

St. Patrick's Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very busy start to 2017. We have been delighted to have a fresh year in our fresh building. I have attached a list of dates for your diary at the end of this newsletter ... there's lots going on!

Inverclyde Music Festival



Lots of celebrating in school over the past two weeks as St Patrick's pupils made us proud at the Inverclyde Music Festival. Congratulations to our Primary 1 boys and girls who gained First Place. Our Primary 2 children came 2nd as did our Primary 4 choir with Primary 3 coming third in the same class. Our Senior Choir also gained First Place with their performances and will also be performing at the Grand Concert on February 4th. Our solo vocalists and violinists have also been competing with great success.

School Activities

There are lots of activities currently on offer to various classes during lunch times and after school. Our school activity clubs are very ably supported by Active Schools and by our parent volunteers. Thanks to Mrs Dorrian, our Active Schools co-ordinator and all of the people who give of their time to provide our children with extra experiences to enhance their opportunities at school. We currently have Multiskills, Girls' Football, Netball, Graffiti Dance, Basketball and Cross Country. Our Athletics team gained 3rd place in the Inverclyde Athletics tournament. Well done to our Athletics team and thanks to Mrs Harvey and Mrs McGeehan for working with our athletics children during lunch time.



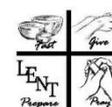
Official Opening



We now feel very much at home in our fantastic new building. However, the building has not yet been 'officially' opened. Inverclyde Council have arranged our Official Opening for Tuesday, 21st February. On that afternoon our P6 and P7 pupils will greet, welcome and 'show off' our fabulous school to many guests from the Council and Partner Agencies. The children in P7 have already begun work on their presentation for our guests. We look forward to seeing the faces of the guests as they wonder at our amazing school.

Lent

Lent begins on **Wednesday, 1st March 2017**. Fr John will visit the school to distribute ashes to the children and staff, and to help us begin our Lenten journey. During Lent this year we will fundraise for SCIAF. We hope that you will support the children in their efforts during



Lent to prepare for Easter. Primary 7 pupils will lead the children in Stations of the Cross throughout Lent.

Parent Council



The next meeting of the Parent Council is **Tuesday, 28th February at 7pm 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. Our Parent Council really supports the work of the school in striving to continually improve experiences for the children. The Parent Council have a fundraising branch so children can have additional resources and activities. I'd like to thank all those who contribute to the fundraising activities that have taken place.

Easter Fete

The Parent Council hope to hold an Easter Fete on **Saturday, 18th March from 10am-1pm in the school.** Details of how you can get involved will follow later. I hope you'll save the date so that the Fete can be a successful community event, as well as a welcome fundraiser.



Sacraments

Please continue to keep our P4 and P7 children in your prayers as they continue on their journeys of faith. We feel very fortunate that we have Fr John, and now Fr Thomas, to guide us as we strive to support our children in these important times of their lives. Fr John and Fr Thomas will be working with the children of P4 and P7 over the coming weeks to enhance the preparations for receiving the Sacraments.



Primary 7

Tue 28th Mar 17 Meeting for **Parents and Sponsors in Church Hall at 6:30pm.**
Wed 17th May 17 P7 receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation in St Mirin's Cathedral** during Mass at 7pm.



Primary 4

Tue 9th May 17 First Communicants' Parents' Meeting in School at **3pm** (At this meeting, children try on albs and tabards then parents/carers take them home).
Sat 20th May 17 P4 receive the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** during 10am Mass in **St Patrick's Church.**



At the end of the First Communion Mass, we ask that everyone leaves the Church for a short time so that staff can gather children to the Altar for a group photograph. The Parent Council will organise this group photograph and then present it to each P4 pupil as a gift. Staff will then escort children to the Church Hall for their 'Communion breakfast'. The Parish Committee will prepare a drink and snack for children to enjoy together to allow them to celebrate this special day together. **Two family members are invited to attend the Communion breakfast.**

Any family who wishes to have family or individual photographs taken should organise this themselves after the Communion breakfast has finished. Fr John will also leave the Church open all day on Saturday, 20th May and Sunday, 21st May so that families can take photographs when it's less busy, if they wish.

P7 Residential Trip to Ardmay

Thanks to all of the parents who attended the information session about the P7's trip to Ardmay. Our thanks to Margaret Ritchie for coming to speak to our parents and children. If you couldn't make the meeting and require further information please contact Mrs Ogilby for details. Children should be brought to school for 9.15am. Parents/Carers should then meet Mrs Ogilby to provide her with children's medication and to sign the relevant forms. The bus will aim to leave for Ardmay at 9.45am.

No Smoking



A number of parents have contacted me with concerns that there are adults smoking within the school grounds when dropping children off at school, and at the end of the day when picking children up. Inverclyde Council has a no smoking policy in operation to protect all employees, service users, customers and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke and ensure compliance with the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005. **Smoking on school grounds is not permitted.** I would also ask you not to smoke near the entrances and exits to the school grounds so that children don't have to breathe in second-hand smoke as they make their way in and out of school. I would really appreciate your support in this matter as we work very hard in school to teach children about the health implications of smoking.

Focus on Children's Rights

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



The right to an education which develops your personality, respect for other's rights and the environment.

Education should help a child's mind, body and talents be the best they can. It should also build their respect for other people and the world around them. In particular, children should learn to respect:

- their rights and the rights of others
- their freedoms and the freedoms of others
- their parents
- the identity, language and values of countries including their own.

Education should prepare children and young people for a responsible life in a free society. It should teach them how to live in an understanding and tolerant way that is non-violent and that respects the environment.

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!

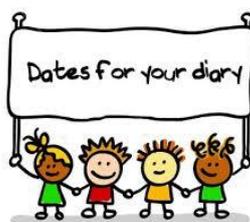


<https://twitter.com/StPatricksPS15>

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>



Fri 3 rd Feb	First Friday Mass for pupils - Hall
Mon 6 th Feb	HOLIDAY
Tue 7 th Feb	HOLIDAY
Wed 8 th Feb	IN-SERVICE DAY - Pupils do not attend school
Wed 9 th Feb	Pupils Return
Fri 10 th Feb	Scottish SPCA visit children
Mon 13 th Feb - Fri 17 th Feb	P7 Residential Trip to Ardmay
Tues 14 th Feb	Netball Festival - Greenock Sports Centre
Mon 20 th Feb	Community Wardens to visit children
	P6 Drug Awareness Training
Wed 22 nd Feb	Founders Day/Thinking Day - any members of the Scout or Guiding movement may wear their uniform to school
Mon 27 th Feb	P7 Drug Awareness Training
Wed 1 st Mar	Ash Wednesday
	Generation Science Day or Night P1 -P3
Fri 3 rd Mar	First Friday Mass for pupils - Hall
Tues 7 th Mar	Parent Council Reps Meeting in St Patrick's - 6:30pm
Fri 10 th Mar	P7 Retreat at Notre Dame High School
Tue 14 th Mar	Cluster Science Fayre
Fri 17 th Mar	St Patrick's Feast Day - Mass in St Patrick's Church - all welcome!
Thurs 23 rd Mar	Parents' Night in School Hall - 3:30pm-8:30pm
Tues 28 th Mar	Mtg for Parents & Sponsors of Confirmandi - St Patrick's Church
Thurs 30 th Mar	Rugby Festival Greenock Wanderers
Fri 31 st Mar	Close for Spring Break at 2.30pm
Mon 3 rd Apr - Tue 18 th April	SPRING BREAK HOLIDAYS
Sun 16 th Apr	EASTER SUNDAY
Wed 19 th Apr	School re-opens



February 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 _____