

# St Patrick's Boys' School

SEPTEMBER 2022

## NEWSLETTER

### Dates for Diary

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September: School Photographer

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October: Halloween Holidays

### Welcome

The Principal and staff extend a warm welcome back to all our pupils. We wish everyone a happy and successful year at St. Patrick's Boys' School.

We extend a special welcome to our ten new Junior Infants. We look forward to getting to know the boys and their families in the coming weeks. There will be a welcome and information evening for the parents/guardians of Junior and Senior Infants on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00 pm. The meeting will take place in the Infant classroom. Ms. McGettigan will outline her plans and expectations for the year ahead. Ms Sinéad McLaughlin, HSCL will attend also.

### Ukrainian Students

We have welcomed 11 new Ukrainian students to our school. We are working hard to accommodate their needs while retaining the high standards for all our pupils. We have been granted 15 hours / three days per week of English as an Additional Language (EAL) teaching to support these children. This is in addition to the current 10 hours/two days per week that we already had. Ms. Kathleen Gallagher now has a full timetable as EAL teacher. We may also receive additional Special Education Teaching hours. Because of the additional pupils we were able to retain Ms. Aisling McGonagle on our staff.

Local volunteers have been teaching English to the Ukrainian community throughout the summer. We are pleased to grant the use of our space for this activity. These lessons will continue during the autumn.

## **Book Rental**

The cost of book rental for the coming year is €40 for Junior Infants to Fourth Class. This covers book rental, workbooks, school diary, printing, photocopying, laminating, and art materials.

The cost of book rental for Fifth and Sixth classes is €50. This includes the cost of Primary Planet magazine for the first five months.

For this scheme to operate successfully, it is essential that **everyone** contributes. Please send this money to your class teacher by Friday 16th September.

## **School Photographer**

The photographer will visit the school on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Please make sure your child wears the correct uniform on that day (wine jumper, grey trousers, etc.) as there will be group photos of some of the classes.

## **Safety entering and leaving the school**

Please make sure you enter and leave the school grounds safely. Children should enter and exit the pedestrian gate nearest to car/home. **In the interest of safety, no-one should walk past main vehicle entrance or through the car park.**

## **Morning assembly**

Children should arrive at the school between 9:10 and 9:20 am. The bell rings at 9:20 and children enter the school at this time. Thank you for your co-operation with morning arrivals.

## **Breakfast Club**

We are delighted to start our Breakfast club when we returned to school last week. The club runs from 8:30 am daily and is free for our pupils. Parents are asked to register with the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) to provide funding for the running of the Club. Please let the school office know if your child would like to join. If you have any difficulty regarding NCS, please contact Sinead HSCL for assistance.

## **Good Luck**

Good luck to last year's sixth class who have now started secondary school. We wish the boys every happiness and success in Carndonagh Community School.

## **Report from Board of Management**

The Board of Management has completed a lot of work in the school over the summer. Marmoleum floor covering was laid in three classrooms (second, fourth and fifth class class).

Deep cleaning was carried out throughout the school. Remedial work was carried on the flat roof. Toilets were upgraded in the senior classrooms.

The Board of Management wishes staff and pupils every success in the coming year.

## **SPORT**

**Swimming** lessons have been organised for fifth & sixth classes starting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Lessons will run every Tuesday for seven weeks. The cost of the lessons is €5 per week. Please bring the money to your class teacher tomorrow, Tuesday. Third and fourth classes will have swimming lessons later in the year/in the new year.

John Gibbons will do sporting activities with Infants and third class for this term.

Cathal Doherty will do introduction to hurling and skills with first, second and fourth classes in the coming weeks.

**Soccer:** The boys begin their six-a-side league this week away to Scoil Iosagáin. There was a good attendance at training last Friday. It will be great to get back to playing inter-schools matches on a regular basis again.

## **Creative Schools**

We are delighted to announce that the school's application for Creative Schools funding has been successful this year. We have been allocated €4,000 from this fund. We will now decide how best to use this funding for the greatest benefit of our pupils.

## **Staffing**

Based on enrolments on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, we lost a teaching post and principal administration status for this school year. We successfully appealed the loss of the teacher, and Ms. Aisling McGonagle returned to the school in time for the new term. As a consequence, Mrs. McLaughlin, Principal is now teaching as well as carrying out principal administration duties and is part of the Special Education Team.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Ms. Sinead McLaughlin who has been appointed as our new Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) teacher. Sinead will be based in St. Patrick's Boys' School and will also work in St. Patrick's Girls' School.

## **Message from HSCL**

Hi there! My name is Sinéad McLaughlin and I am very excited to fulfil the role of HSCL Co-ordinator based here in St Patrick's Boys' School and shared with St Patrick's Girls' N.S.

My role as HSCL is to create a link and promote a partnership between home, school and the community. This can positively impact pupils' participation, attendance and retention within the school.

Parental involvement is a huge focus of the HSCL scheme. I hope to work with parents in a variety of ways and to support them as best I can. Organising courses and events that develop skills, personal development and allow for fun are a key part of the scheme. I also hope to create opportunities for parents to come in and visit and participate in their children's learning in class.

Lastly, a big part of my role is home visits. I am here to offer support, guidance and a listening ear when needed.

Looking forward to saying hello and meeting everyone in September 2022!

## **Halloween Holidays**

The school will close for a week for Halloween, so will be closed from Friday 28th October (which will be the usual full day) until Monday 7th November.