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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the December Newsletter. The school is such a busy place at this time of year 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 but 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.

Sacraments



Thank you to all our parents/carers who came along to our Primary 4 and Primary 7 meetings about the Sacraments. Thanks also to Fr Gerry for his support during this important time of preparation for our pupils. The meetings were very well attended and we know working together means that the experiences are more meaningful for the children.

Primary 4

Please remember that the **Mass of Commitment is on Sunday, 8th 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, 8th March, in St Patrick's Church at 11am.**



Primary 7



A huge thank you to our Primary 7 pupils, who took on the role of teachers very well 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 P7 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, 24th May**. This is the **Mass of Sending to the Cathedral** for our Primary 7s, at **11am in St Patrick's Church**.

Pupil Attendance - Raffle

Recently, before school holidays we have seen a dip in attendance. We would expect our pupils, if well, to be at school every day. There are no days in St. Patrick's where children are not learning, even when it is less visible (like vegetables in spaghetti bolognese). To encourage full attendance we are holding a 'last week' raffle. Each child gets a ticket each day they attend. The draw will take place on the afternoon of Friday 20th December during our 'St Patrick's Got Talent' show. Only pupils at school on the last day can win a prize, but full attendance will give them five chances of winning!

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will take place this year on **Tuesday, 17th 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!



Christmas Dinner

 Our annual Christmas Dinner will take place on **Thursday, 19th December**. Children not having Christmas dinner should bring a packed lunch on this day as there will be no other options available.

Christmas Bling Day Fundraiser Supporting Inverclyde Foodbank

After last year's success, 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 **Thursday, 19th December** pupils add a bit of Christmas sparkle to their uniform - it could be a hat, a hairband, some tinsel, antlers ... Payment will be to bring an item for the Foodbank's Christmas Appeal. Any of the following would be greatly appreciated: *Tinned Fruit, Tea Bags, Dried Pasta, Breakfast Cereals, Tinned Ham, Fray Bentos Pie, Christmas Pudding, Shortbread, Box of Chocolates, Snacks/Nibbles, Festive Treats, UHT Milk, Fizzy Juice, Tinned Veg, Tinned Potatoes, Selection Boxes, Box of Biscuits.*

Please help our Charities Group spread some Christmas cheer.



Christmas Performances

The children and staff have been working really hard to ensure that our Christmas performances will be a real treat for our audiences. **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. Prams must be left in the open area beside the hall. **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 it would be to the performances if our audience began to leave but, more importantly, how disheartening it would be for our children if they had to perform to a reduced audience. We don't charge for our Christmas Performances as we want to ensure that all our families have the chance to enjoy their children's hard work and input. The Parent Council will be holding a raffle each day should you wish to bring some change to purchase tickets. Any money raised goes to support the work of the Parent Council in supporting the pupils' experiences at school.



Costumes

P1 A and B Monday-Thursday: Each child has a costume in school. We ask that children wear school uniform with a polo shirt and a vest underneath (white vest for angels). Polo shirts will be taken off before putting costumes on.

P2-P7 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: own clothes which should be christmasy/partyish outfits for their performances. Please do not buy anything specifically for this.

Christmas - an expensive time!



The whole school staff, (teachers, support and admin staff) feel really lucky to have such supportive and generous parents and families. We love working with your children and so would like you to know that your support and trust is present enough for us. We understand that parents often like to buy staff a gift as a token of your appreciation at this time of year, however, this adds to the expense at Christmas time and so the staff have asked me to remind you not to buy gifts for school staff. You show your appreciation for us in so many other ways throughout the year! Thank you.

Carol Singing

Mrs Ogilby will be taking groups of carol singers out to entertain the community with their beautiful voices at various locations over the coming weeks. Parents/Carers will be notified separately if their children are involved.



Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club will continue until **Thursday, 19th December** and will start again on **Tuesday 7th January 2019**.

Primary 1 Registration

Children who reach the age of five years between - **1st March 2020 and 28th February 2021**, should be registered for Primary School on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th January 2020**.



- Pupils whose surname begins with the initials A to L should register on Wednesday 15th January 2020.
- Pupils whose surname begins with the initials M to Z should register on Thursday 16th January 2020.

Parents must register in their chosen denominational 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

P7 Residential Trip to Ardmay



An information session for parents of P7 pupils has been organised for **28th January** at 6pm in our school hall. I would encourage all parents/carers to attend this short meeting to gain an insight into the details of our P7 residential trip to Ardmay House at Loch Long from 17th-21st February of 2020. The Parent Pay account is active and so P7 parents can make payments of £10 or more. The full cost of the trip is £220.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will be on **Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7pm** in the school. 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! A huge thank you to the parents who gave their time to give our children a chance to dance!



Focus on Children's Rights

This month we'd like you to focus on **Article 14** with your child. **Every child has the right to practise their religion.**



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 2019 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



- 06.12.19 Sportshall Athletics
- 08.12.19 P4 Mass of Commitment. 11am in St Patrick's Church. All children and parents/carers to attend.
- 08.12.19 Primary Advent Day in St Joseph's, Greenock
- 09.12.19 P4 (P4/5 class) Swimming
- 09.12.19 Dress Rehearsals for Christmas Performances
- 10.12.10 Christmas Show for P1a, P1b, P2/3 & P4 parents
- 11.12.19 Christmas Show for P2, P5/6 & P6 parents
- 12.12.19 Christmas Show for P3, P4/5 & P7 parents
- 13.12.19 Advent Reflections in canteen at 08:40-08:50. All welcome
- 13.12.19 Group of Carol Singers to Orchard View and Balclutha Court
- 16.12.19 Flu Immunisation
- 16.12.19 Group of Carol Singers to Alzheimer's Centre, Oak Mall and Merino Court
- 17.12.19 Christmas Parties
- 17.12.19 Group of Carol Singers to Broomhill Hub
- 18.12.19 Whole School to Jack & The Beanstalk Panto at The Beacon
- 18.12.19 Group of Carol Singers to Tesco
- 19.12.19 Christmas Bling Day - Bring a donation for the Foodbank
- 19.12.19 Christmas Lunch
- 20.12.19 Advent Reflections in canteen at 08:40-08:50 - All welcome
- 20.12.19 End of Term Mass at St Patrick's Church at 10:00 - All welcome
- 23.12.19-3.1.20 Holiday
- Mon 6.1.20 Children and staff return to school**
- 15.1.20 P7 Vision Screening
- 16.05.20 Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for P4, 10am St Patrick's Church**
- 27.05.20 Sacrament of Confirmation for P7, 7pm St Mirin's Cathedral**