

August 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,



A warm welcome back to all of our pupils and staff and a special hello to our new P1 children who arrived beautifully presented for their first day in St Patrick's-not a tear was shed amongst our new starts although I can't speak for all their parents!

Meet the Teachers

We have a number of new teachers to the school this year. With this in mind we would like to invite parents into the school on Tuesday 29th August from 2.45pm - 3.15pm to meet the new staff and say hello. This will be very informal and just a chance to put some names to faces. Our staffing is as follows;

Class	Teacher
Primary 1	Mrs McGinlay and Mrs Tonner (until Oct)
Primary 2/3	Miss Davis and Mrs Turner
Primary 4/5	Mrs Gardiner and Mrs Turner
Primary 5/6	Miss Pratt and Mrs McFadyen
Primary 7	Miss Wilson and Mrs Tonner (until Oct)

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Gardiner from Maternity Leave.

Mrs Barclay will return to the school after her Maternity Leave in October and will be with us until December when she will be off on Maternity Leave to have her fourth baby. We are delighted for the Barclay family and I am sure you will keep them in your prayers at this special time.

Miss Mancini is currently on Maternity Leave and we are awaiting the news of the birth. Please do keep her and baby in your prayers as she is preparing to be a mummy for the first time. As soon as we have news we will share with you!

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Fr Martin Chambers to the school as our new Parish Priest and school chaplain. We look forward to working closely with him in the coming session.

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Information Update



You will have received a variety of forms to ensure the school and Authority systems hold accurate information on your child(ren). As soon as these forms come home please complete and return to school so we can update our records accordingly. Throughout the year your contact details or that of your nominated Emergency Contact may change, please ensure you update the school as soon as possible!

You will also have noticed our Twitter (or now known as X) page has been unusually quiet. I will start posting news of the school as soon as all data forms have been returned giving permissions for children to be photographed. Please be assured we have had a great first week back and there are lots of photos to share with you!

Health & Safety Update

As you know, the safety and wellbeing of your child is of paramount importance to us all in St Patrick's.

Below I have listed some reminders of procedures which help to make our school a safe environment for all.

Social Media Safety

As all parents are aware, real vigilance must be applied when children use mobile phones, iPads etc.



Our policy in school is that all mobile phones and media devices are switched off and handed in to your child's teacher at the start of the school day where they are placed in a secure place until end of day when they will be returned as the children file out of school.

Should you need to convey any important information to your child during the school day, please contact the school office-01292 690070 and the message will be relayed to them.

After-School pick up arrangements



At the end of each day, children in P1 and P2/3 will exit from the infant door and will only be released into an adult's care on recognition of the adult by the child/teacher.

P4/5, P5/6 and P7 will exit from the upper door and their teacher will remain at the door to ensure all children have been safely claimed.

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Any child who expected to be collected and for whom no-one is in the playground will re-enter school and go to the "soft seats" opposite the main front door to wait for collection.

Please try to contact us as soon as you know you will not be at school in time for collection to allow us to allay any worries your child might have when they do not see their parent/carer outside waiting for them.

Bus Children and Taxi

The school has a list of all children who should be travelling on the school transport on each particular day.

All children travelling on the bus leave their classroom at end of day and assemble in the main corridor where their names are checked off by one of our School Assistants.



Unless we have been specifically informed that they have not to travel on the bus as per listed, your child will be escorted to the waiting bus.

You can alert us to any travel changes by phoning the school on the number above or by emailing: stpatricks.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

School's out

Parents/Carers of children using this facility must liaise with School's Out directly re days of attendance/changes to arrangements etc.



Each morning School's Out give the school a copy of their list of children attending after school that day.

Should a child say he/she has not to attend School's Out despite their name being on the list for that day and the school has had no phone call or email to confirm this change, then the child will walk to the School's Out facility and will require to be collected from that venue by a nominated adult.

Entry/Exit from school am/pm

Could I ask you remind anyone dropping your children off at school that the school car park is NOT a drop off area. There should be no parent cars in the car park at drop off and pick up times. This is to ensure the pupils are safe entering and leaving the building. As the morning and nights get darker this is even more pertinent!

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For children who walk to school or are dropped off by car, the double gate at the front of the building nearest to Church St is the normal entrance into school. Please observe parking restrictions around our school-they are there for everyone's safety.



From the top double gate all children should proceed round the corner of the building and enter by the side gate next to Church St.



Cycle/Skateboard Travel:

If a child has travelled to school by bike, scooter, skateboard then they should enter the school by the gate directly facing the front door.



Once in the school grounds they should dismount from their bike etc and walk round the building and along the pavement at the side of the building to the cycle storage area. After they have parked their bike etc they can walk back to the side gate midway down the building and enter from the carpark side. **No child or adult should enter school on a bike /skateboard using the car park entrance gates.**

As I have written often, only parents visiting the school for an appointment, coming as a parent helper or in need of using the disabled spaces should park in the car park.

Please also support the safety of all of our children by not dropping off or picking up your child in the car park at the beginning or end of the school day respectively.

Wet Mornings

If the weather is very wet in the morning then all children should come straight in by the side gate as usual and make their way to the upper exit where they will enter the building and assemble in the gym hall until the bell rings.



Supervision will be in the hall from 8.45 am as is the case in the playground.

Pupil Support

At present we have children in school who suffer from **severe** nut allergies. Please support these children by refraining from giving your child nut based spreads or nut based snacks at break or lunch. If your child has a nut based snack or lunch we will ask them not to eat it and if at lunch they will be offered a school lunch instead. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, chicken satay, nut based cereal bars, snickers etc.



PE Kits



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In order to participate fully and safely all pupils must have the correct PE kit. This should be indoor gym shoes or trainers, shorts and a t-shirt. For health & safety reasons, **all** jewellery should be removed for gym and long hair tied back. As PE kits are similar, please ensure that your child's name is on **all** items for easy identification.

Parent Helpers

A number of parents have spoken with myself about coming into school and providing support to classes. In order that I do not unintentionally forget anyone I would ask if you are interested in being a regular parent helper you complete the attached form and return to school. We will of course still require our faithful parent helpers to help walk our children to various venues and this will be communicated via the office when needed.

School Gardening Group

A massive thank you goes to all the parents and parishioners who have volunteered their time during the summer to begin to transform our garden at the front of the school. I am sure you will agree the entrance is looking wonderful and the smell of the lavender is very calming!

Preloved, Reloved, new to you!

Please remember we have preloved uniform in the school in excellent condition, should you need anything please come in and help yourself. Similarly if you have any uniform your child has outgrown and is still in a reasonable condition please consider donating this to us.

School Calendar

I will be finalising the school calendar in the coming weeks and will get that out to everyone as soon as I can.

Sincerely

Mrs Lynsey May
Head Teacher



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PARENTAL RESPONSE SHEET - 2023

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent's Name: _____

What are the things that are important to you and your child(ren) when at school?

What are the things you would like your child(ren) to achieve this session?

When your child(ren) has a good day at school, what makes it good?

At the Come Share My Learning Hours scheduled throughout the year, it would be good to have information and workshops about.....

	YES	NO
As a parent, I would like to volunteer some free time to help in classes - please state days and times most suitable.		
I would like to become involved in the Parent Council and Fundraising Group.		

Any other feedback you would like to provide on any aspect of our school: