



1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

### **WELCOME BACK**

A huge welcome back is extended to all our pupils throughout the school, with a particular welcome to our new pupils commencing Primary One. We hope that everyone will have an enjoyable and rewarding year ahead!

As always we encourage parents to play an active role in their child/children's education and invite you to contact the teacher concerned should your child encounter any trouble settling back to school or indeed at any time of the year. Unfortunately, we must ask that unless absolutely necessary communication is done via telephone to keep external traffic to the school to the absolute minimum.

### **ROISIN CARTMILL**

It was with deep regret that we heard the sad news of the death of Roisin Cartmill. Roisin worked for several years in St. John's as school secretary and dinner supervisor. She was a much loved member of staff who will be fondly remembered by both staff and past pupils. On behalf of the school community, we send our deepest condolences to her family. RIP Roisin.

### **REMINDER - SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND PICK UP TIMES**

**All drop off and school pickups should take place at the back entrance of the school via the Church carpark.** We kindly ask that children avoid using the front entrance. Children who are walking or cycling to school should also arrive or leave school at the back gate via the church walkway. Cones will be placed out at these times for them to use. As always we ask that when arriving and exiting the carpark you drive slowly and consider that children are making their way out of the school. Thankyou in advance!

#### **Arrival times:**

The children can be dropped off at the school gates between 8.50a.m. and 9.05a.m. **Reminder: no adult should enter the school gates as we are trying to maintain safe 'bubbles'.** The children will be directed to their classrooms by an adult where they will wash their hands on arrival.

#### **The pick-up times are:**

**Reminder: no adult should enter the school gates – all children will be brought to the drop off/pick up zone when their parent arrives.**

- P1, P2 & P3 – 2.00p.m.
- P4-P7 – 2.45p.m. children walking home will be released.
- P4 & P5 – 2.50p.m.
- P6 & P7 – 3.00p.m.

We ask that adults follow the government's guidance on 2m social distancing and avoid gathering in groups at the school gates by making the most of the large space available.

Should you need to collect a child during the school day please come to the main entrance of the school as usual and your child will be brought to you.

### **SCHOOL DINNERS**

For the first few weeks of term the children will be required to bring a packed lunch to school. Children who are entitled to Free Schools Meals will receive a packed lunch from the canteen. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms to avoid congregations in the dining room. Once the children are settled and use to the routine of bubbles hot meals will resume.

### **HEALTHY EATING POLICY**

We operate a healthy eating policy at break time. Please ensure your child/ children bring fruit or vegetables with either milk or water. Please note, this does not include yoghurts, breakfast bars or sandwiches. Though this policy does not operate at lunchtime, we would encourage healthy options for those children who bring packed lunches.

### **WATER BOTTLES**

We ask that all pupils bring a clearly labelled plastic water bottle to school. Unfortunately, we are no longer in a position to distribute cups as we would have done in the past.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The children all look fabulous in their new uniforms. We would ask that all the children's clothing is labelled clearly to avoid unnecessary confusion.

### **MOBILE NUMBERS**

Anyone who has changed their mobile numbers over the summer holidays is asked to notify the school to ensure that our records are up to date and that the school text messages are going to the correct number.

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

A list of the school holidays will be made available on the school website this week.

### **REMINDER - P1 STARTING DATES**

To help progression into school life and routine we ask that during the month of September the P1 children be collected at the following times:

- **Tues 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September – 12 noon**
- **From Monday 21st September P1 stay until 2.00pm** (*Please note the children will need dinner money or a packed lunch from this date – details of this to follow*)

### **ENTRANCE EXAM REGISTRATION**

For any parents who wish their child to sit the Grammar School Entrance Exam, the closing date for registration is **Friday 9th October at 2pm**. Please note a passport photo of your child and a birth certificate are required for this registration. Registration packs can be obtained from the local Grammar schools or at [www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk/](http://www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk/)

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Holy Communion, for our present P5 pupils, will take place on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.**

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the children will have to make it in two groups at the following Mass times;

- *Group 1: 10.30a.m*
- *Group 2: 12.30p.m.*

We will send the details of the groupings home later this week.

First Confession will take place during the school day in St. John's Church where the class can remain as a single 'bubble.'

### **NON-UNIFORM DAY**

The last Friday of each month will be a non-uniform day organised by the Parent Support Group. Children are asked to bring in £1.00 as a contribution to school funds. Reminders of this will be sent out later in the month.