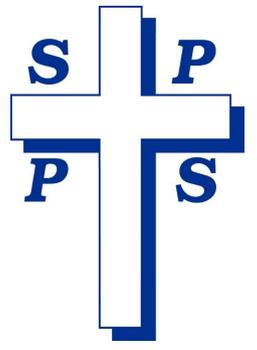


# St. Patrick's Primary School



# Starting School 2020



**Dear Parent**

**The Board of Governors and all the staff of St. Patrick's Primary School, Newtownstewart welcome you and your child.**

**Like you, we want your child to settle in happily to school, and hope that this booklet will help answer any questions you may have.**

**If there is something that you are not clear about or you wish to discuss, please mention this to any member of staff.**



# Meet the Staff involved in Primary 1

**My name is Mrs  
Harris.  
I will be your  
teacher!**



**My name is Miss  
Maguire.  
I am the Classroom  
Assistant.**

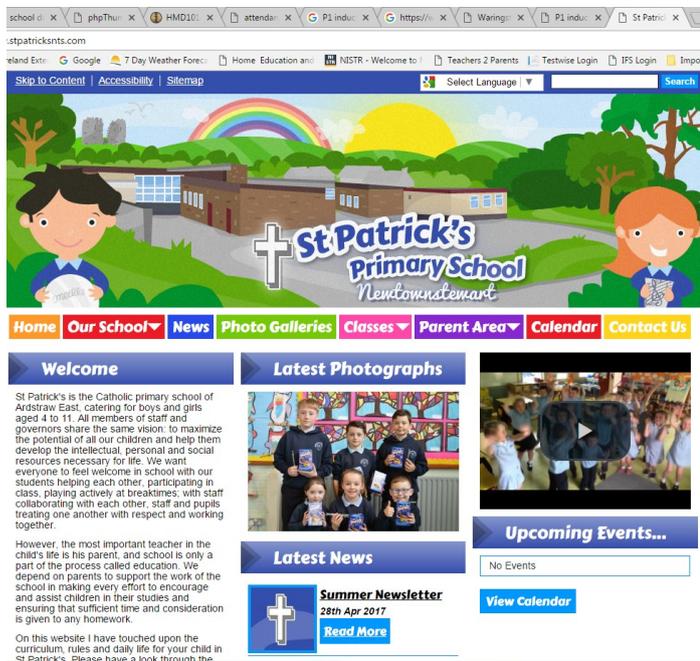
**My name is Mr Torney.  
I am the Principal.**



# School Information

## Address

**St. Patrick's Primary School**  
**59 Dublin Street**  
**Newtownstewart,**  
**County Tyrone**  
**BT78 4AQ**



**Website: [www.stpatricksnts.com](http://www.stpatricksnts.com)**

**Telephone: 8166 1611**

**Fax: 8166 1645**

**School Meals Kitchen: 8166 2436**

**The school website is updated regularly**

**Email: [info@stpatrickspns.newtownstewart.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatrickspns.newtownstewart.ni.sch.uk)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/SPPSNTS/>**

# Welcome to Primary One

Emir Ayla

Aiden Aleeah-Jai

Layla Aoife Abbie

Garbhan Clara-Rose

Flynn Enda Ava

Elijah Alfie Tilly

Corey  Cillian

# Getting ready for school

At St. Patrick's we try to promote independence in our children.

At home please teach them to:

- Learn how to put on and fasten their own coat.



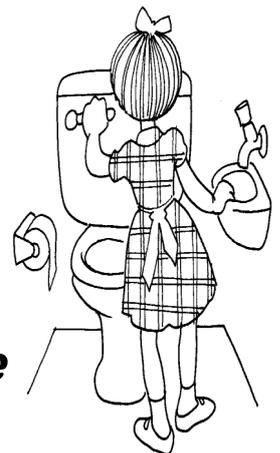
- Learn how to put on their own shoes (either slip-on or velcro).



**NO LACES IN P1, PLEASE.**

- Go to the toilet properly, flush it and wash their hands on their own. **(Vital at the current time)**

*(Boys toilets have urinals and cubicles. The urinals are self flushing and this noise can be off-putting for some!)*





- **Know when and how to blow their nose.**  
**(Carry tissues in their bag).**



- **Tidy away their toys and learn to wait for their turn to play with a particular toy.**



- **Use a knife and fork.**

Primary One rules are simple:

**Stay safe**

**Tell the truth**

**Try your best**

**Be a good listener**

**Be kind and helpful**

**Be polite and respectful**



# THE SCHOOL DAY

## COMING TO SCHOOL

Your child can come to school anytime from 8.45am (earlier if attending Breakfast Club). Children are to wait in the foyer until 9.00am when the bell rings and then they go to their classroom. All children should be in class by 9.15am when the register is taken. \*

We encourage children to come to class on their own as soon as they are happy to do so. This helps them to become independent and reduces congestion in the cloakroom area.



## COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL AT 2.15PM

From Monday 24th Aug—Friday 25th Sept, P1 Hometime will be 12.45. **The children will be brought out to you at the school gate.**

From Monday 28th Sept, home time will be 2.15pm and again, the teacher will bring the children to the pedestrian gate. It is very important that the children and teacher know who is picking them up. All P1 and P2 children must be collected at 2:15pm (unless staying for After-School Club).

**Please let the school know if someone different is collecting your child.**

Children can get anxious if they are not collected on time, so please let the school know if you are going to be late.

**\* Due to Covid-19 precautions, this is likely to be changed. Parents will be notified closer to the beginning of term on 24th August 2020.**

# TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL BY CAR

Parents and childminders bringing children to school are asked to arrive in good time to allow for safe parking. Unfortunately there are no parking spaces in the school grounds and parent cars are not permitted in the school carpark.

Parents/childminders accompanying children to class are asked to park safely outside the school.

For those children who take part in after school activities it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that arrangements are made for the safe collection of their children.

## LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

- If your child needs to leave school early, we would appreciate a note in advance, or call in person to the school office where an approval slip will be given. This can be brought to the class teacher.
- Remember, we don't know who is at the end of a phone!
- In the best interest of children's education, medical or dental appointments should be made after school or during holidays.
- Taking children out of school early on a regular basis, not only disrupts your child's education, but also disrupts the routine of the classroom.

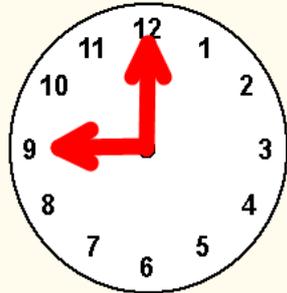
## IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT

- Phone the school as soon as possible.
- Give the school some indication of how long your child may be absent.
- When the child returns after an absence, a note must be given to the teacher.
- Absences without notes are logged as unauthorised
- Holidays should not be booked during term time

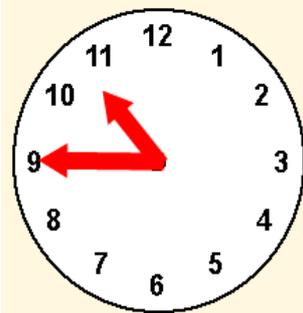
# THE SCHOOL DAY

**Morning**

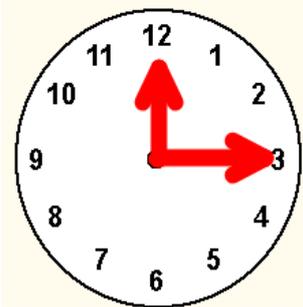
**9.15am -  
12.15pm**



**9.00am-9.15am:  
Come to class**



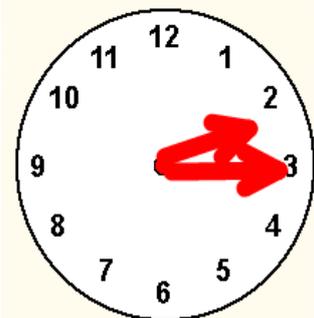
**10.45am-11.00am:  
Break time**



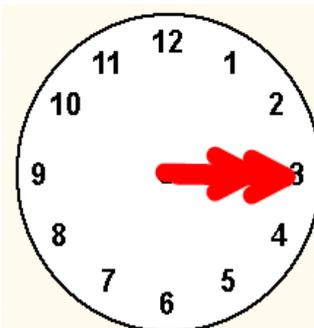
**12.15pm-1.15pm:  
Lunchtime**

**Afternoon**

**1.15pm -  
2.15pm**



**2.15pm: School day ends for  
Primary 1 and 2**



**3.15pm: School day ends for  
Primary 3 - 7**

# Breaktime

Each morning children will have Breaktime from 10.45 to 11.00am. In St. Patrick's P.S. we have a policy of healthy snacks e.g. fruit, vegetables, yoghurt. **No crisps, flavoured water, sweets or chocolate please!**



**Milk and fruit** are available each term for all classes. Please encourage your child to take milk and fruit. These are subsidised by the Extended Schools programme and cost approximately 10p each per day. You will be advised of the price and given the opportunity to 'sign up' at the beginning of each term.

**Do NOT send any snacks which contain nuts to school as these can cause severe reactions in children who have allergies. Children with allergies can have a reaction without eating or even touching the food.**

# Lunchtime



Lunchtime lasts from 12.15 to 1.15pm. Primary One children eat during the first 'sitting' and then go outside for play.

Children may bring a packed lunch (no crisps or fizzy drinks please) or they can purchase a hot meal from the school canteen. These cost £2.60 per day / £13.00 per week; payable in advance or on the day. Your child may be eligible for free school meals. The menu for dinners is given to all children in September and is on display outside the canteen.

# Water

Children are encouraged to drink water (unflavoured) at regular intervals during the day. Water bottles are available from the school secretary and can be refilled at break or lunch time from the water fountains.



# WHAT WE DO IN SCHOOL

Children come to school from a variety of different backgrounds, having had a range of learning experiences at home and, for most, some form of pre-school education. The Foundation Stage (Primary One and Two) aims to build on these learning experiences by providing children with an appropriate learning programme to provide them with the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life.

## Structured Play

Provides a range of experiences where the children can learn through play. **STRUCTURED PLAY** is the time when children can play with the various materials and equipment around a room. Some will choose to paint pictures some play with sand and water, some to bake “cakes”, some to make models, some to “read” books, etc. This is a time when the teacher can get to know the capabilities of the children, suggest useful extensions of their chosen activity, and, of course, communicate and develop linguistic ability.



**STORIES, RHYMES AND SINGING** play a large part in early school work. Many involve counting, many involve drama and movement. There is a story time every day.



## **MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY**

Your child will not do “sums” for quite some time. No number work other than counting can be done until the children have mastered some basic concepts. All of the early work is practical work, done with blocks, counters, beads etc. Each class is equipped with structured apparatus which is extensively used to build up number readiness.



## **READING**

Before he receives a book at all we will have to be sure that he is “ready to read”. Too early a start can have a disastrous effect on the child’s confidence. Reading from the beginning must be a source of pleasure, not a struggle through pages of meaningless words.



## **WORLD AROUND US**

In P1 we make great use of our school community with walks to local greengrocers, butchers etc which serves well to broaden your child experiences and we ask that you fill in a permission slip at the beginning of the year for us to take your child out on these local walks.





## **PDMU**

Including Personal Understanding and Health and Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community.

Working as a group and sharing



## **PDM**

Physical development and movement (PE)



# WHAT DO I NEED IN MY BAG



Healthy snack

If not taking school fruit  
- e.g.

- Fruit/raw vegetables
- Yoghurt



Bottle of water  
(sports top)



Change of under-  
wear—

e.g. pants (& socks)



Homework folder and books  
(supplied by school)



Tissues

**Primary 1 Homework books are larger than A4 size so it is  
advisable to have a large schoolbag.**

# THE FIRST MORNING

The transition from the home environment to school represents a very big change for the young child. The teacher understands this, she has been trained to handle this situation and to make the transition as easy as possible.

There are some things which you can do to help ease the “ordeal” for the apprehensive child. Try to ensure that your child is unhurried each morning as he prepares for school. Make all preparations for school the night before if possible and avoid last minute rushes to gather up pencils, school bag, etc. If possible make sure that he has a good breakfast which will sustain him throughout the morning.



Let him wear clothes which will help him to dress and undress easily. Velcro on shoes and trainers are essential.

Do spend a moment or two in the classroom. This can be an opportunity to mention briefly, to the teacher any problems your child may have.

After you have said goodbye, try to keep out of sight after you leave the classroom. The sight of mum or dad actually going away upsets some children. Before you leave, explain to your child exactly where and when you will meet him.

Try not to be late when collecting your child. This is a common source of distress. Most children make the transition quite easily.

Don't be too worried if your child cries. This happens in one or two cases every year, but seldom lasts longer than a few minutes after mum/dad has gone.

# WHAT DO THEY DO ALL DAY?

Parents often ask what goes on in a Foundation Stage classroom. This may be because much of the teaching is done through activities which the child thinks of as play so don't be surprised if he says he played all day.



After school your child will probably be very tired. It is a long day for a 4-5 year old. **DON'T** be worried or disappointed if you get the traditional answer to the question, 'WHAT DID YOU DO IN SCHOOL TODAY'? ..... "NOTHING".

We hope you will have an opportunity to visit the classroom to see for yourself the complexities involved in teaching 4 and 5 year olds. Each school has its own system with different schemes and approaches. Ours compares very favourably, the child is not kept back but rather a lot of early work is done to help him to mature and to be ready for reading etc. rather than being discouraged and put off by starting too soon.



If you have a message for the teacher write it down. Please use money pouches or envelopes when sending money to school. Four and five year olds do not always deliver messages as intended. Look in his bag for notes from the teacher to you.

# RULES

Rules are essential for a happy, safe environment. The emphasis in our school is to praise good attitude and effort and to increase children's awareness of their role in school. We want them to be considerate of others.



In Primary One rewards for good effort or behaviour include stickers and stars on a chart.

When children break the rules, sanctions may be necessary; they will be appropriate to the child and the incident.

If the incident is of a minor nature it will be dealt with in school. If it is serious or repeated, parents will be informed. Serious incidents are recorded in SIMS.net.

A Pupil of the Month Award is given every month to one child in each class who has made a special effort with work, behaviour or attitude.

One child in the school is also given the 'Lunchtime Star Award' each month for being helpful and well behaved during lunchtime.



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## **My child can't come to school today, what do I do?**

If your child is sick or has an appointment, please let the secretary or teacher know by 9.15am. You can do this by phone, note or message via a sibling or another parent.

It is important to let the school know if the child will return to school in time for dinner so that dinner numbers tally.

## **My child has an allergy. Who do I tell?**

School medical record forms will be sent home each September. You should record on this form any ongoing illnesses, allergies etc. especially those which may need treatment (Epipens, inhalers etc. must be kept in school). Staff are not allowed to administer general medicines such as antibiotics but parents are very welcome to come to school to do so themselves. If a parent puts in writing that the doctor advises medication during the school day, the Principal or Vice Principal will supervise pupils taking their own medicine.

Those children with ongoing medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes must have inhalers or emergency medication in school.

It is vitally important that the school be made aware of any changes in the child's health, and also any changes to emergency contact numbers.

Please refer to our First Aid/ Medicine Policy for more information.



## **What happens if my child wets or soils him/herself?**

**Please ensure your child has a change of underwear and socks in their bag every day.**

Under child protection rules, staff are not allowed to 'change' children if they have had a little accident. If children are able to change themselves after wetting, they can do this and they can be guided through the process if necessary. Parents will be informed. If the child is distressed, unable to change themselves or if no spare underwear is available then the parent will be contacted immediately. If a child is soiled parents will be contacted immediately - parents can then decide whether to clean and change their child at school or whether to take them home.

## **I have a concern about my child. Who can I talk to?**

The class teacher is happy to discuss any concerns you may have about your child. The teacher will be available for brief queries and information between 9.00am and 9.15am each morning. If you wish to have a longer chat, please do not hesitate to make an appointment for after school hours.

## **What are the arrangements for paying for trips, dinners etc?**

Dinners are paid for on a daily basis, or on a Monday for the week ahead. School savings (Credit Union) are collected on a Friday. If

you wish your child to save a lodgement book will be provided and the teacher will record your child's savings in this.

**Please send money in a wallet, purse or envelope marked with the child's name. Money cannot be withdrawn mid-year.**



# MY UNIFORM

St. Patrick's has a school uniform which must be worn at all times. Uniforms may be purchased from Kemps shop in Newtown Stewart or bought elsewhere (without school crest).

## Girls

Navy sweatshirt (with school crest)

Navy trousers / skirt / pinafore

Light blue polo shirt

## Boys

Navy sweatshirt (with school crest)

Navy trousers / tracksuit bottoms (no logos/ stripes)

Light blue polo shirt

We do not recommend that earrings are worn to school for safety reasons. If they are worn, they must be a simple stud type and must be taped so that play and physical interactions can take place safely.

Children should bring a coat every day so that we can have outdoor play.

Primary One children do not need to bring a change of clothes for P.E.

## Shoes

We have a policy of having children use 'outdoor' and 'indoor' shoes. Please ensure children have black plimsolls, or similar indoor footwear, as well as shoes suitable for outdoor play (e.g. trainers.) Indoor footwear should be left in school until it needs replaced. Boots or wellies are a good idea in bad weather.

## Outdoor Play

In the Foundation Stage (Primary One and Two) we aim to play outside as often as possible. Please ensure your child brings suitable clothing—a coat with a hood is always a sensible precaution.

**Please ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name.**

School uniforms are expensive to replace on a regular basis. From time to time items may get misplaced but this is usually easily resolved if names are on the items! In particular, please make sure your child's name is on his or her sweatshirt or jumper, plimsolls and school coats.

# HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

**Talk to me about  
what I am doing  
in school.**

**Read stories to  
me.**

**Make sure I  
eat a good  
breakfast.**

**Encourage  
me to go to  
bed early.**

**Help me notice  
numbers and  
words around  
me.**

**Check my  
bag for notes  
and  
newsletters.**

**Help me say  
some nursery  
rhymes.**





# READING & HOMEWORK

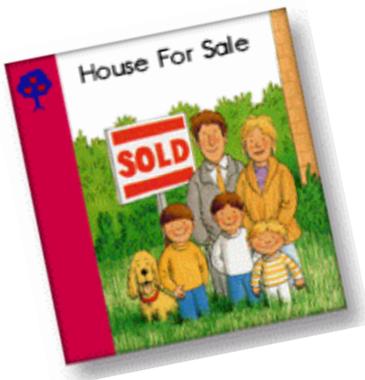
All classes have homework on weeknights. In Primary One homework will mostly consist of reading but will include a small amount of written work (usually on a Monday, beginning after Halloween). Children will also learn numbers and key words as part of their weekly homework.



## Little Books

Your child will be encouraged to choose a 'little book' to take home on a daily basis. This can be read with / by you to your child for pleasure. The love of books is a vital element in encouraging children to read.

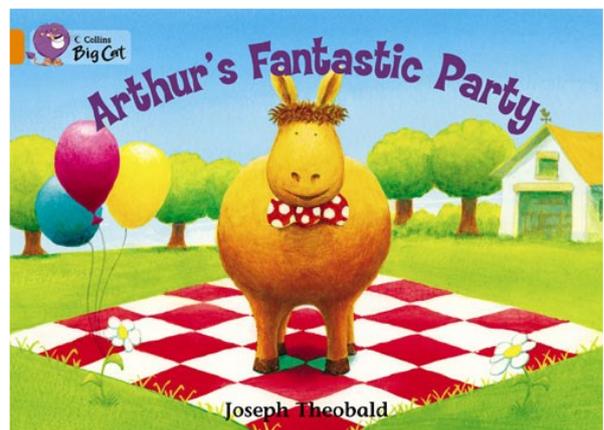
## Reading books



Children will bring home a 'reading book' on a weekly basis. To begin with this book will be 'wordless'.

There will be a 'Take Home Card' to provide ideas for discussing the book. Books will be used in school for teaching reading and will be sent home to reinforce what has been learnt in the guided sessions in class.

These books will not follow one reading scheme as in previous years (Oxford Reading Tree) but will be selected to suit the children's level, and to provide a variety of reading experiences.



# P1 & P2 AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

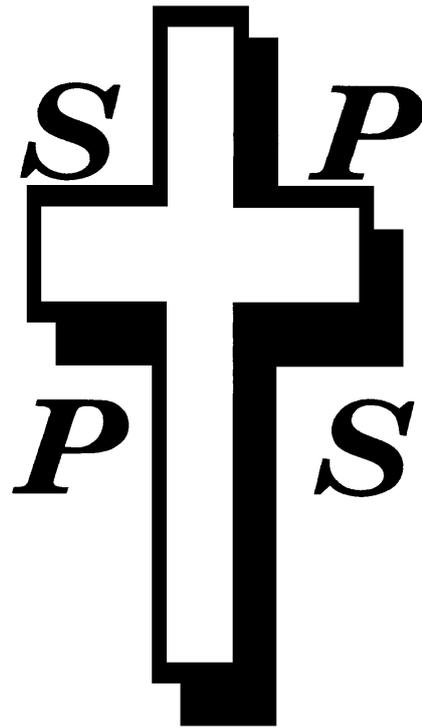
St Patrick's has a very popular after-school club for P1 & P2 from 2.15-3.10pm each afternoon, Monday—Friday. Activities carried out include PE, ICT, Art & Craft, Free Play and on Friday afternoons—FilmClub.

Cost -£1.50 per day, £1.00 for a second child.

We also run a Breakfast club every morning from 8.20-8.55am. This costs £4.00 for the week or £1.00 per day.

**(Due to Covid - these are unlikely to begin for some time)**





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**59 Dublin Street**

**Newtownstewart,**

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**BT78 4AQ**

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