



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.omaghnischool.co.uk

www.stpatrickspeskra.co.uk

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

Monday, 21st September, 2020.

Dear Parent,

Please read the following notes carefully:

- The Governors and staff would like to offer our deepest sympathies to the family of the late Sabrina Boyle, mother of past pupils, Sarah and Luke, who passed away on Saturday. May she rest in peace. Requiem Mass will take place at 11am in St. Lawrence's Church, Fintona. We are unable to take children with us to form a guard of honour due to Covid – 19, however, if anyone wishes to take their child, two members of staff will be present along the funeral route.
- This is **European Languages Week**. A flyer detailing all our planned activities can be found on our school website within Letters. Unfortunately we are unable to hold our European/Irish breakfast, this year, due to Covid – 19.
- 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.
- Each month our teachers focus on a particular **Thinking Skill/Personal Capability** in their teaching. This month the focus is on **Self-Management**. Please refer to your child's Newsletter/Learning Support Sheet for September to see ways that you can help at home.
- Pupils are thoroughly enjoying their PE sessions with Paul during and after school on a Friday. A reminder to anyone collecting pupils from the **After-School** sessions- Please wait for Paul to bring **all** the children over to the school playground before collecting your child/children from the school gate. Pupils are **not** to be collected from Eskra Community Centre or on their way back over to the school. Otherwise Paul and school staff do not know if pupils have been collected

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by their parent. Please wait in your car until pupils are all standing with Paul inside the school gate. Thank you for your co-operation.

- **Parents of Pupils in Year 3/4:** Mrs. Barrett and our Year 3/4 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their **Forest School** lesson on Tuesday and are really looking forward to their next session, which will be delivered by Mrs. Barrett. Check out our website for some wonderful photographs.
- Our **Annual Parent-Teacher Meetings** will take place as follows:

Year One: December

Year Two: Monday, 26th October and June (Transition Meeting)

Year Three: Monday, 26th October

Year Four: Monday, 26th October

Year Five: Monday, 26th October

Year Six: Monday, 26th October and June (Transition Meeting)

Year Seven: Monday, 26th October and January/February (Transfer Meeting)

We hope that we will be able to facilitate face-to-face meetings with specific health and safety measures in place, however, you will also be given the option of a telephone call. We have organised meetings for pupils in Years 2 to 7 for during the day on **Monday, 26th October**. Our school is closed to pupils on this day for the Halloween break. Letters will be issued by each Class Teacher this week, in case you have to organise time off work to attend. Procedures for visiting the school, with regards to Covid-19, will also be issued. Teachers have spent much time planning meetings carefully to facilitate sibling groups, therefore meetings can only be rearranged in exceptional circumstances. Thank you for your understanding.

- **Parents of pupils in Year Seven:**
The **Year 7 Presentation For Parents** is now available on our website on our **Year Seven** page under **Information For Parents**. Please read the information carefully. I would really appreciate it if you would take the time to complete the evaluation that will be sent to your phone. If you require any clarification or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Interviews for the positions of **Head Boy** and **Head Girl** will be held on **Friday, 25th September**. A copy of the interview questions is available on the **Year Seven** page of our school website. Please note that pupils are permitted to bring notes in with them to the interview. We wish them all good luck.

A form has been sent home today from **Aaron Hassard** who delivers multi-sports sessions with **Year Seven** pupils every Monday. Please complete the form and return it to school by **Wednesday** of this week.

- **Please see a note below from our Parents' Association:**
Friends of St. Patrick's Parents' Association would like to welcome everyone back to school, and thank all of the staff for the work they have done making the

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school as safe as possible for our children. We welcome all new parents and if anyone would like to join the PA please text our secretary **Brenda McGirr** on **07734872952** and she will add you to our What's App group. It will be a challenging year for fundraising but we hope we can do a few things and will keep you all posted.

- Thank you to everyone who attended our **Beginning Of Year Mass** last Thursday. The pupils participated with reverence throughout, as always. Thank you to **Fr. McGahan** for celebrating the Mass with us.
- A **Beginning Of Year Mass** for pupils in **Years 1-4** will take place on **Thursday, 24th September @7pm** in **St. Patrick' Church, Eskra**.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions one parent only per family is permitted to accompany pupils. We ask that each parent and child/children sit at either end of each pew to ensure social distancing. Seats will be labelled with your family name and staff will be there to assist you. We respectfully request that all adults wear face masks.

- **First Holy Communion** will be held on **Saturday, 26th September @ 2pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**. Each family will be assigned a pew which will be labelled with your family name. We respectfully request that all adults wear face masks. There will be a photographer present to take group and family photographs. Unfortunately, there won't be any refreshments afterwards due to Covid – 19 restrictions.
- As outlined previously, school bags are not permitted in school at the moment, for two important reasons. Firstly to try to reduce the spread of Covid-19, but also due to a lack of space. Due to extra tables having to be used in each classroom to facilitate social distancing, there simply isn't enough room for school bags, at present. This is not ideal, but unfortunately it is unavoidable. Thank you for your understanding.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan
(Principal)

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