



ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESKRA

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

Monday, 17th January, 2022.

Dear Parent,

- As you are aware, we have recently become a registered **Forest School** and Mrs. Barrett has qualified as a **Forest School Leader**. Outdoor learning has many health and educational benefits. Governors and staff are committed to embedding outdoor learning fully into our curriculum to improve pupil outcomes. We are continually developing our outdoor space to enhance pupils' learning experiences.

Work is due to begin on our **Pollinator Garden** in the coming weeks. This latest project is being funded through a grant of nearly **£12 000** which we were awarded in November.

We are very fortunate to have such extensive grounds and highly motivated and dedicated staff who value the many benefits of outdoor learning. As we develop the outdoor area more and more, the necessity to maintain it increases. Currently this is being undertaken by school staff which isn't sustainable long-term.

Our Eco – Committee would like to invite volunteers to help maintain our outdoor area so that it can be used to its full potential. They are looking for individuals and family groups. Grandparents are very welcome too. Each individual/family group will be assigned a specific area to be responsible for maintaining.

These areas will include:

- ✚ Friendship Garden
- ✚ Wildlife Area
- ✚ Vegetable Plot
- ✚ Sensory Garden
- ✚ Pollinator Garden
- ✚ Running Track

Activities will include - planting, pruning, harvesting, weeding, sweeping, painting, etc. If you have green fingers or would be interested in spending some quality time

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

with your family working outdoors, please register your interest on the form attached and return it to school by **Friday, 28th January**. Once a bank of volunteers has been created, you will be invited to an information session in the school at which specific areas will be allocated. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the life of the school and to ensure that your children continue to have access to a unique learning experience.

- You may have noticed that work has begun on our **Pollinator Garden** beside our grass pitch. This garden will be fenced off and will not affect our grass or tarmac pitches or our new running track. Please take care if dropping off/collecting children as there will be additional vehicles situated outside the school while the work is being completed. Our recently drained grass pitch will hopefully be ready for use after the Easter holidays.
- Please see a message from the **Secretary** of our **Eco-Committee**, **Clídna McNamee**:
We delighted to inform you that the following members have been appointed to our Eco – Committee:

Governor Nominee – Mrs. Caroline McCarroll

Parent Nominee – Mrs. Pauline Connolly

We thank them for their support.

- **Admission to Year One** is an on-line process. Please refer to the Education Authority's website for further information- www.eani.org.uk
Please note that the closing date for on-line applications is **Friday, 28th January, 2022 @ 12pm**.
- Please note that **Milk** for **Term 2** is **£5** per pupil.
- If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office as soon as possible to notify Mrs. Carson of the reason for absence as this information has to be recorded.
- Our PE Co-ordinator, **Mr. Meenagh** will be delivering the **After - School Multi - Sports** sessions on a Friday afternoon, starting this **Friday - 21st January**. These sessions will be free of charge and will run for ten weeks until Easter.

Year 1/2: 2.00pm to 2.40pm (pupils will be supervised until collection/bus @ 3pm)

Year 3/4: Pupils are to be collected at 3.20pm.

Years 5/6/7: Pupils are to be collected at 4.15pm.

Please note that pupils are to be collected from the school and not the Community Centre or Eskra Emmett's pitch.

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If you haven't returned the Permission Slip, please do so as soon as possible.

- A **School Closures List for 2022 – 2023** is available now on our school website.
- The following information is available on our school website:
 - A flyer regarding the ASPIRE Classroom Support Programme
 - A letter from the Minister Of Education
 - Our Mindfulness Overview for January.
 - A Catholic Schools Week Flyer
- **Parents of Pupils In Year Seven:**
A note regarding the swimming programme will be issued shortly. We are waiting on staff from Omagh Leisure Complex to finalise the details.

Please see the link below for information on the **Christian Brothers Grammar School's Virtual Open Day.**

<https://cbsomagh.org/virtual-open-day-2022>

- **Sunday, 23rd January to Saturday, 29th January** is **Catholic Schools Week** and the theme this year is- **Catholic Schools: Living Life To The Full.** Further details to follow next week.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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Expression Of Interest – Volunteer (Outdoor Area)

	Names Of Volunteers
Individual	
Group	