. We hope as many parents and friends can call at some time during the morning for some tea/coffee and buns. If you can't attend and would like to make a donation, please forward it with your child in an envelope.

We would like to ask that all **P4-P7 families** send in some buns or cakes to help with this. **REMEMBER NUT FREE PLEASE.** We would really appreciate if it could all be in school by **Thursday afternoon**. I know there are some great bakers amongst our pupils, parents and grandparents. Thank you in advance for your support for this charity.



The pupils will be making buns in their classes and will have their own special break time on Friday morning consisting of buns and a drink. Please send in a donation with your child (50p suggestion) and they can put this in the Macmillan collection box

## CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to offer our warm congratulations to Mrs Neill and her husband as they look forward to having a new addition to their family in December. Obviously this means Mrs Neill will not be with us in school from the beginning of November. In her absence P4/5 will be covered by Miss Barnes (our P7 teacher) on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday and we will inform you who is covering on a Wednesday and Thursday as soon as it has been confirmed. We wish Mrs Neill every blessing as she starts this new chapter in her life. I can assure you that great planning is taking place to ensure that the handover to the new teachers will be smooth, with minimal disruption to the pupils in P4/5.

## NEW HOUSE CAPTAINS

Annaghmore- Penny Willis and Charlie Beattie

Ardrress - Jane Mullen and Matthew Johnston

Argory - Gabrielle McConnell and Matthew Livingstone

Tullyroan - Juliana Hayes and Matthew Neill

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

P4- Leah Platt and Max Brown

P5- Rachel Hamilton and Ben Carson

P6- Ellie-Mae Stewart and Joseph Kane

P7- Jenna Matchett and Carter Dobson

We wish these pupils well as they take on their new positions of responsibility. This is great preparation for roles of responsibility at High School. We hope all last year's P7s have now settled into their new schools, we miss you and wish you well as you start the next chapter in your education. We are delighted and very proud when we hear of our past pupils becoming prefects, head boys and girls.

## SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Thank you to all those P4/5 parents who joined us for assembly this morning, it was lovely for you to share in our morning worship. On the fourth Monday of each month a class leads our Monday morning assembly and this year we thought we would extend the invitation to parents to come in and see your children lead assembly. The pupils really enjoy leading worship and your children will invite you when it is their turn. We realise that many parents are working so please do not feel under any pressure to attend, the invitation is simply there if it suits you.

**SOCIAL MEDIA** As a school we are aware of the impact of social media. Can I ask that we do not discuss school issues through this means. If you have a problem, please phone school and speak to myself or one of the teachers. The reputation of our school is very important to the staff and to our children and it is so easy to say something in the heat of a moment on social media which can cause damage. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

## SHARED EDUCATION DATES

After the success of P5 and 6 last year, we are delighted that every class in both schools will be involved this year in shared learning experiences with St. Patrick's PS, Annaghmore. Our schools will be working together to provide exciting new learning experiences; they will share staff and resources.



- P1 – P3 will focus on developing Play indoors and out;
- P4/5 will focus on developing World Around Us through the theme of Castles.
- P6/7 will continue to develop Coding Skills through ICT.

Hopefully you have all received and returned the letter detailing the days and activities that your children will be involved in Shared Education. This is year 2 of our project and all the staff were very keen to involve all pupils in the project this year. The staff have greatly benefitted from working with teachers from another school and have made great friendships.

On our first day of the P4/5 project last Wednesday it was lovely to see the pupils having conversations and fun with each other. Shared Education is about schools from different sectors, providing opportunities for pupils, staff and the community to engage in collaborative and meaningful learning experiences. Our staff will always be with your children on their visits to St. Patrick's and they will only be involved in activities that the staff have planned together. Both schools receive financing to run the programmes and we have benefitted from obtaining a number of resources which our school budget would not be able to cover.

If you have any concerns or questions please speak to our Shared Education Coordinator, Mrs Neill or myself.

## PTA

We are very grateful to our PTA who donated £1000 for outdoor play for P1-3. We were able to purchase scooters and two storage sheds for the outdoor equipment. The foundation staff and pupils are delighted with these new resources; this has really made a difference to their outdoor play. Please continue to support the PTA as their focus for this year is to replace the interactive whiteboards in the classrooms. They have planned a number of events for the pupils and parents.



- **Glow Party - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October** P1-3 6.30-7.15pm, P4-7 7.30-8.30pm  
This will be a half term party where pupils may come in brightly coloured clothes. There will be games, a DJ and a tuck shop. Cost will be £3 per pupil. Further details will follow.
- **Christmas Craft Fair - Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
The PTA plan to hold a craft fair with lots of Christmas stalls and activities. If any parent is interested in booking a table, please contact the school or a member of the PTA for further details. Keep the date in your diary.
- **Cash for Clobber Collection- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
Clothes can be put in the clothing bank at the side of the school at any time or black bin bags can be left in school on the morning of the collection. We would like to encourage you to contribute your used or unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, hats, scarves, bed linen and curtains. This raises funds for the school according to the weight of the bags collected.
- **Easy Fundraising**  
Please remember to download the app and register to raise funds for school when you purchase items online.

### CASH FOR CLOBBER.ie

Clothing Recycling.  
The easy way to  
generate cash  
for your School.  
we weigh. we pay.



 [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk)  
feel good shopping





