

St Patrick's Boys' School

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dates for Diary

Friday 27 th October:	Children dress up in Halloween costumes
Friday 27 th October:	Halloween Holidays (school closes at 2:00/3:00 pm)
Friday 27 th October:	Halloween Singing (Junior & Senior Infants)
Monday 6 th November:	School re-opens

Halloween Holidays

The school will close from Friday 27th October (which is the last day of term) until Monday 6th November for the Halloween holidays. **Children are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes on Friday 27th.** We look forward to seeing all the creative costumes. This day is always great fun for our pupils. Many of the teachers and SNAs love to dress up too!

Halloween Singing

Junior & Senior Infants will perform a Halloween Concert on Friday 27th October (the day of the holidays). Parents, family and friends are invited to attend. This promises to be a fantastic event, not to be missed. The concert will start at 1:15pm and will be held in the Infant classroom.

Dates for Sacraments

The dates for next year's sacraments have been announced:

Confirmation: Saturday 2nd March 2024 at 1:00 pm

First Holy Communion: Saturday 11th May 2024 at 1:00 pm

Book Rental

There was no charge for book rental this year as we received funding from the Department of Education. However, there is a charge of €10 per child for school diary, photocopying, printing, art materials, etc. Thank you to all the families that have paid this cost. If you have not yet submitted this money, please do so soon. Thank you.

Parents' Association

There was a great turnout at the recent Annual General Meeting of our Parents' Association. Thank you to everyone for making the effort to attend.

Thank you also to the committee and all who contributed to fundraising over the last year, The money has been used to purchase our school stage, goal posts, toys. The committee are currently sourcing playground equipment. Look out for some impressive additions to our facilities!

The parents decided at the AGM to contact our Patron, Bishop Donal McKeown in relation to our application for a change of status to enrol girls. All families have received a printed letter and an email about this. Letters should be returned to the school by Wednesday 11th.

A meeting will be arranged for Wednesday 25th to elect a new committee. Parents of children in first class are invited to be on this committee and parents of children in other classes are most welcome also.

The outgoing committee is Marianne O'Connor, chairperson, Frances Doherty, secretary, and Christina Doherty, Treasurer. Thank you to the committee for their work over the past year. It is much appreciated.

Book Fair

We ran a very successful book fair last week. Thank you to all the families that supported it. We have generated a total of almost €700 for school books. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Safety in school grounds

Please note that only staff members may drive into, and park in school grounds. In the interest of fairness to all, please do not drive into this area. This also includes early morning arrivals for Breakfast Club. If you feel your circumstances are exceptional and you need to drive in, please speak to Anne McLaughlin (principal).

Savings Club

Children are encouraged to save in multiples of €1 every Friday. €1 stamps are purchased and when a €20 card is full, it may be lodged into a Post Office savings account.

Safe Cycling

Fifth & Sixth class pupils will complete a safe cycling programme with Fergus and Gemma McDaid in the coming weeks. We have worked with Fergus and Gemma in previous years and their programme has proved very worthwhile. The children have also enjoyed this project very much in the past years.

FabLab/Sparoi & Spórt

Thank you to Paul and Áine from Sparoi & Spórt who are currently doing a weekly workshop with our senior classes. Over six weeks the children will have the opportunity to build their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) skills through hands on fun and engaging activities.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast Club has proved a great success with many families finding it convenient to drop the boys to school early. Following requests from parents, we hope to start earlier, at 8:00 am after Halloween. This will be confirmed when staffing and other arrangements are in place.

HSCL News

English For Fun

English For Fun kicked off last week between the boys and girls in 3rd Class. There was a lovely atmosphere. The boys and girls 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 child 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.

Walking Group

A group of parents have recently started a walking group on Mondays at 9.30. Feel free to join us at the school gates any Monday morning.

Parents Questionnaire

I plan on sending out a questionnaire for parents in relation to the classes and talks that you would be interested in. A few people have requested a Zumba class. Let me know if this is something you would be interested in.

Halloween Costumes/Christmas Jumpers/First Holy Communion

I am currently taking donations of Halloween costumes, Christmas jumpers and First Holy Communion outfits. The Halloween costumes and Christmas jumpers were a huge success last year. Please leave in any unwanted costumes and/or jumpers to the school. If anyone has any First Holy Communion outfits that they would like to donate too. The plan is to have a bank of outfits that could be borrowed for their special day. Huge thanks to anyone who has donated so far!

Sinéad McLaughlin

0862383847

@Carnhscl on Instagram

carnhscl@gmail.comSports

Sport

Swimming: Fourth class started swimming lessons in Templemore Sports Complex this week. They will receive a total of five lessons. The cost is €5 per lesson. Third class will have swimming lessons later in the year/in the new year.

Soccer: Then senior boys began their inter-school matches last week. Last week's match was against Scoil Naomh Fionáin, Whitecastle. We secured two victories and a draw. Goal scorers were Alex Bradley, Jack Bracken (2) Caden Greenwood, Adam McCaul, Faolán Smith (2), Gareth Gomez, Shane Diver (2) and Oleksandr Rumiantsev. This week's match is against Scoil Cholmcille, Newton.

After seven weeks of Last Man Standing, there are seven pupils still remaining in the quest to be winner of the competition.

Athletics: Good luck to the boys who travel to Buncrana to represent the school in the Donegal Cross Country finals this Thursday: Jayden O'Donnell, Jaxon Taitt, Conor Clifton, Kane O'Donnell and Alex Bradley.

Hurling:

The senior boys took part in a non competitive blitz in Burt recently. The boys had three games and the day was enjoyed by all where great skill was on show.

Wainfest

We look forward to Wainfest activities this week. Second class will meet author Oisín McGann and fourth class will attend The Wonder of Science with Jay Ryan. Both these events are in Carndonagh Library. Pupils in fifth and sixth classes will attend world renowned story teller Niall De Burca in The Colgan Hall on Thursday.

Concern Primary Debates

We are involved in this project again this year. We are currently working on speeches opposing the motion "Homework should be a thing of the past". Already we are seeing some great debating and public speaking skills and we look forward to developing these skills in our senior boys.