**October Newsletter**



| ***Most parent queries can be answered by accessing*** [***www.stpatricksns.ie***](http://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.***  |
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**REGISTRATION JUNIOR INFANTS SEPT 2023 INTAKE**

**Please see the school website for information on Junior Infant Intake Registration dates and procedures.**

|  **Upcoming Events** |
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**03-21/10 Communion & Confirmation Online Registration**

**17/10 - 13/11 - Registration for Junior Infants September 2023 Intake**

**13/10 Boys Snr Football 3pm Somerton**

**18-19/10 School Photographs (more details to follow)**

**21/10 CLOSING DATE for Communion & Confirmation Registration**

**31/10- 04/11 Mid Term Break**

**22/11 & 24/11 Parent/Teacher Meetings**

**22/12-05/01 - Christmas Break (last school day is Wednesday 21 December)**

**06/02 - Lá Feile Bride**

**13-17/02 Mid Term Break**

**16-17/03 St Patrick’s Day**

**03-14/04 Easter Break**

**01/05 May Bank Holiday**

**02-05/06 June Bank Holiday**

**Permissions**

Throughout the school year, various Online Permission and Consent forms are sent home with the children, in either physical form or via Aladdin Connect. Examples are:

● Junior Infant Immunisation Consent Forms

● Hearing & Vision Testing Consent

● Christmas Card Order Forms

● School Calendar Order Forms

● Art Competition submissions

● Choir Permission Slips

● School Tour Permission

● Dental Permission

● Permission Slips for attendance at various Sporting Activities

● Permissions to attend a variety of activities

As there are currently ***580 families and over 850 students*** in St Patrick’s N.S., it is now even more important that all permissions are **ACCEPTED or DECLINED ASAP** or **by the requested date.**

***Deadline dates for all the above will be strictly adhered to without exception***.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**Dates as per calendar above. We are returning to face to face meetings this year. We will advise re booking procedures shortly. If any parents require separate meetings please send an email to St. Patrick’s N.S. by Thursday 13th.

**Christmas Cards Reminder**

All completed Christmas Cards must be returned to the class teacher by **Thursday 13 October.** All order payments are online and must be received by **Thursday 13 October. Please ensure that both the card and the payment are submitted in time**

**Once the payment portal is closed no further orders can be accepted.**

**Junior Infant/Calendar/Family photos**

The school photographer Richard Gavin will be in school on the **18th and 19th of October** to take photos for our school calendars. He will also offer photos of our junior infants (these will be taken on request only). *Mail with booking link to follow once available.* Family photos (for children in St.Patrick’s) will be offered on the afternoon of October 18th. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.  *Link for this will follow also once available*. Details are being finalised by the Parents’ Association at present and these booking links will be shared with parents shortly.

Children should wear either uniforms or tracksuit (as desired) for photos on both days as we cannot plan in advance which days each class will be on.

**Only children who have permission for photos can be included in the class photo.**

Photo permission (updated policy) will issue in Aladdin app shortly.

**Parent Information Meetings**

Thank you for your engagement at our morning meetings and webinar. A link to the presentation is below for those who were unable to attend.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dx5UDQvncgaSN3c_hj0Y3txxRqPyJq1R2XBAqu6F-UI/edit?usp=sharing>

**Children on crutches/in boots**

If a child is injured and (under medical advice) not able to walk up stairs, please contact the school with as much notice as possible, so alternative arrangements can be put in place. Please note there is no supervision available to keep injured children indoors during yard time.

**Reading for pleasure/Local Libraries**

At our Parent Information meeting we have been talking about the importance of building/maintaining the habit of reading and fostering a love of books at home and in school. There is a wealth of different texts and resources such as picture books (for all ages) including novels, fact books, graphic novels, audio books etc.

A link to services provided by our local library below.

<https://www.librariesireland.ie/services/right-to-read>

Borrowbox is a very useful app which allows you to digitally borrow books and audiobooks (also access magazines and newspapers) for FREE with a library card.

<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-library-eservices-and-eresources-online>

For parents looking for ideas of new authors/texts to try, Children’s Book Ireland is a mine of information.

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/resources-ideas/resources-parents-guardians>

**Spring Bulbs**

Our school garden has flourished over the summer months and we hope to plant some flowering bulbs soon, so that the garden will be a riot of colour again, come springtime. Any donations of spring bulbs would be very gratefully received. Allium, crocus, grape hyacinth and other pollinators friendly bulbs are especially welcome.

Any parent who is generously donating bulbs is asked to kindly drop them to th ebox at reception.

**LEGO appeal**

If any family has unused LEGO at home, we can promise it a happy and busy home in St.Patricks! Any and all donations gratefully received. Please drop donations to the box in reception.

| **Sports Updates** |
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**Selection of children for school events and appropriate parental interaction**

Many thanks to all of our parents for your continued support of our school teams. We greatly appreciate your help with supervision, jersey care, side-line encouragement, etc. The school is indebted to our teachers who train and run the teams in a voluntary capacity and without whom we not be able to field school teams. The school ethos is to promote ‘Sport for All’. However, some events are competitive and for these, children need to be selected. We always endeavour to be as fair as possible when picking children to represent the school. While there will always be differing opinions in this regard, it is the prerogative of the team management to make the final decision.

**It is not appropriate for parents to take issue with teachers regarding the selection process**

**GAA Teams**

**Boys Football Reports**

Blue Team:

Our boys Blue GAA Panel went out to play our first game of the season against Sacred Heart

BNS, Ballygal two weeks ago. After a strong second half performance we came up just short

losing 3-4 to 2-4.In our second game we came up against an excellent Scoil Mhuire Marino side by which we were unluckily defeated.

We are looking forward to our next two games against Lucan and St. Brigid’s Castleknock

which we are hoping to win.

Written by Pranav Kartikeyan and Jake Flanagan

Yellow Team:

Our Yellow GAA Panel have played two games so far this year against St. Patrick’s

Drumcondra and St. Brigid’s Castleknock. We have had two great wins and have really

enjoyed our journey so far. We are hopeful this week for a third win against Scoil Mhuire Marino and to advance through the group stages.

Written by Riain O’Connell and Rory Kane

Yellow Team:

 The boys yellow team are through to the quarter finals after their three group games so far this year. We won our first two games and lost our third against a very strong Marino side. Despite the result we were really happy with our performance as everyone played well. We are looking forward to our next game.

Written by Ely Cogan

Blue Team:

The boys blue team had a great win yesterday over St. Marys BNS Lucan. The wind was against us in the first half and the rain was blowing into our faces. The weather was bad but we held out for the first half and earned our scores back in the second half. We were delighted when the ref blew the whistle with a final score of St Patrick’s 6-9 - 3-7 Lucan.

Written by Tony and Peter Donohoe

**Girls Football Report**

The girl’s team played their final game on Wednesday. As the season finishes we would like to thank everyone for their effort this year and a special mention to all the 5th class girls who helped us this year as well as the three girls who played brilliantly in goals. Our game on Wednesday was against Scoil Thomais. It was a great game and both teams played excellently. We really enjoyed our time playing for St. Patrick’s.

Written by Alannah and Caoimhe

| **Important Reminders** |
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**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 class lists, 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.

**Access to Classrooms After Hours**

***Children are not permitted to re-enter the classroom after 2.10pm.*** This is to prevent loss or damage to school property. 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, they should come to Reception.

**Staff Car Park**

Parents are not permitted to park in the car park at any time during the school day. The ***only exception*** is dropping or collecting **disabled or injured children**. We would be grateful if you could also inform ***anyone who may be collecting your child/children on your behalf*** **of this procedure**.

If you are returning to the school to drop off forgotten lunches, schoolbags, etc. during the school day, please park in the bus stop area and enter via the Pedestrian Gate. (Please close gates after you leave). Please note that children are not permitted to enter the school via the Staff Car park. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Dogs outside school grounds**As you are aware, under no circumstances should dogs ever be brought on to school grounds. We would also ask that if you are bringing your dog with you at drop off/collection times, please keep your dog on their leash and away from the entrance and pedestrian ramp. Please bear in mind that younger children (and some adults) could be afraid/nervous of dogs.

**Cycle lanes on way to school**

A plea from parents and cyclists- it is important that cyclists stick to cycle lanes and pedestrians to pedestrian lanes to and from school. We will continue to remind the children but request that parents also remind their children to stick to the correct lane for the safety of all.

**Healthy Food Policy**

We have a healthy food policy in St. Patrick’s. Children are not allowed to bring fizzy drinks, crisps, sweets or chocolate to school. Instead we would ask you to make healthy food choices.

From January 2020, all classrooms in the school are NUT FREE. Please ensure that your child’s lunch is free from nuts and products containing nuts e.g. nuts, cereal bars, nut butter.

Please give your child only small amounts of food which he/she can easily manage. Recommended snacks might include a sandwich, bread roll, crackers, a plain biscuit, scone or bun. A piece of fruit (pre-peeled or prepared if necessary) is also a good choice. Children should have a small bottle of water or juice available to them every day (plastic & recyclable). On Fridays, pupils may bring one treat as part of their snack e.g. a bar. Forks, knives, cocktail sticks or any other sharp implements should not be included in a child’s lunchbox.

**Student Council**

The student council is starting once again this year. We're here to make the school a better place for everyone. We listen to our friends' ideas and bring them to our meetings where we decide what to act on. We are looking forward to working together this year.

By Edmund Linkevicus, Leah O'Callaghan and Jake Flanagan (5th class representatives).

**School Choir**

Choir started last week in the hall. We enjoyed some vocal warmups first. Then we created a rain storm with body percussion, sang a few songs and even sang in harmony - it was really fun! We want to thank Ms Cobbe, Ms King, Ms Walsh, Ms Threadgold, Ms Mulvey, Joan Kavanagh and Mrs. Corcoran and all the staff who help at choir.

By Saoirse Digan, Chloe Zhang and Grace Ward (5th class choir members).

**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