

St. Patrick's Primary School
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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. 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 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 2018-2019.

Staff News



We welcome some new members of staff to the St Patrick's team this session. We are delighted to welcome Mrs McLean, our P6/7 teacher and Mrs Black, a new Classroom Assistant.

Uniforms

I am delighted to see our pupils wearing the school's uniform - it looks magnificent. Thank you. During the year there will be special occasions or events when I ask that a shirt and tie be worn instead of a polo shirt. Please put your child's name on every item of clothing and every belonging.



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 give your child's teacher a letter to explain this. 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	Wed (pm) and Thurs (pm)	P4	Mon (pm) and Thurs (am)
P1B	Wed (pm) and Thurs (pm)	P5	Tues (am) and Wed (am)
P2	Thurs (am) and Fri (pm)	P5/6	Mon (pm) and Fri (am)
P2/3	Tues (am) and Fri (pm)	P6/7	Tues (pm) and Fri (am)
P3	Mon (am) and Tues (pm)	P7	Wed (am) and Fri (pm)

Primary 1 Lunch in the Canteen

As P1 children will soon be spending all day here at school, we would like to invite P1 Parents to come along for lunch on **FRIDAY 31st AUGUST at 11.15am** to give you and your child a 'flavour' of our lunch-time routine.

If you would like to come along please complete and return the form issued to P1 pupils at the beginning of the week.

Jesus, the Teacher, Icon

To celebrate the Icon of Jesus, the Teacher, coming to our Parish as part of the celebrations of 100 years of Catholic Schools in Scotland, there will be a Cluster Prayer Service in Notre Dame High on Wednesday 29th August at 7pm to which all staff, pupils and parents of St Patrick's Primary are invited. Please come along to celebrate and give thanks for our fabulous Catholic schools which serve our community so well.



Pupil Council



Our current Pupil Council representatives have been a credit to the school. They have worked very hard to help improve the school by sharing their views and the views of their classmates. Elections for new Pupil Council representatives will be held on Friday, 21st 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. **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 started back on **Tuesday, 21st 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. We are hoping to have Active Schools deliver fun activities one morning per week for children once they've had their breakfast.

Attendance

Attendance and good timekeeping are very important to us in St Patrick's. We know our children learn better when they have good attendance. If your child is absent from school, for any reason, 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 90% a letter will be sent to you to inform you. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss this.



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. A letter regarding infectious diseases is attached.



Appointments



If your child has a medical appointment within 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 to school, he/she enters the school via the main office. Our younger children should be brought into the School Office by parents/carers.



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 his/her home time arrangements before they come to school in the morning, and which gate they are to use at home time. P3-P7 pupils should go to the office after 3pm if they are expecting to be collected and no one has come 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. Phone calls too close to 3pm make it difficult to get the message to children before the bell.

School Secure Entry System

All visitors to the school must use the main entrance. To notify Office Staff that you are there, 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 have brought 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.



House Points System



In St Patrick's, all our children belong to a House. Our houses are; Broomhill, Lyle Hill, Prospecthill and Whinhill. Every child is allocated a house to belong to. Throughout the day, children can earn points from staff members for displaying the School Values; the **3Rs (Respect, Rights and Responsibility)**, the **2As (Ambitious to Achieve)** and **Kindness** at the heart of everything we do. At the end of each term, the House with the most points gets to choose a special treat eg playing on the pitch or playing in the gym hall or watching a DVD. Please talk to your child about which house they belong to and encourage them to earn their House some points.

School Funds

To help us continue to provide additional opportunities for our pupils we collect School Funds every week. Please send your child with School Funds on a Monday. We request that you pay 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 £20 per child, or £40 for a family. All parents can now pay school funds via Parent Pay in a lump sum or any sum from £1 to a total of £20 for the year (much easier than finding change on a Monday!).



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.

P4 and P7 Sacraments

A letter has already gone home to parents/carers of P4 and P7 children with details of First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. The letter gives details of dates and events. Please keep it safe so you can refer to it throughout the year.



P7 Residential Trip to Ardmay

Our P7 pupils will once again have the opportunity to spend a week at Ardmay taking part in all sorts of exciting outdoor learning activities. This year's trip will run from February 18th to 22nd. Further details to follow.

Outdoor Learning

Despite the usual Scottish weather, we are hopeful that we will be able to take the learning outside during this term! Please ensure that your child always has a rain jacket with them and a hat or sun cream if sunny.



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 **Tuesday, 11th September at 7pm** in the school. Parent Council meetings are very welcoming so please come along and help us continue to strengthen our partnership working. Watch out for the Parent Council **Annual General Meeting** date which will be announced soon.



Swimming

Primary 4 will be taking part in swimming lessons once per week on a Wednesday from 29th August 2018 until 10th October 2018.

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 2018 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



29.08.18	P4 Swimming
31.08.18	P1 Lunch with Parents - 11.15am
03.09.18	Local Holiday
04.09.18	In Service Day - Pupils should not attend
29.08.18	Cluster Prayer Service - NDHS - 7pm
05.09.18	P4 Swimming
06.09.18	P4 to Viking Festival, Largs
11.09.18	Parent Council Meeting - 7pm
12.09.18	P4 Swimming
19.09.18	P4 Swimming
26.09.18	P4 Swimming
01.10.18	Flu Immunisation
03.10.18	P4 Swimming
05.10.18	P7 Vocations Mass - St Mirin's Cathedral (am)
10.05.18	P4 Swimming
11.10.18	P1-P4 Childsmile Flouride Varnish
15.10.18 - 19.10.18	October Holiday
22.10.18	In-service Day for Staff. Pupils do not attend school.
23.10.18	Pupils return to school

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24th August 2018

Dear Parent

Re: Childhood Infectious Diseases especially Measles, Chicken Pox and Shingles

Please may we ask for your co-operation in this important matter.

One of our pupils is receiving treatment for a medical condition which puts them at risk from measles, chicken pox and shingles. If they come into contact with anyone suffering from these conditions the pupil requires to be given some protection against them.

We would ask therefore that if your child develops measles, chicken pox or shingles that you inform us immediately so that appropriate action may be taken.

Your child is not at risk from this situation, however, the health of our pupil does depend on your co-operation in this matter.