

St. Patrick's Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

December already... time flies when you're packing and unpacking boxes! Welcome to our December Newsletter. I have attached an extensive list of dates for your diary.

New School Building

We have now been in our fabulous new St Patrick's building for a whole week and the feeling is that it was worth the wait. There are lots of exciting details in our new building and grounds and we're having fun exploring them. Every class has enjoyed a mini-assembly on the fancy new staircase and we're making our way round to ensure that every pupil gets a shot on the 'lumpy bumpy' area!

It was great to have such a good turnout at the Walk Round last Wednesday. All of our guests were very impressed. It was a real treat to be able to see the children's faces when they first saw inside the new building. All of our staff have been working tirelessly to move to the new building. During the 3 exceptional closure days staff pulled out all the stops to make the school as welcoming as possible for the children returning to school. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all staff for their commitment, dedication and hard work (and also to their family members who gave a helping hand too!).

We couldn't have done it alone. There are many people who helped throughout our move.

- John Ferrie and John Crighton from the School Estates Team have guided us through the whole moving process as well as helped to get the new building ready and familiar to us.
- Billy O'Hara and his team from Clockwork Removals Company have not just moved our boxes and furniture but have helped us set up areas throughout the school. We are very grateful for their continued support as we find new homes for **all** our resources!
- Alison Dorrian (Active Schools) and Christine Coombe (PE Development Officer) gave of their time to help organise our PE equipment and storage cupboard, as well as decorate our gym hall walls.
- Inverclyde's IT team have been available to support us in all things technical!
- Gerry Mitchell (Health and Safety) has given advice throughout.

We feel very lucky to be so well supported.

At this time, we are making notes of any snagging issues which inevitably come to light when moving into a new building. Snagging issues are being dealt with on an ongoing basis without causing disruption to the children's learning.

Christmas Performances



P1-P3 will perform their Nativity Story, "It's a Baby!" followed by P4-P7 classes performing a variety of Christmas songs on the afternoons of **Thursday, 15th** and **Friday, 16th**

December. I had originally hoped to be able to give each family 4 tickets over the 2 days but to adhere to health and safety policies it has been necessary to limit the number of tickets further. Each family will be given 2 tickets for one of the afternoon performances. Tickets and details will be sent out by the end of this week.

Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas Dinner will take place on **Wednesday, 14th December**. For children not in receipt of free school meals the cost will be £1.95. Please check school bags on Thursday for a letter enabling you to request a Christmas Dinner for your child.

Carol Singing

Members of our choir will be entertaining residents at some of our local nursing homes.



Letters will go home with children involved. A group of children will also sing at The Point restaurant on **Friday, 9th December** from 11.30am and again at 1.30pm. Please feel free to come along for lunch and be entertained.

Parent Council



Our Parent Council surprised the staff by sending in a 'school-warming' gift for the staff.

We very much appreciated the flowers, sweet snacks and tea/coffee. Thank you.

The next meeting of the Parent Council is **Tuesday 6th December at 6:30pm** in the school. Parent Council meetings are very welcoming so please come along and help us continue to strengthen our partnership working. All parents/carers are welcome.

Sacraments

Primary 7

Tue 28th Mar 17 Meeting for Parents and Sponsors in Church Hall at 6:30pm.



Primary 4

Thu 1st Dec 16 First Confession in St Patrick's Church at 1:30pm. Parents/Carers welcome.

Thu 12th Jan 17 1pm - Retreat in Church Hall for pupils.

Tue 24th Jan 17 First Communicants' Parents' Meeting - Church Hall at 6:30pm.

Tue 9th May 17 First Communicants' Parents' Meeting in School at 3pm (Children try on albs and tabards and parents/carers take them home).

Children in Need - Come As You Please



Thanks to everyone who supported our Children in Need fundraiser. Our non-uniform day raised **£245.55**.

Focus on Children's Rights

This month please talk with your children about their right to **Article 29**.



The right to an education that develops personality, talents and abilities to the fullest.

Car Park



It has come to my attention that there are parents using the car park when bringing children to school or picking them up at the end of the day. The car park is for staff use only. Please do not use the school car park. We have specifically talked to the children about safe pathways when entering and exiting the building and made it clear that they should not walk through the car park. I would appreciate the support of parents/carers in helping us to teach our children about staying safe by leading by example. Children benefit when they know that the school and their parents/carers are working together.

PE Kits

Children should bring soft shoes (sandshoes or trainers) and shorts and T-shirt to school on the days they have PE. Children will not be able to join in with PE without a suitable PE kit.

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!



<https://twitter.com/StPatricksPS15>

You can follow Miss McDade's P6/7 class and Mr McGregor's classes too ... **@missmcdade123** and

@mrmcgstpats

Other useful information such as lunch menus can be found on our website at...

<http://st-patricks.inverclyde.sch.uk>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 01.12.16 Parent Council Meeting in school.
- 02.12.16 P1-P3 Advent Service - School Hall - Parents/Carers welcome. Invite to follow.
- 04.12.16 Christmas Disco for P1-P3 at 2.00-3.15pm and P4- P7 at 3.45-5.15pm in St Patrick's Church Hall.
- 06.12.16 P5-P7 - Joint Carol Service with Whinhill Primary in St Patrick's School
- 11.12.16 Choir to perform at Friends of Ardgowan Hospice Concert.
- 08.11.16 Sports Assembly
- 08.11.16 P1-P3 - Road Safety Magic Show.
- 09.11.16 Story Telling Session for P1 and P2 - Mrs Susan Wilson.
- 14.12.16 Christmas Dinner in the Canteen. Details to follow.
- 15.12.16 PM - P1-P3 Nativity Performance. P4-P7 Christmas Performances. Details to follow.
- 16.12.16 PM - P1-P3 Nativity Performance. P4-P7 Christmas Performances. Details to follow.
- 19.12.16 Christmas Parties. Details to follow.
- 20.12.16 St Patrick's School and Community Carol Service in St Patrick's Church at 1.15pm. All welcome. Parents/Carers attending may take their children home after the service.
- 20.12.16 **School closes at 2:30pm for Christmas holidays.**



December 2016 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 _____