



Saint Patrick's Nursery & Primary School

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

April 2018

[www.stpatricksthemeadow.com](http://www.stpatricksthemeadow.com)

### Recent School Inspection

Last week we had a two-day visit from the Education & Training Inspectorate. They took time to observe lessons, look at samples of children's work, meet teachers with key responsibilities and most importantly they took time to meet with groups of children. The Inspectors were very impressed by what they saw in our school and assured us that what they had seen was of the very highest standard. Naturally, as a team, we are delighted that our hard work and dedication has been recognised and that St. Patrick's continues to be a place where high quality teaching and learning takes place and where our children feel safe and happy.

### Cycling Proficiency Scheme

The Cycling Proficiency Scheme will begin on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April** from **3pm-4pm (this Thursday)** lasting for 8 weeks. This scheme is being offered to our P6 children this year. In order to partake in the scheme, it is essential that your child has a road worthy bicycle and a helmet. Miss Bradley, who will lead the scheme, will check the road worthiness of each child's bicycle this Thursday. This will ensure that your child is ready to begin the cycling scheme and allow time for any repairs/adjustments to be made if necessary, before the next session takes place next week. If your P6 child is interested in taking part, just bring their bicycle and helmet to school this Thursday, so that they can be registered to take part in the scheme. We look forward to another successful year of training our children to develop their skills, increase their confidence as cyclists and identify risks they may come across on the roads.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Miss Bell, now Mrs Douglas, who got married over the Easter holidays. We wish her every happiness as she begins married life. We would also like to congratulate Mrs Marian Bradley and her husband on the birth of their baby girl Ruby. We hope that the Bradley family all enjoy their new addition!

### First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion for our P4 children will take place in St. Brigid's Church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am. We look forward to seeing everyone as this is one of the highlights of our school year. We hope you will also take the opportunity to come back to the school after the ceremony for a cup of tea.

### P6 Parent Meeting

There will be a meeting for all P6 parents/carers in the school assembly hall this Friday (27<sup>th</sup> April) at 2pm. At this meeting we will be discussing Transfer to Post-Primary. You can take your child/children home with you when the meeting is over. We look forward to seeing you all there.

### **School Attendance**

School attendance is very important at all stages of the school year, but during the month of May it is vital that your child be at school each day and before the 9am bell. May is traditionally the month where teachers administer a number of examinations designed to show the progress your child has made throughout the course of the academic year. If your child is absent from school and misses one or more of these important assessments, then it is particularly difficult to gauge where your child is at in terms of their learning and this can impact their next year at school. We would ask that all parents ensure that their child/children do not miss out on these important assessments.

### **Online Gaming : 'Fortnite'**

There has been much talk across the school about a new online game called Fortnite. Guidance has been issued to schools about this game. This game has an age rating of 12 years, due to the potential for violent scenes. Our main concern about this game however is the fact that players play against others from all over the world, leading to your child/children interacting with strangers as they play the game. There is no way of controlling who your child speaks to as this is the nature of the game. As a school, we would advise that you have a conversation with your child about this game - if they are already playing or if they want to download it to play. We have done lots of work here at school promoting safer internet experiences for all, but it is very important that this message is also reflected in the home. If anyone has any questions about this game or would like further advice on how to keep their child safe whilst online, please contact the school and the teacher responsible for internet safety will be glad to speak with you.

### **Operation Transformation**

You may have noticed that the infant yard is undergoing a bit of a 'make over' in a bid to make playtimes more interesting for our younger children. We are only about a third of the way through our total transformation and already we can see the children having a more enjoyable break and lunch time play. The most recent addition, the tractor, is proving to be very popular. We would ask parents/carers however, not to allow children to play on this new piece of equipment unsupervised, particularly at the beginning or the end of the school day. The tractor has already been damaged and we would like to make sure that it remains in good working condition so that all of our children can benefit from the great fun of playing on it. The school would like to thank all of the parents/carers that donated something towards the transformation - be that in terms of their time or in terms of providing a piece of equipment. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the Friends of St. Patrick's who donated £700 towards the cost of the transformation. We look forward to showcasing the next phase of our work to you all very soon.

### **Dates For Your Diary**

- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - P6 Cycling Proficiency
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April - P6 Transfer to Post Primary Meeting @ 2pm
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May - First Holy Communion in St. Brigid's @ 10.30am
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Sports Day P1-P7 (Weather permitting)