



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dates for Diary

Monday 21 st October:	School closed for teacher training
Friday 25 th October:	Children dress up in Halloween costumes
Friday 25 th October:	Halloween Holidays (school closes at 2:00/3:00 pm)
Friday 25 th October:	Halloween Singing (Junior & Senior Infants)
Monday 4 th November:	School re-opens

Welcome

We extend a really warm welcome to 19 new Junior Infants. We look forward to getting to know the boys and girls and their families in the coming weeks. There was a welcome and information evening for parents/guardians of this group last week and it was lovely to meet all the parents and guardians again.

We have welcomed three other pupils throughout the school and we wish them every happiness and success.

This is a historic time for our school as we welcome girls for the first time. Our school status has changed from a boys only school to a mixed school. We look forward to welcoming all children in our community in the coming years.

Open Afternoon

An Open Afternoon has been organised for Wednesday 9th October from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please see attached flyer. Please share this information with any families that would like to enrol their children in our school in the coming years.

Book Rental

There is no bill for book rental this year. We have received funding from the Department of Education (DE) to cover the cost of books, workbooks and copybooks. There is a charge of €10 per child to cover the cost of school diary, photocopying, printing, laminating and art materials. Please bring this money to the class teacher by Monday 30th. Thank you.

Primary Planet: Fifth and sixth classes will use Primary Planet magazine again this year. There is a cost of €10 for the first five monthly magazines (September to January). Please bring this money to the class teacher by Monday 30th. Thank you.

Staffing

We wish Ms. Deborah McGettigan well as she continues her career break. Ms. Michaela Lynch-Grant is employed on a fixed term basis.

Mrs. Nora Allen is now a permanent member of staff and we wish her well in her role as teacher in the Autism Class. Mr. Christopher McLaughlin has been appointed as a SNA also.

Autism Class

We are delighted to have opened an Autism Class in the school. Mrs. Nora Allen is the class teacher. There is one SNA allocated to the class and this role is fulfilled by Mrs. Triona McGonagle and Christopher McLaughlin.

Halloween Holidays

The school will close from Friday 25th October (which is the last day of term) until Monday 4th November for the Halloween holidays. **Children are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes on Friday 25th.** We look forward to seeing all the creative costumes. This day is always great fun for everyone. Many of the teachers and SNAs love to dress up too!

School Closure/Primary Maths Curriculum

Teachers will receive training in the new Primary Maths Curriculum on Monday 21st October so the school will be closed for pupils on that day.

Safety entering and leaving the school

Please make sure you enter and leave the school grounds safely. Children should enter and exit the pedestrian gate nearest to car/home. **In the interests of safety, no-one should walk past main vehicle entrance or through the car park.**

You are kindly requested **not** to drive into the school carpark. This also includes early morning arrivals for Breakfast Club and after-school clubs. (A small number of families are permitted to drive in. Please speak to Anne McLaughlin, Principal if you need to drive into the grounds.)

Morning Arrivals:

Children should arrive at the school between 9:10 and 9:20 am and are supervised at this time. The bell rings at 9:20 and children enter the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Before and after-school provision

Spraoi & Sport now provide before and after-school care for pupils, on the school premises. Breakfast Club is available from 8:00 am. After-school provision is available from 2:00 pm. Any enquiries should be directed to Spraoi & Sport.

Homework Club

Homework Club is available for pupils from third, fourth, fifth and sixth class pupils from 3 to 4 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. This club is run by school staff. Food is provided. This is a great opportunity for children to have their homework completed in a quiet, supervised environment where support is available. Homework club proved very popular last year. This service is free of charge.

Good Luck

Good luck to last year's sixth class who have now started secondary school. We wish the boys every happiness and success in Carndonagh Community School.

Report from Board of Management

The Board of Management met in September. The board is delighted to announce that our application for the solar panels scheme has been approved. We look forward to completing this project on the roof to the rear of the school. However, we are still concerned about the flat roof (to front of school). An application for emergency works was submitted last year and we are continuing to follow this up.

Our new heating system is now in operation. We have been joined up to the new heating system that was installed in Carndonagh Community School. This system burns wood chips instead of oil.

SNA Appreciation Day

Thursday 26th September is national SNA Appreciation Day. We extend a sincere thank you to our team of seven SNAs who do wonderful work with our students every day. Their dedication and hard work is much appreciated.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all the winners in the Inishowen Agricultural Show. The winners were:

Junior Infants	3rd prize	Henry Kelly
1st class	1st prize	Oisin Doherty
3rd class	2nd prize	Caomhan Rooney
4th class	1st prize	Finteen Clifton
	2nd prize	Connor Canny
6th class	3rd prize	Faolan Smith

(Please note these were last year's classes.)

Halloween Singing

Junior & Senior Infants will perform a Halloween Concert on Friday 25th 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.

Parents' Association

The Annual General Meeting of our Parents' Association has been arranged for Tuesday 1st October in the school. A separate letter from the outgoing committee was issued about this.

Book Fair

The school bookfair will run next week from Monday 30th September. This is a good opportunity to purchase books for your children and it raises funds for books for the school. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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.

HSCL News

Welcome back to our new academic school year of teaching here in St. Patrick's Boys' National School. My name is Sinéad McLaughlin and I am the HSCL (Home School Community Liaison) co-ordinator. My role is to work in partnership with you the parents, teachers and local community organisations by listening, encouraging, supporting and offering suggestions on how you can support your children in achieving positive educational outcomes. I will also be offering courses for parents throughout the year and will hopefully have many of you on board to help with school activities.

A walking group starts on Friday 4th October from St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. at 9.30am. Parents, grandparents, childminders and buggies welcome! A great way to meet other parents, share and get advice.

'Parents Plus Healthy Families: At the Family Table' will start for 6 weeks on 15th October from 10am to 12pm. Fetac Level 3 Maths class will continue throughout the year on Wednesdays in the Colgan Hall. Pilates with Stephanie from Balance Balance will start a 6-week session from Thursday 17th October.

I am currently supporting parents on the 'No Smartphone Voluntary Agreement'. We hope to have all the forms returned soon.

Thank you to the families who welcomed me into their homes recently as part of my home visits. It was lovely to meet you and I will be continuing with these going forward. Home visits take up roughly 30% of my weekly time.

Sinéad McLaughlin 0862383847 @Carnhscl on Instagram

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Sport

Soccer: The six-a-side league begins this Friday 27th September with home matches against Cockhill. Upcoming matches are away against Newton and at home against Scoil Eoghain, Moville. Shane Diver, Cillian Hirrell, Aidan Babu and Jaxon Logue Farren remain in the Last Boy Standing as we enter week 4 of the competition.

Swimming: Fifth & sixth classes have completed week 4 of their six-week block of swimming lessons. The instructors are very happy with the boys' progress. Third & fourth classes will attend for the next six Tuesdays starting from Tuesday 15th October.

Games & Ball Skills: John Gibbons is delivering this programme to children from First, Second & Third Class.

Active Play & Introduction to Sport: Cathal Doherty is working with Junior & Senior Infants. This is funded by Spraoi & Sport.

Athletics: Well done to all the children that represented us recently in the cross-country athletics event in Buncrana.

The Board of Management and staff look forward to a happy and productive year working together for the benefit of our pupils and families.