

# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School



## Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> February 2017



Dear Parent,

I am delighted to inform you that following interviews yesterday, the Governing Body has appointed me as the new Headteacher for St. Patrick's School.

I have been the Deputy Head at St. Patrick's for fourteen years and the Acting Headteacher since September. I feel very privileged to have been given this opportunity to lead the school on a permanent basis. I would like to assure you that I will continue to be committed to leading the school on our journey to achieve the best standards and outcomes for our pupils. I look forward to working in partnership with you to continue the good work of the school in developing pupils both academically and spiritually.

I have received an email from our School Improvement Advisor thanking all the staff and the pupils for their hard work and effort in helping the selection process to run smoothly. Our pupils were a credit to the school. I would like to personally thank the School Council for interviewing the candidates. They were very confident and professional. They asked some very difficult questions and obviously have some exciting ideas for the school. I was very proud of all of the pupils for showing the school in such a good light.

**Good Shepherd Appeal** – The children were visited by Lucy from Father Hudson's on Wednesday. They had a special assembly informing them about the work of the charity and how they can support this important work through prayer and fund raising. Every family has been given a leaflet about the work of the charity and a collection box. Please return any collection boxes to school during the week before we break up for Easter.

**Cafod** – The Lenten campaign for Cafod this year is 'Turn little fish into big fish'. The children will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March to raise funds for this campaign. It is hoped that we will be able to arrange for a visitor from Cafod to come to school to help the children to understand how the money that they raise helps to support those who are less fortunate overseas.

**Confirmation** – On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Bishop McGough will be visiting the children at school during the afternoon. Confirmation will be held in church at 7pm that evening. All families are very welcome to join the children to celebrate this special event.

**Reconciliation Prayer Service and Craft Evening -** On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we will be holding our prayer service and craft evening for the children who are preparing to make their First Confessions in March. The evening will run from 3.30 – 4.30pm in school in the Year 3 classroom. Father Dawid will talk to the children about what will happen when they make their first confessions. We will share prayers together and then we will make some decorative crosses to form a display at church and in school, to ask our friends and the parish to pray for us.

**Virtues and Values** – The children have been very thoughtful in living out the values of being *grateful and generous* this half term. They have been able to recognise the gifts that God has given them, thank God for their talents and explore how they can use their talents generously to care for others.

Next half term the school will be thinking about how we can be **attentive and discerning**.

**Y4 Swimming** – A reminder that Year 4 pupils will begin their weekly swimming lessons on Monday.

**Parental Consultations** – Sign up sheets for appointments with teachers will be placed outside KS1 classrooms and in the entrance porch by the office on Monday afternoon following half term. Please sign up for an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher. Consultations for parents of pupils in Year 3 will take place a short time later in the term. I am hopeful that Miss Markland will be returning to work in the near future.

**Foundation Stage Parental Consultations** – Parents of pupils in the Nursery and Reception Classes will be invited to Stay and Play sessions where there will be the opportunity to view their child's Learning Journey and discuss their progress and attainment with the class teacher. Dates for these sessions will be available after half term. Parents will be written to by Foundation Stage staff to make these arrangements.

**Medical appointments** – I would like to ask parents for support in reducing the number medical appointments attended by pupils during the school day. It would be very helpful if, where possible, appointments were made outside of school hours. Recently we have had increasing numbers of pupils missing parts of lessons at school to attend appointments. This can also be disruptive to classes where lessons are interrupted as children are collected. We understand that it can be difficult to get appointments at a preferred time, but would appreciate your support in trying to do this to minimise the impact that this has upon the pupils' learning.

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**Headlice** – We have had some reported cases of headlice this week. Please take the opportunity to check your child's hair during half term so that we can reduce the risk of headlice spreading. Thank you.

**INSET DAY** – The school will be having its fourth INSET day of the academic year on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Should will be closed to pupils on his day.**

**Polling Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May** – The school will be closed on this day as the building will be used as a polling station.

### **Diary Dates**

**Half Term – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Confirmation – 7pm at St. Patrick's Church**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Parental Consultations – KS1 and KS2**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Cafod Lenten Fast Day**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March – INSET Day – School closed**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March – St. Patrick's Day – One Life Retreat Day in school.**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – YR Height and Weight Checks**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Dental Health Checks YR/ Y1**

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher.