



Principal: Mr Terry McCann
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September 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome / Fáilte to all our pupils, back for the new academic year.

A special welcome to all of our Primary One pupils



Back Row (L to R):

Pól McNicholl, Michael Higgins, Conlan Hasson, Cillian Mullan, James Bradley, Cúmháí Muncey, JP Madden, Oisín Johnston, Martin Mullan

Front row (left to right)

Aoife Mullan, Willow Baker, Erin Mullan, Maria McLaughlin, Elana McLaughlin, Thea O'Kane, Kate O'Kane, Norah McNicholl

School Improvement

I would like to thank all in the community who have contributed to improvements around the school in the last academic year. This includes individual members of the community, local businesses and the 'Friends of Saint Patrick's and Saint Joseph's' group.

These projects have greatly improved the look of the school buildings and the surrounding grounds.

Furthermore, the projects will provide the children with an enhanced area and facilities to enjoy and thrive during their time in St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's.

Mr T McCann

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new Primary One pupils and to all our pupils back for the new academic year.

Thank you to all parents for making our morning drop off such a success. Please note;

- Both sites are open from 8.30am - children should not be dropped off before 8.30am
- Please reverse cars into car parking bays at both sites and escort your child to the school gate
- Inter-site transport is available from Tirkeeran to Glenullin at 8.30am and from Glenullin Chapel car park to Tirkeeran at 8.45am

Collection of Children from EA Bus

It is important to note that, according to the EA Transport policy, our school bus driver cannot let children off the bus unless a responsible adult is there to collect them.

Dates for Term One

Wednesdays	4 Sept	Swimming starts for the P7 class
Wednesdays	18 Sept	Gaelic with Johnny McGuckin
Wednesdays	Once a month	Adoration for P4-7
Thursday	5 Sept	Library visits starting with Primary 7
Wednesday	TBC	School Mass
Friday	18 Oct	P6 Assembly
Week beginning	21 Oct	Parent / teacher meetings - After school, dates and times to follow
Monday - Friday	28 Oct - 1 Nov incl.	Hallowe'en holidays
Friday	17 Nov	P5 Assembly
Friday	20 Dec	School closes at 12 noon
Friday	3 Jan	School reopens.

Start of Year Mass

Father Crowley will celebrate Mass with the staff and children of the school, **date to be confirmed**. It will be a great occasion where the whole school community can come together and pray for a successful and happy year. Parents are very welcome to attend and join the celebration.

This month the children will be singing a number of hymns as they prepare for the Start of Year Mass.

Sing Hosanna
We Come to You Lord
Jesus
Ephesian Prayer
Go Now in Peace



Song of the Month: We Come To You Lord Jesus

We come to you Lord Jesus
To say our thanks to you
And in our hearts we give ourselves
And everything we do.

Chorus:
We love you Lord Jesus
Stay with us we pray
Help us to be more like you each day.

We bring the bread, we bring the wine,
We offer them to you,
We bring our work, we bring our play,
And everything we do.

Chorus
Your love for us, our love for you,
We celebrate today,
Oh, fill our hearts with peace and joy,
Be with us, Lord, we pray.

Chorus

Parents' Association

The annual AGM will be held in October, date to be confirmed, at 8pm in the Tirkeeran site. The more parents who participate, the stronger our team will be.

P6 Assembly

P6 will perform their assembly for their parents on **Friday 18 October**. This is a great opportunity for our wonderful P6 children to showcase their talents. We would ask that parents use the hand sanitisers on the way in.

Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Children are encouraged to share any worries with their parents, and in school with any adult. The school will remind children regularly that Mrs Ball (Designated Teacher for Child Protection), Mrs McCloy and Mrs Heron (Deputy Designated Teachers) are always available to handle any concerns.

Library Visits

Each class will have the opportunity to visit Garvagh library between now and Christmas. This is a great support and enhances the excellent provision for reading in the school.

Parent Meetings

Parent meetings will be held week beginning Monday 21 October. Meetings will take place after school in the hall at the top site. Parents will be given a time and meeting will last 10 minutes.



Hallowe'en Dress -up

On **Friday 25 October** the children are invited to dress up for Hallowe'en. The children are sure to have a spooktacular day full of fantastically fun, ghoulishly gruesome activities. All children will be entered into a draw to win a Hallowe'en hamper on each site.



During/Afterschool Clubs



Mondays	16 Sept - 14 Oct	P4/5 camogie with Mrs McCloy 3-4pm
Tuesdays 2-3pm	17 Sept - 15 Oct	Foundation Fun Club for P1 & P2 Children should be picked up from the Tirkeeran site at 3pm unless travelling to Appletree's in the school bus
Wednesdays	Starting 18 Sept	Football for P6/7 boys with Johnny McGuckin 3-4pm
Thursdays	26 Sept - 17 Oct	P6/7 camogie with Mr McCann 3-4pm

Grammar for the month

How much / How many

How many is used for countable or plural objects	How much is used for questions about <u>one</u> object.
<p>(you can count)</p> <p>How many cars are in the park?</p> <p>There are too many slices of turkey on my plate.</p>	<p>(one object)</p> <p>How much money does the car cost?</p> <p>But how many pounds do I need to buy the car?</p> <p>How much turkey do you want?</p>

🎵 **How much** is that doggy in the window
The one with the waggy tale
How much is that doggy in the window
I do hope that dog is for sale

Irish for the Month

Colours/ Classroom objects



Cad é an dath atá ar..... ?

Tá an peann dearg.

Tá an peann luaidhe gorm

Tá an scriosan dubh

Tá an mála scoile donn

Tá an rialoir glas

Tá an deasc buí

Tá an leabhar bán

Corcra : purple

Irish Website:

<https://ccea.org.uk/learning-resources/primary-irish-and-aspects-shared-cultural-heritage>

Ca jay an dath ata air?

Ta an pan dearg.

Ta an pan loay gorm

Ta an scriosan dubh

Ta an mála skulla donn

Ta an riallor glas.

Ta an dasc bwee.

Ta an lower bán.

Liath : grey

What colour is.....?

The pen is red.

The pencil is blue.

The rubber is black.

The schoolbag is brown.

The ruler is green.

The table is yellow.

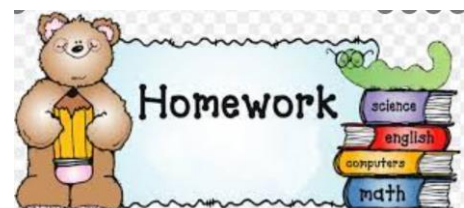
The book is white

Bándearg : pink

TOPICS

The children enjoy learning all about the world around them.

In learning through their topics children are able to apply their learning and develop cross-curricular skills.



Primary 1 - There's No-one Quite like Me

Primary 2 - Wow Wee, Look at Me!

Primary 3 - Castles & Knights

Primary 4 - World War II

Primary 5 - Where We Live

Primary 6 - Famine

Primary 7 - Rainforest

We understand that on occasion it is virtually impossible and impracticable for your child to complete their homework. When this is the case simply send the teacher a dojo explaining that your child was unable to complete their homework.

No further explanation is necessary. It is optional if you the parent wants the child to complete the homework on a different night.

School Dinners and Free School Meals

School dinners cost £2.60 per day, please send in an envelope. Please make cheques payable to the Education Authority.



The number of pupils who are on the free school meals' register affects the school budget. If you are in any doubt as to whether you are entitled to free dinners please complete a Free School Meals' form which is available via the Education Authority's website,

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>, even if you do not wish your child to actually take dinner.



Boomerang Lunches

To encourage recycling and in order that parents can gauge what children have eaten for their lunch and break the school has a boomerang lunch policy. This means that all packaging or uneaten lunch will return home in the pupils' lunchboxes

Use of Children's images - a reminder

The school has a number of parents who have not given permission for their child's image to be used or reproduced by members of the public.

Allergies / Medical Needs

As you are aware a number of children within the school are allergic to nuts and or eggs.

As an anaphylactic reaction to these foods can be potentially life threatening we ask that all parents ensure that no nut products (e.g. Kinder eggs/ bars) or egg (such as egg sandwiches) be brought into the school.

Administering Medication

If your child has a medical condition and required medication, please ensure the medication is in date.



Mathletics

Mathletics is an excellent fun maths learning programme. Pupils thrive on the competitive element of obtaining points by competing against other pupils online or by completing tasks independently. Pupils are given appropriately levelled activities which are in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum. 'Mathletics' will be used both in school and at home.

The cost per pupil is £5 (approximately 10p for 52 weeks / 25p if only used for 20 weeks) with a maximum payable of £15 per family. Parents who subscribe will ensure their child has access to unlimited tutorials for 52 weeks.

We would urge all parents, regardless of the age or ability of your child to support this initiative as we believe that it is a relatively inexpensive way of significantly improving your child's mathematical results.

New Mathletics Certificate System

Mathletics have updated their certificate system. There are now 8 certificate levels with 5 ranks within each certificate. This means that there are now 40 certificates in total that students can earn each academic year.

A certificate is earned by achieving 1000 points (or more) in a week. The Mathletics week starts from Monday morning and runs until midnight on Sunday evening.

The new certificate types are as follows:

- Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum,
- Emerald, Diamond, Epic and Legend

As a reward for their efforts and hard work, pupils will visit the shop when they achieve their 5th Platinum certificate and again when they achieve their 5th Legend certificate.

Certificates will now be reset each year, so that every year students have a chance of being able to achieve Legend status. We hope this will encourage pupils to engage with Mathletics regularly to ensure they are on track to earn the highest rewards possible.

Attendance

Pupils who have any sickness should remain at home until well enough to return to school.