

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Most parent queries can be answered by accessing www.stpatricksns.ie or by viewing our Newsletters which are regularly emailed to each family and are also on our website. Please make our website your first "port of call".

The Reception/Administration Office hours are 8.30am to 3.10pm.

It would be much appreciated if telephone calls to the school were made only in emergency situations, and ONLY AFTER 9.00AM.

Christmas Break

The last school day is Wednesday 21 December with all children finishing at 11.30am.

School will reopen on Thursday 05 January 2023

For Health & Safety reasons, it is necessary to stagger the exit times. Children from the ground floor will exit the building first. The remaining children will follow.

Upcoming Events

13/12 Tuesday : Ms Power's class Nativity Play
14/12 Wednesday: Ms King's class Nativity Play
15/12 Thursday: Ms Onitiu's class Nativity Play
16/12 Friday Mr O'Neill's class Nativity Play

16/12 St Patrick's N.S. Carol Service 7pm Laurel Lodge Church
19/12 Santa Dash (weather permitting)
22/12-04/01 - Christmas Break (last school day is Wednesday 21/12 , Finishing at 11.30am)
05/01 School will reopen.
10/01 Second Confirmation Parent Meeting 7.30pm (Zoom)
17/01 Second Communion Parent Meeting 7.30pm (Zoom)
06/02 Lá Feile Bride
13-17/02 Mid Term Break
06/03 Third Second Confirmation Parent Meeting 7.30pm St Mochta's Church
16-17/03 St Patrick's Day
28/03 Ceremony of Light and Confirmation 10am & 1pm
03-14/04 Easter Break (last school day is Friday 31/03, Finishing at 11.30am)
24/04 Third Communion Parent Meeting 7.30 - St Mochta's Church
01/05 May Bank Holiday
02-05/06 June Bank Holiday
06/05 First Communion 10am & 12.30pm

Christmas Gifting

In view of the current economic state, we would suggest that parents (should they wish) make a donation to St Vincent de Paul in lieu of sending gifts to staff.

<https://www.svp.ie/ways-to-help/gift-of-choice-appeal/>

Choir Carol Service

The choir will perform a carol service in Laurel Lodge church at 7pm on 16th December. All are very welcome.

3rd Class Swimming

As part of the PE curriculum this year, we are delighted to inform you that we have arranged for an 8-week swimming course to be delivered to our third class children this term at Coolmine Swimming Pool. The 8-week course will begin on February 1st 2023 and continue every Wednesday up to and including 29th March. More details will be furnished to our 3rd class parents in the coming weeks.

Please see our swimming policy:

<http://www.stpatricksns.ie/policies/swimming-policy-september-2019.pdf>

Fire Safety Art Competition

A huge well done to the second class pupils who submitted fantastic artwork to this year's Fire Safety Competition. Congratulations to Annie Mc Menamin from Ms. Quinn's class who was one of this year's winners.

Up Close Dance Workshop

We all enjoyed the workshop very much and the dancers were very talented. From their skills and their props it was all very entertaining . They taught us fun moves and routines and it was really interesting to learn. Everyone was really happy and they taught us not to be shy but to be yourself.

Cindy & Anna, Ms. Mc Tague's 4th class.

2nd Class Science Workshop

On Wednesday 16 th November, 2nd class took part in a Forensic Science Workshop. We worked in teams as detectives to solve a crime where the world famous Venus diamond was stolen! We used CCTV, fingerprints, footprints and DNA to help us solve the crime. We learned that identical twins have the same DNA but not the same fingerprints.

We had so much fun and lots of our class are hoping to have a career in Science in the future.

It was a great way to celebrate Science Week 2022!

Written by Eleanor O'Kane and Aimee Gough

Science Workshop

James showed us how to turn on lights with a plasma and with our bare hands! After that we electrocuted a baby doll and made cool electric sparks. Finally we got an air cannon and some people got to shoot it. Eventually he added smoke to it so we could see how far the air travelled. It was really interesting.

by Ava Breen and Andrew Soliman from 5th class.

Science Fair

In the morning the three 5th classes got ready for the fair. All the children were interested, excited but very nervous as they were to be judged by real scientists. We were lucky that the 4th classes had come to visit and wrote nice comments to cheer us up. Finally it was time to announce the winners. Chloe, Rugile and Zoe won with their experiment on 'Lemon Battery'. We wish them the best of luck in the next stage of the competition. The fair was really fun and enjoyable. I'd recommend it to anyone.

by Chloe, James and Zoe from 5th class.

Marathon Kids

We did the marathon kids programme over 8 weeks. We started by running 600 metres a day and by the end we were running 2000 metres in one day. We think that running is really good for your physical and mental wellbeing. We asked other students if they felt better about running since doing marathon kids. The majority said yes.

We did our final mile in Tír na nÓg along with the other 5th and 6th classes. We were given special tshirts to do this mile. We had lots of fun doing this because everyone was together.

There was lots of parents and teachers there to cheer us on. Even some 4 legged friends! We all got a medal for participating in the programme. We would encourage other children to have fun while doing this programme next year. Thank you

from Keeva Kildunne and Reese Peacock from Mrs Kenny 5thh class.

Garden Bulbs

A big thank-you to all parents who generously donated spring bulbs to the school in the past two weeks. The Garden Club got busy one lunchtime this week planting them all and doing some weeding. We can look forward to beautiful flowers next spring! 🌷🌻🌸

LEGO

We were grateful to receive a few LEGO donations. If anyone has any more unused sets at home, we will always accept LEGO donations to the box at reception.

Spare tracksuits bottoms

We have a selection of spare tracksuits bottoms in the event of accidents. Our 1st/2nd class stock is running low. If your child has an accident and wears a school pair home, please wash and return to the class teacher. If any parent has spare **size 7-8 tracksuit bottoms** at home, we would gratefully accept these. Please send it to your child's teacher or the office FAO: Ms Threadgold.

New yard furniture

We are delighted to have received delivery of some new yard benches for both sides of our yard. These were bought through the INTEL Grant, which was donated by parents working in Intel. The children will enjoy these benches for years to come.

REMINDERS

Leaving School Early

The teacher should be notified in advance if possible, should a child need to be collected early. Pupils who leave before the end of the school day, must be signed out at Reception by a parent/guardian.

If you need to collect your child during the school day, **please do not do so during break times (refer to table below.)** as the children are in the school yard at this time. If an *emergency situation* arises, please ring the office before break time and we will arrange to have your child at Reception.

Junior & Senior Infants, First & Second Classes	
Small Break	10.10-10.20
Big Break	11.40- 12.10
Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Classes	
Small Break	10.30-10.40
Big Break	

Emails

As there are 850+ children in the school, can we please request that you include your **child's name, surname** and the **class teacher** in the subject line when emailing the school.

Birthday parties / Festivals etc

.If your child is having a birthday party and inviting children from the class, the distribution of invitations must be done outside school, as children who are not on the guest list can feel upset and isolated. Please do not ask school personnel for phone numbers or addresses of children in the class. Schools, like all institutions, must adhere to the terms of the Data Protection Act.

We celebrate festivals such as Halloween, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day and Easter as part of the overall school curriculum. However we discourage the practice of exchanging cards and/or gifts in school. Again, those who do not receive presents and those who may not celebrate some of the festivals feel upset and isolated.”

Letters of Attendance

We would ask that if you require Letters of Attendance for Child Benefit/Travel/Visa purposes for your child/children, that you give the office **as much advance notice as possible**. **Please**

EMAIL your request to info@stpatricksns.ie stating the purpose of the letter. If it is for travel/visa request purposes, please advise date of departure so that the letter can be dated within a week of travel.

Passport Applications

The Principal, Deputy Principal, School Teachers and School Secretaries are permitted to witness Passport Applications for our school pupils. Passports are important legal documents so please do not take offence if you are asked by a member of staff for photo id. Please also note that both parents must sign the form in the presence of the staff member witnessing the application.

Procedure for entering the school each morning

The school bell rings at **08.30am**. Children **walk** to their lines. Please note, classes are collected from the yard by their teacher. As soon as the classes have entered the building, the doors are closed.

- The **Luttrellstown door (Door 4)** remains open until **8.50am**.
- **Only children who arrive after 08.50am should enter via reception and sign the "late book"**.

Children may not enter the school building until 08.30am. Parents are responsible for the welfare of their children until the school's duty of care begins at 8.30 am. On wet mornings, please time your arrival for 8.30 – 8.40am.

Access to Classrooms After Hours

With the exception of those attending Extra-Curricular Activities, **children are not permitted to re-enter the classroom after 2.10pm**. If in an absolute emergency (**forgotten books, copies and general belongings does not generally constitute an emergency!**) a child needs to gain access to his/her classroom outside school hours, he/she should come to Reception.

Letters of Attendance

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Absences due to illness

Whilst there is no need to telephone the school if your child is sick, we would greatly appreciate if you would contact us if your child contracts a contagious illness e.g. measles, mumps, rubella, etc. There are children in the school who are at increased risk of contracting these illnesses. Parents **must** acknowledge their child's absence from school, **in writing**, at the back of the child's School Journal (Education Welfare Act). Parents of Infants children should speak to the teacher at the class line on the morning of their return.

Sick Children at School

Please do not send sick children to school for the following reasons:

- Children are unable to cope with the demands of school when they are unwell.
- Infection spreads rapidly in the confinement of the classroom.
- There is no indoor supervision for sick children during breaktimes.

Covid

Covid is once again circulating widely among the school community. We can only share information about cases by text, if we are informed. The Covid isolation rules for positive cases has not changed recently.

As per current HSE guidance, children should:

- remain at home for 7 days (day 0= onset of symptoms OR positive test)

AND

- must be 48 hours recovered from substantial symptoms.

Parking

The Gardaí and local residents have again approached the school regarding the issue of **dangerous** and **illegal parking**. We appreciate that lack of parking space is a major problem for all parents. However, cars must be parked in a safe, legal and considerate manner. Unfortunately, a number of parents continue to park and block access to/from driveways, and park dangerously close to junctions and entrances to estates. This is both highly inconsiderate towards the residents of these estates and is, in fact, illegal.

There are also a number of parents who stop at the roundabout on the main road which is also a **dangerous and illegal practice**. It is also an unnecessary practice as we have a safe procedure in place for dropping children off at the main entrance of the school.

The following are extracts from the *Rules of the Road*:

1. *A vehicle may not park on double yellow lines in any circumstances.*
2. *A vehicle may not be parked within **5m** of a junction.*
3. *Vehicles may not be parked near: **a bend, the brow of a hill, a humped back bridge, a continuous white line**, where it would obstruct a sign, at an entrance, at a bus stop or opposite another vehicle on a narrow road.*

The Board of Management will have no hesitation in supporting local residents who choose to report drivers who park illegally or trespass on their property. The Board will also support those parents who choose to report instances of dangerous parking that may put the lives of their children at risk.

There is ample parking available at Spar car park which is a short distance from the school. Cars must be parked **properly** in the car park. **Under no circumstances should a car obstruct one of their patrons** or interfere with delivery truck access.

Diswellstown Community & Recreation Centre And Local Community Activities

St Mochtas Little Saints Academy Info

Every Saturday morning at the St Mochtas FC astro on Porterstown Road

Boys Born 2018-2017 and All girls 2018-2013 **9:30-10:30**

All Boys Born 2016 **10:45-12**

Please contact academy@stmochtasfc.com or Keep an eye on our social media pages
@stmochtasfc

Niall McNally School of Irish Dancing

Beginner Irish Dancing classes starting Monday 7th of November in Luttrellstown Community Centre, Castleknock - 6-7pm. First class is free!

Contact us at theniallmcnallyschool@gmail.com or on our socials for more information & to register your interest!