

St Patrick's Boys' School

November Newsletter

Dates for Diary

Thursday 16 th November	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Thursday 7 th December	Teacher training, school closed
Friday 22 nd December	Christmas holidays
Monday 8 th January	School re-opens

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will be held in the school on Thursday 16th November from 3:15 to 5:45 pm. A separate letter was issued and appointments have been arranged. We look forward to meeting with all parents/guardians. **Please note that the school day ends for the pupils at 2:45 pm.**

Primary Maths Curriculum

The school will close for pupils on Thursday 7th December as teachers will attend training for the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

Christmas Holidays

The school will close on Friday 22nd December (which is the last day of term), and re-open on Monday 8th January 2024.

Attendance

Congratulations to the Junior Infants class for their wonderful attendance record. This group had the best attendance at 97.5% up to Halloween. As a result, they earned a small treat for themselves and their Senior Infant friends! All children are encouraged to attend school every day as this helps to build confidence in their schoolwork, fosters good relationships with their friends and develops good habits for their future. (Of course, if a child is sick, he should remain at home).

Safe cycling

Fifth and Sixth class pupils are completing cycling training with Fergus and Gemma McDaid who are providers of the national standard for cycling training known as Cycle Right. The training is completed over a four-week period. On the fourth week the boys will be taken out on the local roads.

This initiative is funded by Department of Transport (RSA) and Donegal County Council. The children are receiving excellent training and having outside fun at the same time. We are delighted to avail of this programme.

Concern Primary Debates

Congratulations to our debating team who were successful in their debate against Scoil Náisiunta Taobhoige. The boys defeated the motion that Homework Should be a Thing of the Past. Team members included Alex Bradley (Captain), Lochlainn Harkin (speaker 2), Jack Walsh (speaker 3), Ben Kelly, Gareth Gomez, Rory Bradley (research & rebuttal).

We have progressed to the second round where we will propose (support) the motion that Getting Rid of Plastic in our Oceans is Just a Dream. We look forward to the challenge.

Congratulations also to Carndonagh CS students who won their Concern debate recently. Team members included Pearse Smith (Captain), Luke McLaughlin, Eoghan Doherty and Evan Doherty **all past pupils of St. Patrick's Boys' School**. We are very proud of their achievements!

Christmas Annuals

Details of the Christmas Annuals have been distributed to the children. All orders and money should be sent in by this Friday, 17th November. Thank you.

50/50 Draw

The Parents' Association will start the weekly 50/50 draw again for the next six week, leading up Christmas. The draw will take place every Wednesday morning. All the children have received envelopes. Each entry costs E2, with 3 entries for E5. The prize money will be half of the total collected, with the other half going to fundraising. Your support is much appreciated.

Congratulations to today's winner Dannielle Doherty (SNA) who won €120.

Student Teachers

We were delighted to welcome Laura Doherty and Megan Gallagher to our school to complete teaching practice. Laura observed and taught in fifth class and in SET (special education) and Megan observed and taught in sixth class. Both students were a great addition to our team and we wish them every success in their future studies.

Transition Year Students

We were pleased to welcome TY students Eoghan Doherty and Tiarnán Devlin back to the school for their TY work experience recently. The two boys worked very hard all week. They were a great help to our staff and wonderful role models for our pupils. We wish them much success in transition year and future studies.

Sporting Activities

Soccer: The boys are continuing with their six-a-side matches on a weekly basis. They have played matches against Scoil Eoghain, Merville, Scoil Aenghus, Bridgend, Scoil Naomh Fionáin, Whitecastle and St. Oran's, Cockhill and this week's match is against Scoil Iosagain, Buncrana. The boys are really enjoying these weekly matches.

Ben Kelly, Cillian McElhinney, Alex Bradley and Gareth Gomez remain in the "Last Man Standing" competition. We all wish Cillian McElhinney a speedy recovery after his serious injury sustained in a match recently.

Swimming: Swimming lessons continue for fourth class. The last lesson in the block is on Tuesday 21st November.

Lessons have been arranged for third class in the new year.

Rugby: Lisa Mills is delivering tag rugby sessions with second, third, fourth and fifth classes on Fridays.

John Gibbons continues to do **small games and activities** with the Infants and First Class.

HSCL

English For Fun

English For Fun finished before the Halloween break. The boys and girls in 3rd class really enjoyed it. I think the parents did too! Thanks to our parents and grandparents for your time, encouragement and support.

Home Visits

I have been busy visiting the homes of parents... it has been lovely getting to know so many of you. I wish to thank you for the warm welcome I've received. Home Visits allow the parents an opportunity to have a chat about how they and their children are settling into the hustle and bustle of school life. Many parents and children have been made aware of and have joined groups as a result of these Home Visits. I fully understand that Home Visits do not suit all of our parents but please feel free to contact me at any time on the HSCL number.

Zumba

Zumba starts on Monday 6th November in the hall in St. Patrick's Girls' School. It will run for 6 weeks and it is free. The class is being facilitated by Treasa from TR Fitness. Text Sinead if you would like to join.

Healthy Families

A group of parents started this course this week. The focus is on gathering to share experiences and on tips and advice on how to make small changes, while being consistent and staying positive within your family. It's a place and space to work through some of the challenges you may have as parents e.g. managing technology and healthy eating.

Parents Questionnaire

Thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire. Let me know if there are any other classes you'd be interested in.

Halloween Costumes/Christmas Jumpers

Thanks to everyone who donated Halloween costumes. A lot of children were delighted with their new costumes. I am now collecting any unwanted Christmas jumpers. If anyone has any that maybe don't fit anymore, please send them into the school.

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