

St. Patrick's Primary School

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March

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our March Newsletter! The crisp, bright days have meant we've been really taking advantage of the stunning views over the River Clyde and beyond in our new building! I have attached a list of dates for your diary at the end of this newsletter.

Official Opening



Our Official Opening was last week and I cannot express just how proud I am of the children and staff of our school! Our children were magnificent and showcased their plentiful talents to impress all of our invited guests! Mrs Downie's string instrumentalists were a real treat for the ears when our guests arrived - playing beautifully in our infant breakout area. Callum and Hannah were marvellous MCs - our guests commented on how confident and naturally they presented. Neve, Rebecca, Jack, Kayden and Sean did a fantastic job presenting the P7 PowerPoint showing our children at work and play around the school. Our P1 pupils astounded our guests with their Spanish nursery rhymes. The P5-P7 Festival-winning Choir then finished our presentation with a show-stopping performance. After a cup of tea and a cake (many thanks to Mrs Dunlop, our Catering Manager and her catering team!) our guests were very ably toured around the building by our very well-prepared senior pupil tour guides. My heartfelt thanks to the whole staff team (those on view and those behind the scenes!) for making the Opening such a success.

P7 Residential Trip to Ardmay

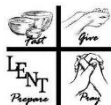


Well done to our P7s who attended Ardmay. Mrs Ogilby was delighted with our P7s.

She said they really were a credit to us - challenging themselves to try new things and working well together. Our P7s also made friends with the pupils from King's Oak Primary who were on their residential trip too. A huge thank you to our P7s for being great ambassadors for our school.

Lent

During Lent this year we will donate our mission money to SCIAF's Wee Boxes. Fr John has reminded the children that Mass is available daily throughout Lent at 8am in St Patrick's Church. We hope that you will support the children in their efforts during Lent to prepare for Easter.



Photographs

We have arranged for Louise Gault to come to school and take photographs on Monday, 13th March, Tuesday, 14th March and Wednesday, 15th March. Louise will take class photos and individual/family photos. We have asked Louise to take a photo of the whole school as this is the first year in the new building. Unfortunately, I cannot be specific as to which photos will be taken on which day, so I would suggest that you send your children to school prepared for a photo to be taken on all 3 days.



Robert Burns World Federation National Primary Schools Competition



A few of our children have been working individually with Mrs McLean to prepare for entering into this competition on Tuesday, 14th March. Letters with details will be sent to parents/carers of children who have entered.

Cluster Science Fayre

Our annual Cluster Science Fayre will be held on Tuesday, 14th March in Notre Dame High School at 6.00pm. This is always a fabulous event and we look forward to seeing you there. More details to follow.



Easter Fete

The Parent Council will hold an Easter Fete on **Saturday, 18th March from 10am-12:30pm in the school.** Parent Council are looking for volunteers to 'man' the various stalls that we have. Please



contact our Parent Council members or the school office if you are able to help in any way.

Come as You Please

Thursday 9th March will be a Come as You Please Day and we ask that every child brings an item for the bottle stall or the raffle for our Fete on Saturday 18th March. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Feast of St Patrick

On Friday, 17th March the whole school will attend 10am Mass in St Patrick's Church to mark the Feast of our Patron, St Patrick. Bishop John Keenan will celebrate Mass alongside Fr John and Fr Thomas. All members of the St Patrick school and parish community are welcome to join us in St Patrick's Church to celebrate Mass. As it's the first Feast Day of our Patron Saint in our new building, we have decided to invite former staff to join us in school after Mass to have a tour around our new building. Our senior pupils will be required to be tour guides again!



Parents' Evening

Parents/Carers will receive a letter inviting you to make an appointment to attend Parents' Evening on Thursday, 23rd March. Please complete the tear-off slip at the bottom of the letter and return it to school as soon as possible to allow staff to allocate appointment times. Parents' Evening will be held in the gym hall. Examples of your child's work will be available. Classrooms will also be open to allow parents/carers to visit their child's class.



Grandparents' Day

Each Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupil will send out an invite to 2 of their grandparents to join them in an afternoon celebrating grandparents. Our celebration will take place on the afternoon of Friday, 24th March. Invites will follow shortly.

GRANDPARENTS
fill the world
with LOVE

Good Neighbours



We really are delighted to be back home in the heart of Broomhill Street. We appreciate that our neighbours may not have had the opportunity to visit the new school building, despite having watched the building take shape over the last year and a half (as well as putting up with all the construction work on their doorsteps!) and so we would like to extend a welcome to our neighbours to visit the school. We will be inviting our neighbours to visit our school on Tuesday, 28th March from 1:30pm-2:30pm to have a cuppa and a tour round our fabulous new building. It seems the work of our senior tour guides is never done! Invites will be sent out shortly.

Activote Quiz

Keeping up the St Patrick's tradition, P7 will be hosting our annual Activote Quiz on the morning of the 29th March. Mrs McGeehan has been working with the P7 pupils to extend their ICT skills to create and host the quiz for three P7 pupils from every school in Inverclyde. This is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to put their ICT skills to the challenge, as well as developing their skills for life, learning and work in a real-life context. I thank P7 and Mrs McGeehan for leading this venture. I know that the Primary schools of Inverclyde look forward to this event every year.



Parent Council



The next meeting of the Parent Council is **Tuesday, 25th April 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.

Swimming

In Term 4 our children from P5 and P6 will have swimming lessons at the Waterfront. Mrs Allan's P5s will attend on a Monday from 24th April to 19th June. Mrs McGoran's P5s and Miss McDade's P6s will attend on a Tuesday from 25th April to 13th June. Consent forms and an information letter will be sent out to parents/carers shortly.



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 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 in the Church should organise this themselves for after the Communion breakfast has finished. Fr John will 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.

Lenten Concert

St Patrick's Parish will be hosting a Lenten Concert on Sunday, 2nd April in aid of SCIAF. It is hoped that our senior choir will be performing. Details to follow.

Transitions

Primary 7

P7 have already enjoyed a Cluster sporting event hosted by Active Schools in Notre Dame. Throughout the rest of the year our Primary 7 pupils will take part in various activities at Notre Dame to help prepare them for moving to Secondary School. We work very closely with our Cluster schools to ensure our children's needs are considered well as they prepare to move on.



Primary 1

Our P6 pupils have already been planning to apply for the job of being a P1 Buddy. Application forms will be given to P6 pupils over the next few weeks and it is hoped that interviews will take place shortly after the Easter holidays. Training will also be organised for our P6s in order that they can be excellent Buddies for our new entrants.

Focus on Children's Rights

Article 17. The right to get information that is important to my wellbeing, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources.



Adults should make sure that the information is not harmful, and helps me to find and understand the information I need.

I should have access to children's books.

School Car Park

Please be aware that the school car park is for the use of staff and visitors only. Parents should not use the car park for pick up or drop off of children. This is to ensure the health and safety of the children. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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!

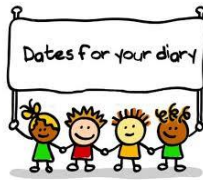


<https://twitter.com/StPatricksPS15>

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 - March/April/May 2017

Wed 1 Mar	P1-P3 - Generation Science - Day or Night Workshop - P1-P3 Ash Wednesday Service After School Dance - final session
Thurs 2 March	After School Netball - P5 & P7
Fri 3 March	P2, P3, P3/4 Football Coaching P5 to West College Scotland for Crest Workshop (Science) P7 Hygiene Talks - School Nurse
Tues 7 th Mar	Parent Council Reps Meeting in St Patrick's - 6:30pm
Thurs 9 March	After School Netball - P6 & P7
Fri 10 March	P7 Retreat at Notre Dame P2, P3, P3/4 Football Coaching
Mon 13 March	P1a Celebration of Learning - Fairyland Project 13:30 - 14:30 School Photographs
Tue 14 Mar	P1b Celebration of Learning - Fairyland Project 13:30 - 14:30 Cluster Science Fayre in Notre Dame High School 18:00-20:00 School Photographs
Wed 15 March	School Photographs
Thurs 16 March	P5 Trip to Hunterian Museum & Kelvingrove Museum After School Netball - P5 & P7
Fri 17 March	St Patrick's Day Feast Mass at St Patrick's Church - 10am - All Welcome
Sat 18 March	School Fete - 10:00 - 12:30
Thurs 23 March	After school netball - P6 & P7 CANCELLED Parents Evening
Fri 24 March	Grandparents Day - P6 & P7
Tues 28 th Mar	Meeting for Parents and Sponsors of Confirmandi - St Patrick's Church
Wed 29 March	Activote Quiz Four P6 Girls to Engineering Challenge - Port Glasgow Children's Rights Officer to meet Pupil Rights Group
Thurs 30 March	P7 at Rugby Festival (selected children) After School Netball - P5 & P7
Fri 31 March	Close for Spring Break at 2.30pm
Mon 3 April	Spring Break (until Tuesday 18 April 2017)
Sun 16th Apr	EASTER SUNDAY
Wed 19 April	School re-opens
Thurs 20 April	After School Netball - P6 & P7
Fri 21 April	After school Basketball resumes
Mon 24 April	P5 Swimming Starts (Mrs Allan's Class)
Tue 25 April	P5 & P6 Swimming Starts (Mrs McGoran's P5s + Miss McDade's P6s)
Thurs 27 April	After School Netball - P5 & P7
Mon 1 May	May Day Holiday
Tue 2 May	P5 & P6 Swimming (Mrs McGoran's P5s + Miss McDade's P6s)
Tue 3 May	P1 - P4 Childsmile Flouride Varnishing
Thurs 5 May	After School Netball - P6 & P7



March 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 _____