



## ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESKRA



171, Newtownsaville Road,  
Eskra,  
Omagh,  
Co Tyrone.  
BT78 2RJ

Phone: 028 82 841067

Fax: 028 82 841067

email: [info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk)

[www.stpatrickspseskra.co.uk](http://www.stpatrickspseskra.co.uk)

**Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH**

Monday, 4th September, 2017.

Dear Parent,

Please read the following notes carefully:

- Welcome back everyone. A special **“welcome”** to all our new Year 1 pupils and to all our new families. We wish last year's Year Seven pupils every happiness and success in their new schools.
- You may have noticed a lot of activity in school over the summer holidays. I am delighted to inform you that all our toilets in the main school building have been refurbished. I am sure that staff and pupils will love the new, improved facilities.
- In the interests of Health and Safety and Child Protection it is our school policy that pupils are to be collected from their lines **inside** the school gate at home-time. Pupils will not be released until a parent/guardian has approached the teacher or classroom assistant at their child's line.
- Teachers have requested that pupils do not bring pencil cases into school. All necessary stationery will be provided by the school. Pupils are asked to keep any stationery purchased for the start of the new year at home for completing homework tasks. Mrs. McConnell has asked that each pupil bring a **pencil** with them each day to school.
- Our **Beginning Of Year Mass** will take place on **Wednesday, 20th, September @ 11am** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**. Everyone is welcome.
- Teachers will begin to distribute homework this week. Full homework will be in place from **Monday, 11th September**. A **Homework Policy** has been sent home today. Please read the policy carefully, then sign and return the slip to state that you have received, read and understood the policy. Please note that as part of our Homework Policy we request that parents, **check, sign and date** all homework tasks each evening.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

- A **Healthy Break Policy** has been sent home today. Please read the policy carefully, then sign and return the slip to state that you have received, read and understood the policy.
- Please note that in the interests of Child Protection, children are **not** permitted to carry mobile phones to school.
- Please note that chewing gum and football cards are **not** permitted in school under any circumstances.
- To avoid distraction during teaching and learning time, pupils are asked to refrain from bringing in water or juice bottles into school. Pupils who take lunch may continue to bring water in as part of their lunch. Fresh water will be available in each classroom throughout the day. Pupils will be permitted to bring water with them when attending sports events outside.
- A **Dates For Your Diary** information sheet will be issued shortly to inform you of events taking place in school in September and October.
- Parents will be invited in to speak with their class teachers about their child's progress in the autumn term. Details of times and dates to follow.
- As a Catholic school our Catholic values are very important to us. September is the month of **Kindness** in our school. Pupils will be learning about the importance of showing kindness to others and will be completing work based on this value. Please speak to your child at home about how they can be kind to others. A display of their work is situated in the main school corridor outside the Year 7 classroom.
- Your child's **Monthly Newsletter/Learning Support Sheet** for September will be issued next Monday.
- We have a **Pupil of the Week Award**. One pupil from each class will receive this award at Assembly on a Friday morning. This award will be given to pupils who demonstrate positive behaviour in school and they are linked to our monthly value. Please find attached a copy of our **Monthly Values list**.
- Extra copies of our Monday Note are available for collection at our Parents' Noticeboard at the main entrance of the school. Should you need extra copies, please feel free to take some.
- Please label all clothing clearly. This helps staff to identify lost items more easily. Please find attached a flyer from My Nametags. Use this school ID When ordering-52044.
- We currently operate a system whereby the school can send text messages to parents/guardians to communicate information. It has been set up through the

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

website [www.teachers2parents.co.uk](http://www.teachers2parents.co.uk) and is username and password protected. It is particularly useful to teachers who want to send positive messages home about learning. Text messages cannot be replied to - they are for information only. Only school teaching staff and the secretary will have access to the username and password and this is the only way that parental phone numbers can be accessed. If you are a new parent and you haven't already given your number to our secretary, Mrs. Carson or to our Year 1/2 Teacher, Mrs. Taggart, then please write it in your child's Home School Messages Book.

- Please note that our school day starts at 9.10am. Pupils are asked to arrive from 9.00am. Pupils should not be in school earlier than this unless an arrangement has been made with me. The front door will be closed each day at 9.10am, in the interests of child protection and safeguarding. If you need to enter the school after this time, please press the buzzer beside our postbox at the front door and someone will let you in. Our back door is for exiting only and will remain locked from the outside.
- Pupils who arrive in school before 9.00am in the morning are asked to meet in the Assembly Hall in school each morning. Each class teacher will collect his/her pupils at **9.00am** from the Assembly Hall. Pupils will be supervised in the Assembly Hall by a member of staff.
- The school office is open from **8.30am** to **3pm** each day.
- Please note that if your child requires prescribed medication to be administered by a member of staff during the school day, the class teacher must be notified in advance by writing a message in your child's Home School Messages Book. Copies of our **Administration of Medication Policy** are available from our Parent's Noticeboard in the school foyer or from the school office.
- To aid speedy administration in the morning, please send in all monies in the money wallets sent home today. Additional wallets are available from the Parents' Noticeboard at the entrance to our school. Wallets must be marked with your child's name, class, date, what the payment is for, how much money is included for each item and the total amount of money enclosed. Pupils are asked to send the wallets into their class teacher each day in their Notes folder. Alternatively all monies for the week can be sent into the class teacher in one money wallet each Monday morning.
- If your child is absent from school at any time, please contact the school in the morning to inform the class teacher. On your child's return to school, please write a short note detailing the reason for your child's absence in his/her Home School Messages Book. This information is required to ensure that accurate and up-to-date attendance records are maintained.
- **Parents of pupils in Year 7:** Please find attached two Homework Book checklists. Copies have also been stuck into your child's Homework Diary.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

I am hoping to offer a ten-week after-school **Homework Club** to **Year Seven** pupils on a **Tuesday** afternoon from 3.10pm - 4.30pm. If you are interested, please write a short note in your child's Home-School Messages Book, identifying who will be collecting your child at 4.30pm.

Please note that this is a voluntary club and although pupils are very welcome it is not compulsory. The Club will begin on **Tuesday, 12th September** and will continue for ten weeks.

**Year Seven** weekend homework will commence this weekend (**8th September**) and will continue until the end of November. Again, this is voluntary so please let me know if you are interested in your child completing weekend homework. A short note in his/her Home-School Messages Book will suffice.

Please find attached an important letter.

- **September** is Roald Dahl month and **Wednesday, 13th September** is **Roald Dahl Day**. Pupils will be learning about Roald Dahl and his books during this month. Perhaps you could visit your local library and borrow a Roald Dahl book to read together or rent a film based on one of his novels. There is also a website dedicated to his life and works- [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com)
- Each month our teachers focus on a particular **Thinking Skill/Personal Capability** in their teaching. This month the focus is on **Working With Others**. Please refer to your child's Learning Support Sheet for September to see ways that you can help at home.
- A reminder that smoking is not permitted within the school grounds at any time. A copy of our school's **No Smoking Policy** is available from the Parents' Noticeboard in the school foyer or from the school office.
- Parents of all pupils are required to complete a **Data Collection Form** for each child annually (in case information has changed). A copy for each of your children has been sent home today. One section of this form indicates who is responsible for the collection of the pupil. Alternatives are given and **no-one** other than those named will be able to collect this pupil. If there are any changes in arrangements for the collection of pupils, parents **MUST** contact the school or their child will not be released. Teachers must be informed either by a message in the Home School Message book or by telephoning the teacher before school if a child needs to leave school during the day for any reason such as an appointment. Please complete the form and return by **Friday, 8th September**.
- We are piloting a new milk scheme this term. Rather than ordering cartons of milk we plan to provide each pupil with the opportunity to purchase a tumbler of milk. The cost for your child to receive a tumbler of milk each morning is **£12** for Term One. Costings for Term Two and Term Three to follow shortly. Please send any money for milk in by **Thursday** of this week in a labelled money wallet.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

- If you think that your child may be entitled to **Free School Meals** please google- **EA Western Region - free school meals**. Even if your child does not want to take school dinners, please apply (if you think you may be entitled) as our school receives extra funding depending on the percentage of free school meals claimed.
- Please find attached a copy of our **School Closure List** for **2017 – 2018**.
- Applications Forms for the positions of **Head Boy** and **Head Girl** are due in by **12noon on Friday, 15th September**. The positions are open to **Year Seven** pupils only this year. Application Forms have been sent home today. Interviews will take place on **Thursday, 21st September**.
- Please note that until any coaching arrangements have been finalised, pupils are asked to wear their **PE Uniform** on a **Friday only**.
- Please find attached a flyer from the Department of Education regarding pupil attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Keira McCallan  
(Principal)