



# WELCOME BACK

[www.stpatrickslop.org](http://www.stpatrickslop.org) @stpatrickslop

WhatsApp: 07783 771785

## School Closure

Please be reminded that school will be closed on **Monday 26th September** for Staff Training.

## School Policies

Complete copies of all our school policies can be obtained by contacting the school office. This includes arrangements for Child Protection, Internet Safety, Pastoral Care and Discipline.

A summary of Policies will be issued to all parents in the week commencing Monday 19th September.



## Contact Us:

**Tel:** 028 79418 413

**Email:**

[info@stpatricks.loup.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricks.loup.ni.sch.uk)

**Twitter:**

@stpatrickslop



## Welcome Back

Welcome to a new school year at St. Patrick's Primary School. In particular I would like to welcome our 17 Primary 1 pupils. They have been absolutely brilliant at coming up the path and going straight into class.

We are looking forward to a great school year ahead. We hope to run a full list of events which we have missed over the last few years due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The current advice from nidirect is for anyone with a positive test to remain off school for 3 days and to return when they are symptom free. As a school we will no longer be informing parents of positive cases so we ask all parents to be vigilant of their own children at all times.

## Uniform

As we begin the new school year it is great to see all the children back to school in their full uniform. I would ask you to support us by ensuring that your child/children continue to wear their uniform to school every day throughout the year. Also, please ensure that all items of uniform, coats and footwear are **clearly marked with the child's name and class**. This helps when items of clothing are lost or found.

The name tags from [www.mynametags.com](http://www.mynametags.com) have been highly recommended by parents.





## Credit Union Savings Scheme

The Credit Union Savings Scheme will run in school every Tuesday morning beginning on 13th September 2022. Credit Union books will be collected each Tuesday and returned on Wednesday for those children who wish to participate in the scheme.

All new members are welcome. Any parents interested in opening a savings account can obtain further information by contacting Ballinderry Credit Union Office on (028) 7941 8555. The application can be completed over the phone. We encourage all children to be part of the savings programme.

## Free School Meals

We would urge any parent who was in receipt of Free School Meals last year to ensure that they have reapplied for Free Meals this year if entitled to do so. Free Meals need to be applied for each year.



## Times

School starts at **9.00am**. The school will open at **8.40am** each morning to start to receive children.

Children should enter the school through their designated entrance and go directly to their class. We would ask that no child is sent up to school before 8.40am as doors will not be open.

We would ask all parents to use the lower car park and not to drive up the main school entrance. For safety reasons we would ask everyone to adhere to this policy unless there are exceptional circumstances.

### In the event of late comers:

Anyone arriving at school after 9.05am may use the turning bay at the top of the school drive to safely drop off their child/children. Late comers should then report to the secretary's office, through the front main entrance. We would strongly recommend that all children arriving to school late are escorted to the front main entrance, in order to ensure that they arrive in the school building safely.

From here the secretary will ensure they get to their class.

**All children should be collected promptly from school at both 2.00pm and 3.00pm** as teachers on duty have afternoon classes and staff development meetings to attend.

**From Monday 7th November all Primary 3 children stay in school until 3.00pm on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon.**

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday they will go home at 2.00pm. Those Primary 3 children entitled to school transport may use the 3.00pm buses home on a Monday and Tuesday.

## Updating School Records

We are using our WhatsApp Broadcast list more often now and it is essential that all parents are receiving all messages. Two messages regarding School Meals were sent on Monday. If you didn't receive these messages please contact the school so this can be resolved immediately. The school WhatsApp number is at the top of all Newsletters - **you must have this saved into your contacts.**

It is vitally important that we have your correct home address, home and mobile telephone numbers and details of your chosen contact person(s) for our records. If any of your details have changed from last year, please contact the school office and have your Data Collection Sheet amended. If your details change during the course of this year please let us know.

Also, please inform us of any new or relevant medical details which should be amended or added to your child's Data Collection Sheet.

## Safeguarding Team

Should any issues / concerns occur around safeguarding, please be reminded Mrs Henry is our Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs Sheehy is the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Mr Scullion completes the Safeguarding Team.





## Dates for the diary:

**Primary 1 Baseline Parent/Teacher interviews** Tue 20th & Wed 21st September.

**Golden Friday** Fri 30th September.

**Staff Development Day** Monday 26th September

## Golden Friday

We will be having our first Golden Friday of this academic year on **Friday 30th September**.

Children are allowed to bring in a toy/game from home.

During this time children will be given time to play with their friends and their toy/game. This is in line with our Rewarding Positive Behaviour Policy.

## Morning Club

Our Morning Club continues to operate from 8:10am - 8:40am each morning and is available for all pupils each day.

The cost for this is £1:00 per session payable via our School Money App.

Our school doors open at 8:40am each morning. Please do not send children up the path before this time unless they are attending morning club.

## Swimming

Swimming lessons will commence for our Primary 5 children on Monday 12th September. Due to the rising cost of the bus, the cost per lesson has increased to £4:50 per lesson. We are still subsidising this cost. This is payable via our School Money App.

Primary 7 children will go swimming during Term 2 and Primary 6 during Term 3.

## Books

Each year we lose a number of reading books which is costly and provides difficulty when sourcing a set of books for children. We urge all families to take a look for any school books at home and return them to school as soon as possible. Many thanks.



## Sibling Club

We are delighted to re-introduce our Sibling Club from 2:00 - 3:00pm each day for children in P1-P3 who have a sibling in P4-P7. This will begin from Monday 12th September and will cost £2:00 per child per session, payable on your School Money App.

The children will be supervised in the school with a variety of activities.

We hope this facility is of benefit to those who pick up children at 2:00pm and again at 3:00pm.





## Milk money

There will be no milk in school during the month of September. Therefore milk money for **Term 1 (Oct-Dec) will be £12.00**. If you would like your child/ children to receive milk every day, please complete the payment via our School Money App for Term 1 milk money on or before **Tuesday 20th September**. Orders received after this date will not be processed.

## 2022/2023 Holiday List

A complete holiday list for the year is available on our school website at all times. A printed copy is available from the school office.



## A Special Welcome to all our Primary 1 children



