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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new session. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful year for our pupils and school - our first full year in the new building! We particularly welcome our new Primary 1 pupils and their parents/carers to the school; we look forward to working together as the pupils continue on their educational journey. There is a list of dates for your diary at the end of this Newsletter. I have also attached the holiday list for Session 2017-2018.

Staff News

We welcome lots of new members of staff to the St Patrick's team this session. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Coggins, Mrs Forbes and Mr Forde to the teaching team. Mrs Duffy will join our team shortly as our Nurture Teacher. We welcome Mrs McFarlane, who will be supporting learning in the Early Years, and Mrs McClintock who joined our Support Staff team.



Uniforms

 I am delighted to see our pupils wearing the school's uniform - it looks magnificent. Thank you. Please ensure that each pupil's belongings are easily identifiable by putting their names on every item of clothing and every belonging. During the year there will be special occasions when I ask that a shirt and tie be worn instead of a polo shirt.

PE Kits

Please ensure that pupils wear appropriate clothing (shorts and T-shirt) and footwear (sandshoes or trainers) for PE to ensure that they can participate fully. If your child is unable to participate in PE please provide a letter giving a suitable explanation. It is Inverclyde Education Policy that no jewellery should be worn during PE. Pupils will not be allowed to participate in PE if they are wearing items of jewellery.



PE Timetable

P1a - Monday (pm), Tuesday (pm)

P4 - Monday (am), Friday (pm)

P1b - Monday (pm), Tuesday (pm)

P5 - Tuesday (am), Thursday (am)

P2 - Thursday (pm), Friday (am)

P6 - Thursday (am), Friday (am)

P2/3 - Wednesday (am), Thursday (pm)

P6/7 - Monday (am), Wednesday (pm)

P3/4 - Wednesday (am), Thursday (pm)

P7 - Tuesday (am), Friday (pm)

School Values and Logo Competition

Last session we consulted with the whole school community about our school values. I would like to thank the Pupil Council for all of their hard work in gathering views, collating responses and finalising the values. I am very proud of our new values and feel they encompass the spirit of the community of St Patrick's Primary.

Kindness is at the heart of all we do.

Members of St Patrick's Community are guided by the **3 Rs; Respect, Rights and Responsibility;** and the **2 As; Ambitious to Achieve.**

Children have been challenged to design a logo that illustrates these values in an eye-catching, memorable way. Designs should be on an **A4 page** and can be drawn, printed or painted and brought to school no later than **Friday, 25th August.**

Pupil Council



Our current Pupil Council representatives have been fabulous. They have worked very hard to ensure that our children's views were shared during Pupil Council meetings and then information provided to their classmates. It was especially important to have quality members during our decant and move back home. I would like to thank our current reps for their dedication and commitment. Elections for new Pupil Council representatives will be held on **Friday, 1st September.** Current Pupil Council representatives can stand for re-election, if they wish. I would encourage parents/carers to discuss this opportunity with the children and support them to prepare a fair "campaign", and to discuss the importance of voting for a candidate who will represent the class well.

Inhalers/Medicine Information

If your child requires medicine to be administered in school please bring the medicine to the school office where a form should be completed with the appropriate information.



All medicines should be in their original bottle or packaging with the dispensing chemist label clearly visible. Pupils who have an inhaler should have an inhaler with them at all times. Please provide an extra inhaler for storage in class, just in case of emergencies. Children who require an inhaler should know how to take them by themselves with adult supervision. Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to make sure that inhalers and all medicines are in date.

Breakfast Club



The Breakfast Club will start back on **Tuesday, 22nd August** from **8.00am - 8.45am.** The club runs on a **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.** Pupils can have cereal, toast and a drink. The club is free of charge and is open to all. Entrance is via the canteen doors to the side of the building.

Attendance

It is important that if your child is absent, for any reason, you phone the school to notify us of the absence **by 9:15am** on the morning of each day of absence. A letter explaining the absence should be brought to school when your child returns from being absent. If your child's attendance falls below a certain level a letter informing you of your child's level of attendance will be sent to you.



Illness

Please remember that viruses and bugs spread very quickly in the school setting. Please keep us informed if your child is suffering from an infectious illness and do not send them to school if they are unwell. Please also see the recent letter regarding infectious diseases affecting one of our pupils.



Appointments



If your child has a medical appointment within the school hours please send a note of the date and time to the class teacher, or phone the school office in the morning. Your child should be collected by calling at the school office.

Latecoming

It is important that children arrive in time for school. It helps them prepare for class starting and it is essential that children don't miss out on any learning for progress to be made. However, we understand that lateness is inevitable on occasion. It is important that if a child is late, he/she enters the school via the main office.



Arrival

Both the front and back gates giving access to the playground are open from 8.30am and are closed again at 9am when the bell rings. The playground is supervised from 8.45am. Any children who will arrive after 9am should report to the office to gain entry to the school. Prospecthill Street gate should not be used for entry after 9am. Parents/Carers must ensure that children who are late come to the reception office at Broomhill Street entrance.

Dismissal

Children are dismissed at 3pm. Any P1 and P2 pupils who have not been collected will be escorted to the office by their teacher. Pupils from P3-P7 can leave by either gate but please ensure your child knows which gate they are to use. P3-P7 pupils should go to the office if they are expecting to be collected and no one has turned up for them, where someone will call home for them.

We appreciate that delays and unforeseen circumstances can occasionally happen which may result in you being late to collect your child. Please telephone the office as early as possible to notify us that you will be late so we can notify your child.

School Secure Entry System



All visitors to the school must use the main entrance. To gain access, please push the button marked "School Office" located on the wall at the right-hand side of the main door. Any pupils requiring access after 9am should use this door as all other doors are locked. Please note that the only adults allowed in our playground are school staff, this is to ensure the safety of our children.

Parental Contacts and Annual Data Check and Consent Forms

Please ensure that you return the Annual Data Check forms that your child will be bringing home this week so that we can update our records. It is important that contact details are always up-to-date to ensure we can contact you quickly in the event that your child is unwell. It is also essential that you keep us informed of any medical conditions that may affect your child so that we can ensure the health and wellbeing of your child.



School Funds



To help us continue to provide additional opportunities for our pupils we collect School Funds on a weekly basis. Please send your child with School Funds on a Monday. We request that you send 50p per week per child, or £1 for a family. We always strive to keep the cost of the school year at a minimum by subsidising or fully paying for school trips and events. This is only possible if all families fully contribute to School Funds. If you would prefer to pay school funds in a lump sum, for the whole year the total amount is £19.50 per child, or £39 for a family.

Wet Days

Please note that pupils will be brought into school on wet days in the morning **from 8.45am**. During wet plays pupils remain in class at interval and lunch time, supervised by P7 monitors and Support Staff. Pupils should bring in a puzzle book, colouring book, or something similar, to ensure that they can be actively engaged during wet plays.



Communication



Here at St Patrick's we strive to get it right for all of our children, and we hope that our parents/carers know that we appreciate your input and support to help us get it right. We value the opinions of our parents/carers and work hard to promote a friendly atmosphere in our school, so that parents/carers feel welcome. Please contact the School Office to arrange to see myself or Mrs Ogilby if you wish to discuss any matter. It is important to us that you know that we want to work in partnership to provide the best experiences and outcomes possible for our children. If you feel we could do something better, or want to voice a concern, we're happy to hear from you directly.

Outdoor Learning

Despite the usual Scottish weather, we are hopeful that we will be able to take the learning outside during this term! Please consider protecting your children from the sun by sending them to school with a hat/cap and using sun cream. Even when it is cloudy, it is important to protect our children from the sun.



Car Park



Please remember that the car park is for **staff use only**. Parents/Carers and families should **not** park in the school car park or use it to drop off or collect children. Help us to keep our children safe.

Nut Free School



Please remember St Patrick's is a nut free school as some of our pupils have nut allergies. Please help us keep our children safe and healthy and do not give your child any snacks containing nuts, or sandwiches with nut spreads such as peanut butter or "Nutella".

Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council is on **29th August at 7pm** in the school. Parent Council meetings are very welcoming so please come along and help us continue to strengthen our partnership working. Save the date in your diary for the Parent Council **Annual General Meeting** on **26th September at 7pm** in the school.



Swimming

Primary 5 will be taking part in swimming lessons once per week from **30th October 2017 until 11th December 2017**. Primary 4 will have lessons in the new year. Further details will follow.

Twitter



Please follow us on Twitter. It is a great way to keep up to date with school life as staff photograph as much as they can so Mrs Ogilby can update Twitter! **@StPatricksPS15**



August 2017 Newsletter

We value your views

Please let us know if you are particularly pleased about something or have any suggestions or comments.

Child's Name _____ Child's Class _____

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 29.08.17 | Parent Council Meeting - 7.00pm |
| 30.08.17 | P7 Trip to Castle Semple - details to follow |
| 04.09.17 | Local Holiday |
| 10.09.17 | Doors Open Day - St Patrick's Primary School will be open to the public for tours from 10am-3pm on Sunday, 10 th September. Tours every half hour from 10am. Last tour at 2:30pm. |
| 26.09.17 | Parent Council AGM - 7.00pm |
| 29.09.17 | P7 Vocations Mass at 11am in St Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley |
| 16.10.17 - 20.10.17 | October Holiday |
| 23.10.17 | In-service Day for Staff. Pupils do not attend school. |
| 24.10.17 | Pupils return to school |

Inverclyde School Holidays 2017-2018

Return date for teachers - Tuesday 15 August 2017

Inservice day - Tuesday 15 August 2017

Inservice day - Wednesday 16 August 2017

Return date for pupils - Thursday 17 August 2017

Schools close - Friday 01 September 2017

Local holiday - Monday 04 September 2017

Return date for teachers - Tuesday 05 September 2017

Return date for pupils - Tuesday 05 September 2017

Schools close - Friday 13 October 2017

First mid-term - Monday 16 October 2017 - Friday 20 October 2017 (inclusive)

Inservice day - Monday 23 October 2017

Return date for teachers - Monday 23 October 2017

Return date for pupils - Tuesday 24 October 2017

Schools close - Wednesday 20 December 2017

Christmas holiday - Thursday 21 December 2017 - Wednesday 03 January 2018 (inclusive)

Return date for teachers - Thursday 04 January 2018

Return date for pupils - Thursday 04 January 2018

Schools close - Friday 09 February 2018

Second mid-term - Monday 12 February 2018 - Tuesday 13 February 2018 (inclusive)

Inservice day - Wednesday 14 February 2018

Return date for teachers - Wednesday 14 February 2018

Return date for pupils - Thursday 15 February 2018

Schools close - Thursday 29 March 2018

Good Friday - Friday 30 March 2018

Easter Monday - Monday 02 April 2018

Easter holiday - Monday 02 April 2018 - Monday 16 April 2018 (inclusive)

Return date for teachers - Tuesday 17 April 2018

Return date for Pupils - Tuesday 17 April 2018

May day - Monday 07 May 2018

Return date for teachers - Tuesday 08 May 2018

Return date for pupils - Tuesday 08 May 2018

Schools close - Thursday 24 May 2018

May holiday - Friday 25 May 2018 - Monday 28 May 2018 (inclusive)

Inservice day - Tuesday 29 May 2018

Return date for teachers - Tuesday 29 May 2018

Return date for pupils - Wednesday 30 May 2018

Schools close - Thursday 28 June 2018

Summer Holiday - Friday 29 June 2018 - to be confirmed