



Saint Patrick's Nursery & Primary School

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

January 2017

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

### **SCHOOL CLOSURE NEXT WEEK**

We would like to let you all know that school will be closed from 9.00am until 12.30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January due to a country wide strike action being taken by teachers. The strike has been called by the trade union that represents many of the teachers across the North of Ireland. Please note that there will be no adults available to teach or supervise children on this day until 12.30pm. There will also be no Breakfast Club available on this morning. The school will open at 12.30pm for all pupils as normal. If you would like your child to have school dinners on Wednesday you must let your child's teacher know on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. This will allow the school to plan for the correct number of children who wish to avail of the school meal's service. We understand that the strike may cause inconvenience to parents, but we hope that all of our parents would support the teachers in their strike to ensure that their profession is properly paid and resourced so that it can continue to deliver the highest quality of education for all.

### **NEW MORNING ROUTINES WHICH WILL AFFECT ALL PARENTS**

From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, the school will begin a new morning routine which will affect all pupils from P1-P7. Our staff has recently taken time out to investigate how we can promote a greater sense of independence in learning for all of our pupils. We firmly believe that this can be created, by enhancing our morning procedures before the start of the school day. From Monday the following routine changes will take effect:

#### **P1 -P3 Children**

We would ask that all parents bring their children to their child's cloakroom and encourage them to take off and hang up their own coat on their allocated hanger. We would then ask that children carry their own school bag to their classroom door, accompanied by their parent. The parent should then leave their child at the classroom door and allow them to go to their desk and seat independently. We hope that this new routine will very quickly instil a more independent attitude within the child which will then transfer into other areas of school life.

#### **P4-P7**

From Monday, we would ask that all parents escort their children as far as the outside door closest to your child's classroom. This will allow the children time to get to their coat hanger and up to their classroom in a more independent fashion. If you wish to see a teacher then we would ask that you make an appointment with them through the office.

### **Primary Five Swimming**

As part of the P.E Curriculum, our Primary Five pupils are being offered a fantastic opportunity to avail of swimming lessons for the next two terms. The lessons will be delivered through swimming coaches in Newry Leisure Centre each week. It is important that your child brings with them a towel and an appropriate swimming costume. We would encourage you as parents to ensure that your child does not wear a bikini or board shorts. We hope the Primary Five pupils make the most of and enjoy learning and improving at this life skill. Lessons for Primary 5's will start next week. Both classes will however attend swimming on different days due to health and safety regulations relating to the numbers of children that are permitted in the pool at any one time.

**Monday**- Miss Bradley's class.

**Thursday**- Mrs Moffett's class.

### **School Choir Changes**

Calling All Our Choir Members!!

Choir practice will now take place during school hours on Thursdays from 2.15pm to 2.45pm. The first choir practice of the New Year will commence on Thursday 19th January. Here's to a great year of bringing music to life in St Patrick's!

### **Primary Five Assembly**

Both P5 Classes will showcase their recent learning at an assembly this Friday. All family members of the P5 children are most welcome to attend. If you wish to join us for this greatly anticipated event, please take your seat in the assembly hall at 9am. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

### **Relax Kids**

As part of our discussions into promoting independence amongst our children, the school has been looking at promoting mindfulness as well. What is mindfulness you may ask? This concerns developing the children's understanding of how they deal with their feelings and in particular how they cope with stresses and anxieties in everyday life. The Friends of St. Patrick's have secured money from the local Council to help us implement this new strategy. All of our staff recently received training from a 'Relax Kids' Coach, who shared with us all many techniques that can be employed to improve the health and well-being of our children. On top of this, The Friends of St. Patrick's have also worked hard to pay for 'Relax Kids' coaching sessions for all of the children in the school and they have purchased lots of new resources that will be used in school to help children develop their understanding of how they can deal with their emotions. We look forward to seeing all of the children benefitting from the meditations and relaxation tips that have been provided.

### **Dates For Your Diary**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January - P5 Assembly @ 9am in assembly hall. All welcome.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Relax Kids Coaching Sessions in school (free)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January - SCHOOL CLOSED FROM 9am-12.30pm. (Half day teacher strike) School opens at 12.30pm for all pupils.

Monday 30th January - Catholic Schools Week. We will be in touch with you all about our annual Grandparents Mass during this week when times are finalised.