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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the December Newsletter. At this time of year the school is such a busy place so I hope we've managed to capture all of the events and news for you. Please see the list of dates at the end of this Newsletter for your information. Please keep an eye on your emails and Twitter for more up-to-date information as it becomes available. During this season of Advent we help the children to meaningfully prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas.

### Congratulations

The St Patrick's family continues to grow! We send our love and congratulations to Mrs Elder, Mr Elder and Ethan on the safe arrival of baby Owen! He is a beautiful boy! Mrs Elder has promised to visit us before Christmas so Ethan can show off his baby brother!



### Sacraments



Thanks to our parents/carers of our Primary 4 and Primary 7 pupils and Fr Gerry for coming to our meetings about the Sacraments. These meetings were very well attended and we know that working together means that the experiences are more meaningful for the children.

### Primary 4

Please remember that the **Mass of Commitment is on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December in St Patrick's Church at 11am** for our Primary 4 children who wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. All children and families should attend this Mass.



The next important date to remember is the **Mass of Enrolment on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, in St Patrick's Church at 11am.**

### Primary 7



A huge thank you to our Primary 7 pupils, who turned teachers at our parents/carers meeting. Our pupils confidently taught us about their journey towards Confirmation and led us in prayer, as well as reminding us of how important we, the adults, are in helping them continue on their journey of faith. Well done to all of our Primary 7s for making the meeting such a special evening. Thanks also to our children and families for making the Mass of Commitment a special parish event too. We were very proud of our children.

The next important date to remember is **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June.** This is the **Mass of Sending to the Cathedral** for our Primary 7s, at **11am in St Patrick's Church.**

## Christmas Performances

Each family has been allocated 3 tickets. Everyone attending the show must have a ticket. This includes babies/children regardless of their age (no babies/children are permitted without a ticket). This is because Health and Safety regulations apply to the maximum number of people in the hall, and not the number of seats in the hall. Prams must be left in the open area beside the hall. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. **Please note that the audience is required to stay for the whole afternoon.** If you are unable to attend the whole performance, I would ask you not to attend at all, and instead give your ticket to someone who can stay for the whole afternoon. I am sure that you'll understand how disruptive this would be to the performances but, more importantly, how disheartening it would be for our children if the audience started to leave, or if they had to perform to a reduced audience.



While we don't charge for our Christmas Performance tickets the Parent Council will be holding a raffle each day should you wish to bring some change to purchase tickets.

## Christmas Dinner

 Our annual Christmas Dinner will take place on **Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December**. For children not in receipt of free school meals the cost will be the usual £2. Letters have been issued so you can request a Christmas Dinner for your child - please check school bags. Children not having Christmas dinner should bring a packed lunch.

## Christmas Bling Day Fundraiser Supporting Inverclyde Foodbank

Our Charities Pupil Voice Group have decided that the school will support Inverclyde Foodbank again this year. While we enjoy our Christmas Dinner, they feel it would be a good idea to help others less fortunate to enjoy their Christmas dinner too. Our Charities Group therefore ask that on **Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December** pupils add a bit of Christmas sparkle to their uniform - it could be a hat, a hairband, some tinsel, antlers or whatever they wish and in return bring an item for the Foodbank's Christmas Appeal. They are looking for any of the following:

Tinned Ham, Fray Bentos Pie, Christmas Pudding, Shortbread, Box of Chocolates, Snacks/Nibbles, Festive Treats, UHT Milk, Fizzy Juice, Tinned Veg, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Potatoes, Selection Boxes. Box of Biscuits.

Please help our Charities Group spread some Christmas cheer.

## Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will take place this year on **Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December**. Children can come to school wearing their Christmas party clothes. Children will play games, and enjoy fun times with their classmates. I'm told there may even be dancing!

## Cost of the School Day

Throughout Scotland, schools are looking at how much it costs families to get their children to school each day and how in this time of austerity it can be reduced. As a staff, (teachers, support staff and admin), we discussed this. We love working with your children and the support you give our school community never fails to amaze us. At Christmas time and summer we are overwhelmed by your generosity towards us all. However, this adds to your expense and stress and that is the last thing we wish to do, so please don't buy gifts for school staff. We are asking that going forward you use your

time and money to focus on your families and others more in need. You show your appreciation for us in so many other ways throughout the year!

### Storyteller Session



The school would like to thank Mrs Susan Wilson for visiting our Primary 2 and 3 classes last month to regale our children with her delightful storytelling. Susan offers her unique talents to us free of charge, supported by Smiths of Greenock.

### Traffic Lights

Traffic lights are being installed at the junction of Broomhill St/Drumfrochar Rd. This will cause some disruption, but should not impact on children safely crossing to school. The work should be completed by the end of January if weather permits.

### Carol Singing

A group of our P6 and P7 girls gave up their Saturday afternoon to entertain the pensioners of St Patrick's Parish at their annual Christmas dinner. Well done and thank you to them all.



Many of those present have contacted us to say how special it made their day.

Mrs Ogilby will also be taking some children from P6 and P7 to entertain the community with their Carol Singing. The residents at some of our local nursing homes and the shoppers of Tesco, Greenock will be in for a treat! Parents/Carers will be notified separately if their children are involved.

**Instrumental Performance** - Our fabulous string instrumentalists will showcase their talents on the morning of Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December. Parents of children involved will be sent an invitation to attend.

### Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club will continue until **Thursday, 20th December** - and will start again on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019**.

### Primary 1 Registration

Children who reach the age of five years between - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, should



be registered for primary school on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019**.

Surnames beginning A to L should register on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and surnames beginning M to Z should be register on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Parents must register in their chosen denomination or non-denominational catchment primary school between the hours of **1.30pm and 3.00pm**. You must register your child in the catchment denominational or non-denominational school **even if you are considering a placing request for another school**. **The following documents are required for registration:-**

- Your child's birth certificate
- Council Tax demand notice for the current year, or lease/tenancy agreement in your name.

A further item from the list below is also required.

- utility bill (i.e. gas, electricity, landline telephone or broadband) in your name and dated within the last six months.
- Your Tax Credit Award Notice

## Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will be on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7pm** in the school. It was great to see some new faces at our last meeting. Please come along and support our partnership working. **All parents/ carers are welcome.** It's a great opportunity to be part of the conversation about how the school can keep improving for all of our children. Please don't be shy!



I would like to thank the Parent Council for hosting discos for our pupils a couple of weeks ago in the school hall. These events were so well organised and the children had a great time! I even learned how to do the Cotton Eye Joe dance! My legs are yet to recover!

## 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.

## Focus on Children's Rights

This month please ask your children about their right to **Article 30 - The Right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose.**



## School Funds

Our parents/carers have expressed a wish that we continue to collect School Funds. Some parents have chosen to pay this online via ParentPay, and some give their children 50p to pay weekly in class. This money allows us to provide outings/trips/treats for the children without asking for any additional money from our families. This term, our School Funds is going directly to fund Pantomime tickets, buses and trips. Payment is 50p per week per child or £1 per family and is collected on a Monday morning.



## 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**



## December 2018 Newsletter

### We value your views

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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



05.12.18	Family Learning Club - Canteen
06.12.18	Flu Immunisations
09.12.18	P4 Mass of Commitment - 11am - St Patrick's Church
12.12.18	Family Learning Club - Canteen
11.12.18	Nativity and School Show
12.12.18	Nativity and School Show
13.12.18	Nativity and School Show
14.12.18	Whole School to Sleeping Beauty Panto at the Beacon
17.12.18	P7 Eye Screening
18.12.18	Christmas Parties - children to wear own clothes
19.12.18	Christmas Bling Day - uniform with a "bit of bling" (donations for Inverclyde Foodbank).
19.12.18	Christmas Lunch
21.12.18	End of Term Mass - 10am - St Patrick's Church. All families welcome. <b>School Closes 2.30pm for Christmas Holidays!</b>
<b>07.01.19</b>	<b>School Re-opens for all pupils and staff at 9am.</b>
09.01.19	P1 Registration for pupils with surnames A-L
09.01.19	Family Learning Club - Canteen
10.01.19	P1 Registration for pupils with surnames M-Z
14.01.19	<b>Stay and Play Introduction to Families Connect</b>
16.01.19	Family Learning Club - Canteen
23.01.19	P1 & P2 Choir to Inverclyde Music Festival - Class starts at 9.45 am
23.01.19	P3 & P3 Choir to Inverclyde Music Festival - Class starts at 10.30 (all pupils in P1-P4 will be attending)
23.01.19	Family Learning Club - Canteen
29.01.18	Parent Council Meeting - 7pm
30.01.19	Family Learning Club - Canteen