



ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESKRA



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

Monday, 9th December, 2019.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please read the following notes carefully:

- On behalf of the Board Of Governors and staff I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to Stephen and Veronica McKenna and family on the recent death of Stephen's father, Leo. May he rest in eternal peace.
- **December** is the month of **Generosity** in our school. Pupils will be completing work based on this value throughout the month. Please speak to your child at home about the importance of this value. Check out our **Values Display** outside the Year 7 classroom.
- Our **Thinking Skill and Personal Capability** for the month of **December** is **Being Creative**. Please refer to your child's Newsletter/Learning Support Sheet to see how you can help at home. Check out our **TS&PC Display** outside the Year 7 classroom.
- Our **Advent Carol Service** will take place on **Sunday, 15th December** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra @ 6.30pm**. **Friends of St. Patrick's** will be serving light refreshments afterwards in **Eskra Community Centre**. Everyone is welcome.
- **Year Seven** pupils will be travelling in staff cars to **St. Ciaran's College** to complete their final technology session on **Wednesday**. The children are excited to complete their planters and bring them home.
- **Fr. McGahan** will be coming into our school tomorrow afternoon to hear Confessions with pupils in **Years 5 to 7**.
- Congratulations to all our young athletes who represented St. Patrick's Primary School last Wednesday in the Tyrone & Fermanagh heats of the **Ulster Primary**

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

School Cross Country competition. 300 children from 16 schools across Tyrone and Fermanagh competed in the fun run and senior races.

- **Fun Run - Girls:** Hannah Meegan. **Fun Run - Boys:** Conan Kelly, Ruairi O'Hagan, Liam Loughran, Daithí McNamee, Aodhán McCabe, Michéal Donnelly, Christy Meegan, Rory McCarney and Eoghán Connolly. Well done to Hannah Meegan (14th) and Conal Kelly (9th) for securing top 15 results in their races.

Senior Girls' Team: Anna Donnelly, Zara McAnespy, Berneen Gilroy, Anna-Rose Beattie, Erin Cullinan and Éabha McNamee. Well done girls for a fantastic team effort!

- **Senior Boys' Team:** James Scullion, Dara McGarvey, Darragh O'Hagan, Sean Montague, Eoin McCarney and Connall Montague. The Boys' team put in a huge team performance on the day, with 4 members of the team crossing the line in the top 25. The team finished the league in **a fantastic 2nd place** overall and have been rewarded with a place in the **Ulster Final in January**.

Well done to our **P5 pupils** who competed in their first ever cross country race with energy and enthusiasm. It was noted that all the children who travelled to Dungannon displayed teamwork, kindness and very supportive behaviour towards their friends and classmates during all the races. A sincere **Thank You to Mrs. Tracey Scullion** for organising our school's participation in this event and a big thank you to **Mrs. Mullin** and **Mrs. Morrow** for accompanying and supporting all the boys and girls. A final thank you to all the mummies and daddies who took time off work to cheer Eskra on. All cheerleaders are very welcome!

- Our school will be closed on **Thursday, 12th December** as it is being used as a **Polling Station**. Pupils are asked to return to school on **Friday, 13th** at the usual time.
- Please read the following note from **Mrs. Mulryan (Anti – Bullying Ambassador Leader)**

Pupils from Years 4-7 have the opportunity to enter an anti-bullying competition based on the theme Change Starts With Us. Its aim is to highlight important changes that can be made in school, on-line and in our neighbourhood to stop bullies.

Pupils are asked to:

Write a story of 500 words. They can include things they do at home or at school e.g. Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Friendship Garden with Friendship benches, Playground Buddies, etc.

Or

Write a poem.

Or

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Draw a picture. Entries must be child's own work and cannot include known characters, e.g., Minions.

Can all entries be given to **Mrs. Mulryan** on or before **13th December**, please?

- Please read the following note from **Mrs. Barrett (ICT Co-ordinator)**:

We are hoping to train our **Year 7** pupils as **Digital Leaders** in the new year.

A Digital Leader is a KS2 pupil whose role is to support the use of technology throughout the school.

Bring a Digital Leader helps children develop confidence and leadership skills. Some of their duties will include:

- ✚ Assisting younger children with ICT tasks.
- ✚ Being an advocate for on-line safety in the school.
- ✚ Providing help and support to their teachers and peers.

We look forward to establishing this exciting new opportunity with our Year Seven pupils in January. Further information on our website in 2020.

- **SkillSchool NI's** last session for this calendar year will take place during school and afterschool on **Friday, 13th December**. It will resume on **Friday, 10th January, 2019**.
- Formal homework for all classes has now ended. Pupils are expected, however, to continue to learn and/or practise lines, lyrics, etc., in preparation for our **Carol Service** on **15th December**.
- **Admission to Year One** is now an on-line process. More information to follow after Christmas.
- Pupils in **Years 1-4** are travelling to **Omagh Leisure Complex** on **Monday, 16th December** to participate in a **Christmas Fun Day** led by **Stephen Beattie**. The morning will include Christmas themed fun games and activities, a visit from Santa and a DJ. Pupils will travel by bus and are asked to wear their PE uniform and to bring a packed lunch. This is a Christmas treat from school for the children, therefore, there is no cost to parents. Please complete the permission slip attached and return it to school by **Wednesday** of this week.
- **Jumping Clay** are coming to our school on **Monday, 16th December, 2019** to work with pupils in **Years 5 - 7**. They are a local company who have visited our school in the past to deliver workshops and they have attended our Fun Night. Both pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and demonstrations. Jumping Clay is a jasmine scented, mess free clay that when you roll into a ball, bounces when thrown or dropped.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Unlike traditional clays there is no need to bake it and once dry finished creations can be treasured forever. Pupils will take home a Christmas decoration that they make during the workshops. This is a Christmas treat from school for the pupils, therefore there is no cost to parents.

- A reminder that our **Christmas Draw** will take place on **Monday, 16th December**. Could all ticket stubs and monies be returned as soon as possible, please. Thank you most sincerely to those parents who have already returned their stubs and money.
- Our **Christmas Dinner** for pupils and staff will take place on **Tuesday, 17th December**. School will close early on that day @ **12.45pm**. Please ensure that your child is collected from school promptly. Pupils and staff are invited to wear their Christmas Jumper.
- All pupils and staff are travelling to **The Market Place Theatre** in **Armagh** on **Thursday, 19th December** to see **Beauty And The Beast**. Pupils will travel by bus. Pupils are required to take a packed lunch and small snack. Pupils are also required to wear full school uniform. Pupils will return to school at approximately **2.15pm**. We are all looking forward to a great day out.
- This is our final **Monday Note** before the Christmas holidays.
- School will close on **Friday, 20th December @ 12.00pm** for the Christmas Holidays. Pupils are asked to return to school on **Monday, 6th January, 2020** at the usual time. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Keira McCallan
(Principal)

Permission Slip: Years 1 - 4

I do/do not give permission for my child _____ to travel by bus to **Omagh Leisure Centre** on **Monday, 16th December, 2019** to participate in a **Christmas Fun Day**.

Signed:

Date: