



Saint Patrick's Nursery & Primary School

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

May 2017

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

### **P1-P7 Sports Day**

Our annual Sports Day for P1-P7 will take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. We hope to get started at around 9.30am, provided that the weather is suitable. This event has always been hugely successful and a day which the children really look forward to. As always, we would like to invite you all to come and join us on the day. The Friends of St. Patrick's will also be organising the tuck shop where all proceeds are spent directly back on the children. The Nursery children will have their Sports Day on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and we look forward to seeing all of the Nursery parents and families on this day.

### **The Friends of St. Patrick's**

This year The Friends of St. Patrick's were very successful in securing grants from organisations across Northern Ireland to enhance the opportunities of our children and their families. The cookery school, facilitated by St. Joseph's Boys' High School was hugely popular and well attended by parents. As a result of further funding secured, The Friends of St. Patrick's were able to pay for Internet Safety Training for all P3-P7 children as well as employ the services of A Relax Kids practitioner, who worked with every class in the school, teaching strategies to the children aimed at improving their overall mental well-being. As a school we are very thankful to the Friends of group for all their contributions to school life. The group have also spent £2000 to improve the facilities available to the children that use our P4-P7 playground. The lovely coloured playground markings and the fantastic seating areas provided for the children have already been a huge success. The group have further plans to put in a number of basketball nets over the coming weeks. If you are interested in joining the Friends of St. Patrick's, the group are always keen to bring new members on board. You can catch the group's Chairperson Mrs Michelle Hanna around the school on most days or you can have a chat with any member on our Sports Day. They will be delighted to hear from you.

### **Phil's Farm**

St. Patrick's will host 'Phil's Farm' for all of our Nursery - P2 children on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The cost per child will be £1, with all monies going towards school funds. We know that your child will enjoy this fun-filled day engaging with a wide range of animals.

### **Happy Retirement!**

Last week saw the last day of work for Mrs Jaqueline Lennon who has worked in the school for more than 20 years. Her colleagues in the dinner hall and the school staff gave her a lovely send off. We wish Jaqueline many happy and healthy years in retirement.

### **P5 Trip**

All of the P5 children are off to Fort Evergreen in Warrenpoint on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. They will leave school at 9.15am and return to school for the normal home time. If the children could bring a packed lunch with them that would be super!

### **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.

### **School Routines For Promoting Independence**

We recently informed all parents that we were working hard to promote the independence of our pupils from P1-P7. We asked that children from P1-P3 be escorted to the classroom door and left there by their parent/guardian. We also asked that the children from P4-P7 be left at external doors and be allowed to make their own way to their classroom from there. We are happy to report that we have seen some good progress in terms of the children's independence skills. It has been great to see parents allowing children to carry their own school bags, hang up their own coat and make their way to their own desk without the help of an adult. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents who have supported us in our efforts and we hope that this simple early morning routine will continue to help develop our children's independence skills.

### **Sponsored Silence**

On Tuesday, our children took part in a sponsored silence to raise money for school funds. If you have been watching the news recently, you will not have failed to notice the country wide concern in regards to the state of educational services in this country. As a result of there being no government at Stormont, budgets have been severely affected, meaning that more cuts are having to be made. The cuts to education are in the region of £50 million across the north. As you can appreciate, this will have a huge impact on the amount of money that St. Patrick's will have to spend on your child/children. We would ask that you all support our Sponsored Silence, by ensuring that your family makes a contribution by sending in 1 sponsor card and the money by this Friday. All of the money raised will be spent directly on the children, with the Student Council having the final say on what it is spent on. In these financially testing times ahead, the support of our parent body and community are very much needed and appreciated.

### **Save Daisy Hill Campaign**

As well as cuts to education, it has become clear over the recent weeks that there is a strong possibility that Daisy Hill Hospital may lose its accident and emergency department. As a school family we should be united in our opposition to all cuts of vital services in our community. We would ask that our parents therefore, support the campaign to save the A&E department at Daisy Hill Hospital. The dangers associated with losing such an excellent service are too great for us all to ignore. As a school, we cannot imagine that in the event of an emergency, we would have to wait to transfer a pupil or colleague to Craigavon Area Hospital instead of Daisy Hill. Please get out there and show your opposition to the possible closure of our local A&E at our local hospital.

### **Dates For Your Diary**

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May - P3 assembly
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May - First Holy Communion @ St. Brigid's at 1pm
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Sports Day (P1-P7)
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May - SCHOOL CLOSED - SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - SCHOOL CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY