

Mount St Catherine's PS



Newsletter

September 2017



Dear Parents

As we begin a new school year, I would like to welcome everyone back to school and give a very special welcome to the boys and girls who have joined our Primary 1 classes for the first time. We also welcome those children who have transferred from other schools locally and internationally.

There will be many exciting events and occasions celebrated throughout the school year but we will keep you informed of these in future newsletters.

Many Thanks

Mr. Peter Gildea

Principal

Playgroup

Our playgroup – ‘Mount Saint Catherine’s Little Buds’ – continues to thrive. The leader is Miss Briega Delaney and the assistant is Mrs Maura Mc Cleary. We would like to take this opportunity to wish staff and pupils all the best. If you think your child could benefit from a playgroup place, please contact us on 028 37511003 for more information and a registration form.

School Support Group

A number of meetings have been held recently by the above group and a number of initiatives have been planned for this year. The next School Support Group meeting will take place on **Monday 25th September at 7.00 pm** at the school. New members always welcome.



School Medical Records

If there are any changes in your child’s medical conditions, please inform school.

Information Session

We will be holding an information session on Tuesday 12th September at 9.15am in the school hall to give parents advice on applying



SELB Primary 5 Music Workshops

Primary 5 are having a special experience every Wednesday morning learning how to play wind and brass instruments. Each child is involved and is being taught by SELB tutors alongside the classroom teacher, Mr Mc Guigan. This is indeed a great privilege and all instruments are provided for the children. The cost per term is £10.00 or £1.00 per week

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons have begun for P5-P7 pupils. Below is a copy of the swimming timetable for September – December. Swimming will take place every Friday.

1 st session 9.30-10.00 am School pick up 9.10am Mr McGuigan P7	2 nd session 10.00-10.20am School pick up 9.30am Mr Hughes P6	3 rd Session 10.20-10.40am School pick up 9.50am Mr Mc Caul P5
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Water in School

As part of our Learning and Teaching Policy we encourage all pupils to bring a bottle of water to school, so that they are well-hydrated through the day. Children are allowed to keep this on the desk. It is helpful if parents label the bottles.



Enrolment for Primary One

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2018 please let our office know and we will provide you with forms and information.

Please pass this message on to family and friends in the community.

Details later about opportunities to come and visit our school.

Dinner Money

Dinner money is £2.60 a day (£13.00 per week). Please send money in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class on it, to the **class teacher** (***Not the school office***) on a **Monday only**.

Sets of dinner money envelopes are for sale in the office, £2 for 40.

Beginning of Year School Mass

Fr. McAnenly will celebrate mass in the hall on Friday 22th September at 10.00am for all pupils. Parents who are available are welcome.



Extended School Programme

The extended schools programme for this year will begin on Monday 22th October 2017. Please see extended school's newsletter for details.

Accelerated Reading Programme (Extended Schools Programme)

Accelerated Reader will be continued during this term to boost reading and comprehension skills with pupils from P4-P7. More details to follow.



Our Goal for 2017/2018

The Sacred Heart Network of schools has been inspired by the 'Heritage and Horizon' document. Each year we focus on one of the five goals. This year we will be developing the goal of **"Community"**

Staff, parents, governors and pupils will be examining how we best develop an understanding of how we all learn, and reach our potential within and beyond our school. Further details on this and how it is addressed will be forthcoming in a variety of ways.

Taylor Scallon School of Irish Dancing

Irish dancing will be on the in the school on Fridays afternoon.

KS1 2.00pm – 3.00pm

KS2 3.00pm – 4.00pm

French Classes:

French Classes will be on Monday 25th September

£3.50 per week per child, £6 for 2 siblings and £7 for 3 siblings

School website

School website can be accessed using the following address

<http://www.mountstcatherines.co.uk>. Information regarding school events and Closures will be updated on this site

School App

Our School now have an app that parents can download to keep you up to date with School Closures and Events.

Mount St Catherine's Ps – app name

Healthy eating

This year we will be addressing the area of healthy eating and healthy activity with many sporting and athletic events which we will be undertaking and initiating. One key focus regarding health is the children's lunchboxes and the staff are very grateful to all the children who have embraced our rules regarding treats.

- Lunch box treats only allowed on a Friday.
- Milk and water are the only drinks allowed in school- NO JUICES or flavoured waters please.
- Fruit can be brought for morning break time but snack will be provided to P1-P4.

We hope you continue to support this. This is key to good health, counteracting obesity and to begin positive healthy eating habits.

Health and Safety with Playground Equipment

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the playground equipment in the foundation stage playground is only to be used by children from Primary 1 and Primary 2. **Please also note that for health and safety reasons children are not permitted to use this equipment before 8.45am as there is no supervision until this time and therefore the children are not insured should an accident occur.**



Walk to School

Next month (October) is "Walk to School Month". We will be encouraging parents to participate in this event as "Walk to School" week in May has been a success for our school each year. Details later.

All Parents are to leave the playground in the morning ASAP once pupil is dropped off. This is in the interests of health and safety and child protection regulations.

Open Night

Our 'Open Night' this year will be held in the school on **Thursday 23rd November from 6.00pm-7.30pm**. It will be primarily for prospective parents and parents of P1 pupils for 2018/2019. All pupils will go home early that day at 1.30pm



Heads and Deputy Heads

Head Girl: Caoimhe Hart
Head Boy: Tristan Morris

Deputy head girl: Theresa Lawrence
Deputy Head Boy: Jake Reilly

School Council:

P.4: Daithi Gillespie
Jack Gorman
P6: Shannon Smith
Caleb O'Hare
P7: Anna chui
Caleb O'Hare

P5: Ciaran Sheridan
Catherine O'Hare
P6/7: Mia Cruickshank
Simona Dilevka

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th October 2017. Appointments will begin at 2pm so all pupils will go home at that time.



School Uniform and Presentation

May I remind all parents about our School Code of Conduct. We are all aware that our pupils are exemplary but we strive to attain the highest of standards at all times and with this in mind I wish to highlight that children in particular should:

- not have artistic, shaved or coloured hairstyles
- wear no jewellery except stud earrings and a watch
- wear full uniform at all times.

The presentation, appearance of our children is of paramount importance. We thank you for your continued support in this area. Parents will be notified if any part of uniform is incomplete.

Lost Property

We have a number of items of school uniform left in school from last year. Please speak to Kim regarding this lost property. These items will only be held until the end of the month. Any unclaimed items will be disposed of in our clothes recycling bin.

GAA Jersey Day

GAA jersey Day will take place on Friday 15th September. Bring £1 to school to celebrate the All Ireland Final this weekend. Wear your GAA jersey to school or Armagh colours for GOAL charity. This charity helps many projects abroad including Syrian refugees. Pearse Ogs tournament is also on that day.

A Good Night's Sleep

Please encourage your child to avail of a good night's sleep each night as children need to be well rested in order to perform well at school.



Flu Vaccination

All pupils will receive their flu vaccination on Monday 6th November. Letters to follow soon.



Attendance and Punctuality

It is important that all children attend school regularly and on time.

It can be very uncomfortable for a child to arrive late for school, class or assembly. As the front security system is in operation from 9.00am please escort your child into the school building if they arrive late, following an appointment.

Please ring the school or send a note when your child is absent, otherwise it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. We will be entrusting parents to check on absent children in line with school policy.

Children from P3 – P7 may not be collected early at 2.00pm unless there are very exceptional circumstances. The principal or member of the senior staff needs to be informed in such circumstances.

Twitter

Please take the time to view our school twitter account @MSCArmagh. This is a great way to keep updated on all school events and activities. Why not check out some of our photos?

SCHOOL EVENTS AND CLOSURES/DATES 2017/2018

	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>
			September 2016
Friday	1/09		School open for pupils
Monday/Tuesday	25 & 26/09		Photographer in School
Friday	29/09		Non uniform day
Friday	27/10		Whole School MS Walk
Monday	30/10		School Closed
Tuesday	31/10		School Closed
Wednesday	1/11		School Closed
Thursday	2/11		School closed
Friday	3/11		School Closed
Monday	6/11		Flu vaccine in school
Thursday	23/11	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Pupils go home early at 1.30 pm Open Evening
Thursday	14/12		Christmas Performance
Wednesday	20/12	11.00am	School closes for Christmas
Thursday	4/01		School reopens for pupils

Additional Staff Development Days are to be arranged and you will be notified of these in due course

Our School Code of Conduct

- We must treat others with respect at all times.
- We respect our school environment.
- We always try our best.
- All pupils are to come to school regularly and on time.
- We walk when we are moving around the school.
- The school uniform should be worn with pride and dignity (PE uniform to be worn on specified days only).
- Artistic, shaved or coloured hairstyles are not permitted.
- In the interests of safety, only small stud earrings are to be worn. All jewellery should be removed for PE and games.
- We behave sensibly and treat others with respect when travelling to and from school.

Mount St Catherine's Primary School

We now have a texting service available which enables us to notify you of:

For example:

- *After schools club have been cancelled*
- *Reminders regarding meetings and events*
- *School closures*

In order to update our records please fill in the details below and return to your child's class teacher. We require one up to date mobile number. *Please inform the school secretary if you change your mobile number.*

Data Update

Child/Children's Name and address:	
Contact person	
Email Address:	
Mobile Number:	

Our School now have an app that parents can download to keep you up to date with School Closures and Events and School Newsletter.

[Mount St Catherine's Ps – app name](#)

Please tick:

I have access to the School app for School Newsletter

I would like to receive Newsletter via email

I would like a printed copy of the Newsletter

Home/ school contract

- **Ensure my child arrives on time every day and then I will leave the school promptly (parents/carers should not be on school premises after 9am.)**
- **Inform the school on the first day of absence, if my child is unwell.**
- **Avoid requesting leave of absence except in exceptional circumstances.**
- **Send my child to school with correct uniform and equipment**
- **Take an interest in the work of my child and read with him/her as often as possible**
- **Encourage my child to do his/her best at all times**
- **Encourage my child to have high standards of behaviour and support the schools code of conduct**
- **Respect the role of teachers and their professional judgement**
- **Ensure my child's homework is completed and to high standard**
- **Not mention the school, pupils or staff on social media**
- **Support the school's expectations of diet and exercise to keep my child healthy**
- **Inform the school of any problems likely to affect my child's learning or behaviour**
- **Attend parents' and information evenings**
- **Support the school's events whenever possible**
- **Ensure my child both arrives and is collected on time**
- **Read with my child**
- **Provide my child with the correct equipment when this is required – PE kit, pencils, musical instruments etc.**
- **Make arrangements to speak to staff through the office or contact Mrs Lappin, the Parent Liaison Assistant**