

St Patrick`s Primary School Prospectus



2025 – 2026

109b Causeway Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim

Telephone: 07916278738

Some of our strengths as identified through our pupil voice, parental and community surveys:

“St Patrick’s Primary School is fully committed to all it’s pupils. they are inclusive in all aspects of school life, irrespective of background, ethnicity, gender and religion. This school provides a wide variety of learning and outdoor activities. My children love going to school every day because of the safe, fun, inclusive environment that the staff create for them.”

“Unique location and use of the beach as an outdoor learning space.”

“It’s like a small family and everyone gets on, no child is ever left out and they are always trying out fun new ways to learn.”



Dear Parents,

Welcome to St Patrick's Primary School. Established in 1858, St. Patrick's Primary School has proudly been educating children and supporting families for almost 170 years. I am delighted that you are getting ready to be part of our unique school.

Your child has now reached the age when they will attend formal education. This is a special time for you and for your child's development and should be a happy and positive experience for you both.

At St Patrick's Primary School, we all work hard as a learning family to provide a happy, caring, safe and stimulating environment to ensure that every child will feel valued and will grow to realize their potential. We achieve this through the provision of a free breakfast club each morning and a range of afterschool activities.

Our school is located beside the beautiful East Strand beach in Portrush and the children visit the beach frequently as part of their lessons.

St. Patrick's is a maintained school with a Catholic ethos and we are fully inclusive and welcome children of all faiths and backgrounds. We have strong partnerships with the parish and wider community and value their distinct roles and co-operation in building a vibrant school community.

We have made significant additions to the school, including a new outdoor classroom adjacent to the P.1 room. All classrooms have the latest Interactive whiteboards and iPads. We embrace the exciting possibilities digital learning brings to the children's learning.

I am proud to be part of a wonderful school team that values the uniqueness of every child. We aim to develop their individual skills, interests and needs so that each child can 'be and feel their best.' Small class sizes help ensure a unique learning experience for every child.

We are a committed team who strive to provide high-quality pastoral care, outstanding learning, and teaching.

We offer an enriched curriculum and strive to give children lots of opportunities in music, arts, and sport. All pupils enjoy a range of individual and team sports including Gaelic games, football, golf, netball, handball, rugby, and surfing.

Parents are encouraged to be active partners in their children's learning. Teachers regularly communicate with parents on all aspects of their child's learning and progress, parents play a vital role in St Patrick's and feedback is always welcome.

This prospectus is designed to give prospective parents information about our school. I would welcome the opportunity to meet you and your child in person to experience our amazing school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Robert Dinsmore
Principal

Mission Statement

Safe and Happy

*Learning and
Achieving*



*Respectful and
Caring*

*Motivated and
Inspired*

As a partnership of Children, Parents, Staff, Governors, and the wider Community we aim to:

- Promote equality of opportunity for all children and staff.
- Ensure that everyone will experience an inclusive education where tolerance and understanding are promoted.
- Meet children's individual and collective needs.
- Provide a stimulating, secure and nurturing environment.
- Promote an ethos that is highly motivating and encourages all to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Provide an environment where we all feel secure, valued, respected, and understood.
- Encourage all to have a positive self-image, high self-esteem and increasing confidence.
- Provide an environment which encourages active learning, investigation, creativity, and challenge.
- Value and celebrate the richness and diversity of cultures and beliefs in our community.
- Celebrate achievement, attainment, and progress in all areas of development.
- Display high standards of good behaviour and politeness at all times.
- Encourage everyone to have a sense of responsibility for themselves, for each other and for their environment.

School Details

St Patrick's P.S.	109b Causeway Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim BT56 8JE
Telephone	07916278738
Principal	Mr. Dinsmore rdinsmore677@c2kni.net
SENCO	Mr Dinsmore
Designated Teachers for Child Protection	Mr Dinsmore/Mrs Mc Ilvar
Secretary	Ms Crawley (07916278738)
Chair of Board of Governors	Mrs Patricia O Brien C/O 109b Causeway Street Portrush, Co. Antrim BT56 8JE
Telephone	(mobile) 07916278738
School email	rdinsmore677@c2kni.net
School Website	www.stpatricksportrushps.com
Social media	  
Building Supervisor	Mr. Mallon (07916278738)
Causeway Pre School	Ms Lauren Doherty



Mr. Dinsmore

Mrs. Turner

Mrs. McIlvar

Principal

P. 1

P. 2/3

Designated Teacher for Child Protection
SENCO/Assessment
Shared Education

Early Years Leader
World Around Us Leader
RE Leader

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Literacy Leader



Mrs. Howard

Mr. Quinn

Ms. Wenda Taggart

P.4/5

P.6/7

P.1

Teacher

Numeracy Leader
After-school Provision Leader
First Aid

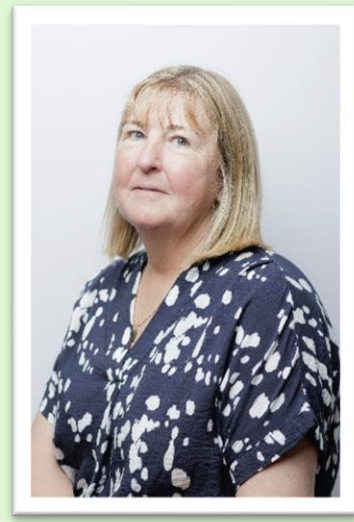
Learning Support Assistant
First Aid



Ms. Elaina Crawley
Learning Support Assistant



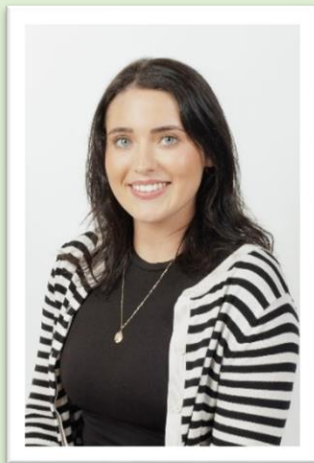
Ms. Wendy Kerr
Clerical Assistant



Ms. Marian Poupard
Breakfast Club Supervisor



Ms Jacqui O'Neill
Learning Support Assistant



Ms. Darragh Falconer
Learning Support Assistant



Ms. Daisy O'Neill
Learning Support Assistant



Mrs Sarah Richardson
School Patrol & Dining



Mrs Sandra Patton
Dining



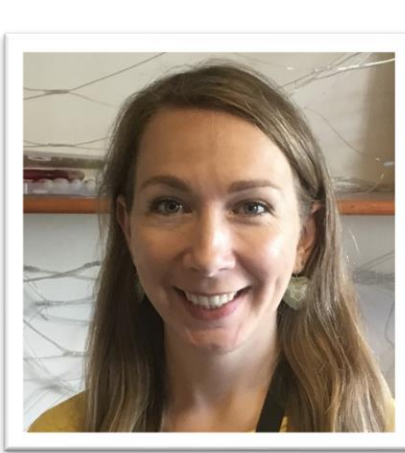
Mr Paul Mallon
Building supervisor



Mr John Hynes
Football Coach



Míceal Ó hAodha
Hurling Coach



Miss Sarah Bell
Music Tutor

Board of Governors

Mrs. O'Brien	Chairperson Department for Education Representative	Designated Governor for Child Protection Finance Sub-Committee Link Governor for Literacy
Mr. Dinsmore	Principal	Secretary to Board of Governors (non-voting)
Monsignor. Patrick Delargy	Trustee Representative	
Mrs. Meabh Mc Greevy	Department for Education Representative	Finance Sub-Committee Link Governor for SEN
Mr. Michael Minihan	Parent Representative (elected)	Finance Sub-Committee PR Sub-Committee Link Governor for Numeracy
Mr Terence Cloughley	Trustee Representative	PR Sub-Committee
Mr Quinn	Teacher Representative (elected)	PR Sub-Committee
Mr. Fergal Quinn	Trustee Representative	Link Governor for Word Around Us

The Board of Governors meets each term.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

We appreciate the very important partnership role, which you, the parents, play in the education of your child who has been learning from you already in the crucial early years. The interest and example you have shown will now be evident. The constructive co-operation between parent/teacher and home/school must be on-going and based firmly on mutual respect and understanding. As a parent, you will be given every opportunity to play an active role in your child's education.

HOME - SCHOOL CONTACTS

We aim to establish and promote open and positive home-school links. During your child's time in St. Patrick's, you will have many opportunities for formal and informal links with the staff. You are invited to avail of them for the benefit of your child.

Listed below are the main occasions for home/school contacts:

Open Night for prospective parents of P.1 pupils,
Induction meeting for parents/carers of P.1 pupils,
Parent/Teacher meetings in October
Termly Newsletter
School Website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
Friday assemblies
Events organised by 'Friends of St. Patrick's'
School Performances e.g., Nativity Plays,
Christmas Carol Service/Christmas Craft Fair.
Road Safety/ Credit Union Quiz
Catholic Schools Week
Sacramental preparation – First Confession, First
Communion, Confirmation, Easter Celebrations
Sports Day and interschool sports events
End of year Annual report
End of year Mass and Prize giving.



You are welcome to visit our school at any other

mutually convenient time to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Parents/carers visiting the school must report to the office. To minimize disruption to classes parents should not normally visit classrooms during the school day, and only with the prior knowledge of Mr Dinsmore.

Teachers send out regular information notes outlining planned work.

Communication relating to your child and any upcoming events throughout the year will be detailed on our internal app 'Class Dojo', social media posts and in letters to the parents of the pupils concerned.

STATEMENT OF AIMS

St Patrick's staff are responsive and sympathetic to the individual needs and abilities of our pupils and aim to: -

- recognise your child's individuality, talents and potential.
- provide your child with a broad and balanced curriculum in keeping with current statutory requirements of the Curriculum.
- promote the development of your child's self-confidence, self-respect and self-discipline.
- encourage your child's understanding of each person's present and future role as a valued and contributing member of our community.
- encourage your child to be aware of and respect the immediate environment leading to a better understanding of the wider world and its resources.
- encourage in your child a sense of community with tolerance and respect for others who differ in religion, culture, social background, or nationality.
- help your child develop an open, enquiring mind and the ability to question and make informed decisions.
- help your child to value the importance of personal health wellbeing and fitness.

Admissions to P.1

2022	2023	2024
9	16	12

Transition to Post Primary

St. Patrick's is a traditional feeder school to Dominican College, Portstewart, Loreto College, Coleraine and Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballymoney.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dominican College	2	6	8	10
Loreto College	1	4	3	2
Our Lady of Lourdes	2	2	0	0
Dalriada	0	0	1	0

THE SCHOOL DAY

8.00am-8.45am Free Breakfast Club

(Pre-School children are welcome to attend)

9.00am -12.10pm Morning lessons

Free Milk provided at 11.00am

12.10pm - Lunchtime

1.00pm - Afternoon lessons

2.00pm -School finishes for P.1/2

3.00pm - School finishes for P.3-7

3.00- 4.00pm – After-school clubs

Free After-School club each day for P.1/2 pupils until 3pm.

Pick up from front door only at 4.00pm

Please ensure your child arrives on time and is picked up promptly to avoid unnecessary disruption to the other pupils learning.



Applying for a School place

If your child was born between 2nd July 2020 and 1st July 2021, they are due to start primary school in September 2025.

Digital Admissions. (Online Portal)

The P.1 admissions process for all schools is by an online system. Information and criteria for 2025 entry is posted on the EANI website in December and the application process will open on 10th January 2025 at 12.00 noon. Please contact St. Patrick's P.S. or Causeway Pre-school and we can help you to complete the online application process.



The application must include the Child's birth certificate.

Induction to the Early Years Foundation Stage

We offer the following induction to children who will attend St. Patrick's:

Open Night 25th November 2024 @ 7.00pm

Parents/Carers are welcome to arrange a meeting at any stage of the school year. Mr. Dinsmore will be available to show you around and answer any questions you may have. Please contact the school office to make an appointment.



An induction morning in June 2025 will give you another opportunity to meet your child's P.1 teacher.

THE CURRICULUM



St. Patrick's Primary School meets the statutory requirements in providing a broad and balanced curriculum for all its pupils. It promotes positively the children's self-esteem and confidence through experiencing activities and learning opportunities to encourage creativity and curiosity. Lessons are interactive, enjoyable and encourage pupils to take on responsibility and develop a love for learning. The curriculum is enhanced by a wide range of extra-curricular learning experiences, such as collaborations with our Post Primary partners in Dominican College (Portstewart), Loreto College (Coleraine) and Our Lady of Lourdes (Ballymoney)

The curriculum consists of the following Areas of Learning: -

Religious Education

Language & Literacy - Talking & Listening, Reading, Writing

Mathematics & Numeracy - Processes, Number, Measure, Data Handling, Shape & Space

The Arts - Art & Design, Drama & Music

The World Around Us (WAU) - Geography, History, Science & Technology

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding - Social skills, Health and Wellbeing

Physical Education - Play and physical activities. Developing individual and team sports

Modern Languages- Irish, German, French, Spanish, Mandarin and Polish

Delivery of the curriculum is through a variety of approaches - subject based, cross-curricular, independent study. Pupils are taught in classes of mixed ability.



CURRICULUM SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

The development of these Skills and Capabilities for lifelong learning runs through the NI Curriculum.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS

Communication

Using Mathematics

Using Information and Communications Technology (UICT)

THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES: -

Thinking, Problem-solving and Decision-making

Self-management

Working with others

Managing Information

Being Creative

Comprehensive schemes of work detailing the content of the programmes of study and linking the development of cross curricular skills and the promotion of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities have been drawn up to ensure development and progression throughout the Key Stages.

These policies and schemes of work are regularly reviewed by subject leaders and are available in the school and on our website.



Assessment, formal and informal, is used by the teachers and principal to monitor evaluate and review the teaching and learning taking place at St. Patrick's.

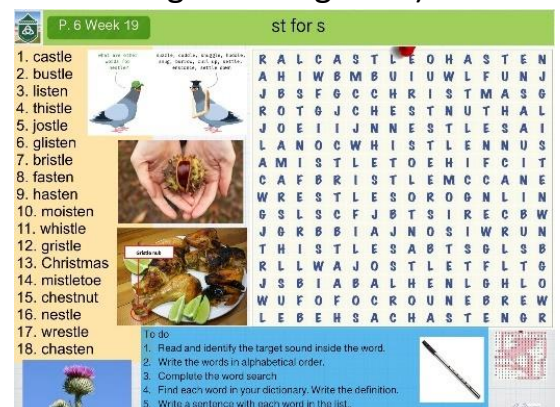
LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Literacy is a core subject in which our pupils are taught to communicate effectively through an integrated programme of Talking and Listening, Reading, and Writing. In teaching reading in Foundation Stage, we place strong emphasis on learning phonics (reading a word by sounding out the letters and blending them together).

Spelling and Phonics, Grammar and Punctuation, Comprehension and Composition lessons are meticulously planned, taught, and assessed in each class. Pupils can access additional learning resources through our school website to revise and enhance progress.



We aim to develop in our pupils a lifelong interest in books and enjoyment from reading. Each class has it's own library. We also have an extensive central library. All pupils walk to Portrush Public Library regularly, as members. Parents are encouraged to utilise the facilities to support their child's reading development.



Accelerated Reader is used from P.4-7 to encourage pupils to read independently and meet their individual targets.

Communication skills in writing is given high priority and high standards are achieved in this area. Talking & Listening skills are developed through a diverse range of situations and contexts, including drama and music.

Additional Literacy Support in small groups is offered to all pupils who experience reading difficulties. Sometimes this will involve outside agencies from the Education Authority.

Peer to peer reading sessions are also introduced in Key Stage 2.

World Book Day and Book fairs are also used to promote our literacy programme.

MATHEMATICS & NUMERACY

Numeracy is a core subject in which our pupils are taught to develop mental agility through an integrated programme of play, problem solving and using mathematics across the curriculum.

In the Foundation Stage, we place strong emphasis on number.

Processes, Number, Measure, Handling Data and Shape and Space lessons are meticulously planned, taught, and assessed in each class. Pupils can access additional learning resources through our school website to enhance progress.

The school's internal data indicates that, by the end of Key Stage 2, most of the children achieve as expected, or above, in numeracy.



Maths Week Ireland



Our focus was on how maths plays such an important role in so many jobs. We had visits from a nurse, a hairdresser, and engineers to explain how they use maths in their everyday work.

WORLD AROUND US (WAU)

Children are naturally curious and often ask questions about themselves and the nature of the world around them. The purpose of this Area of Learning is to help our pupils explore and find age-appropriate answers to some questions from the subject areas of Geography, History, Science and Technology now, grouped under WAU.



SCIENCE

Our aim in Science & Technology is for children to experience the wonder of the scientific world and appreciate their role in protecting the environment.

At St Patrick's our children will: -

- *develop skills and experience scientific processes.*
- *to develop scientific knowledge and a conceptual understanding of the natural world,*
- *materials, and physical processes.*



HISTORY

Our aim is to stimulate our children's interest in the past.

At St Patrick's our children will learn: -

- *A sense of chronology – the ability to place historical events on a timeline.*
- *To develop a sense of identity and cultural understanding based on*
- *historical heritage.*
- *To value their own and other cultures.*
- *To understand how events in the past have influenced their lives today.*
- *To investigate past events and significant historical figures, developing skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving.*

GEOGRAPHY

Our aim is to stimulate our children's interest in their surroundings and develop their geographical skills through first-hand experience and geographical enquiry.

At St. Patrick's our children will learn: -

- *About children's lives and futures around the world.*
- *To understand their geographical position in the world.*
- *To become engaged with the global community.*
- *How our identity is shaped by the geography that is all around us.*
- *About the climate changes we are experiencing in our community and the wider world, and our role in making better choices for the environment.*
- *About the physical and human aspects of the world we live in.*
- *To make sense of their surroundings and the wider world*

Eco-Schools



Pupils obtained their first ECO Flag award in June 2023. This was in recognition of their environmental work.



School Council

Our School Council ensures a pupil voice in many school decisions and members are active throughout the school year.



(Right) Our Olympic Handball team pictured at Limerick University. (All-Ireland Final)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education programme builds on the faith the children have received from you and helps to extend and deepen their knowledge and practice of our faith. It also aims to increase their understanding and appreciation of the life and liturgy of the Church by promoting active participation in it. The Religious Education programme develops moral and spiritual values that are in keeping with our faith and contribute to the ethos of the school and the development of a meaningful community spirit.



The school's chaplain and governor, Monsignor Delargy, visits the school regularly and supports the spiritual life of the school. He is especially supportive of the sacramental preparations in Years 4&7. Children's Masses are celebrated in the church throughout the school year. All classes attend Assemblies to celebrate special feasts and to highlight special church events/seasons.



ICT

ICT skills are taught and used across the curriculum. In St. Patrick's we have Wi-Fi internet access throughout the building and each child has access to an iPad to support their learning. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard. Computers are available in each classroom and provide extended opportunities to develop pupil competence and confidence in ICT. We also offer afterschool clubs throughout the year in effective use of iPads and Coding.

THE ARTS

Through this area of learning our pupils are helped to explore and experience opportunities in the subject areas of Art & Design, Drama and Music.

ART AND DESIGN

Art & Design stimulates creativity and imagination in our pupils. It is an ongoing process through which they are given opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and understanding to help them work in a variety of media, styles, and forms. It enables all pupils to explore ideas and achieve and appreciate their potential. Pupils work individually and in groups allowing them to develop social and personal skills. Art is not taught in isolation but is linked to other curricular areas.



MUSIC

Our aim is to make sure that every child at St Patrick's has a variety of musical experiences and leaves our school with an enthusiasm and love of music and the arts. We encourage creativity within music lessons. Children have opportunities to compose their own music, collaboratively or independently, using instruments and their voices. We believe that music should help children to develop the skills to work together.

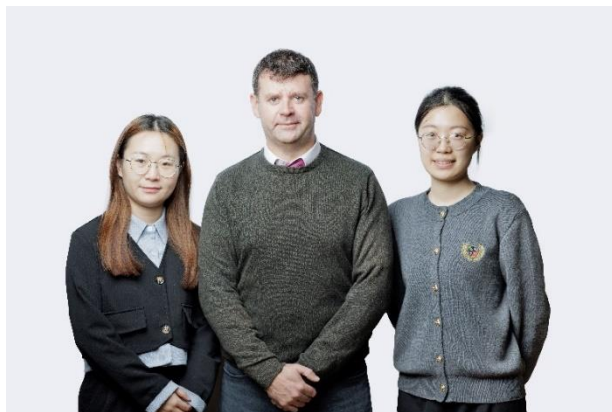
The EA music service provide tuition in violin, viola, and cello.

We would like children to grow into confident performers. We provide opportunities for performance at Assemblies, Children's Mass, and other events throughout the school year.

As the home of 'North Coast Trad' we encourage our pupils to enroll in the weekly traditional music dance and singing classes.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Pictured are Elena and Jessie, our teachers from China, who are in our school each Friday to teach Mandarin to all classes.



An International and European Language and Culture Day takes place in September. The pupils are introduced to a variety of languages, including those spoken by our Newcomer children. Pupils can enjoy learning Irish, Polish, French, Mandarin, Spanish and German.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING (PDMU)

PDMU focuses on encouraging our pupils to become personally, emotionally, and socially effective. To lead healthy, safe, and fulfilled lives and become confident, independent adults who will make informed choices and decisions.

PDMU provides the opportunity for particular attention to be given to the emotional development, health and safety, relationships and the development of moral thinking, values, and actions.



DRUGS POLICY

Drugs Education is part of the school's PDMU. The main aims of this element of the program are to educate our pupils so that they are aware of the dangers associated with drug abuse. At St Patrick's we aim to develop their confidence and self-assertive skills to help them cope with the peer pressure they may encounter in the wider community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education plays a very important role in ensuring a balanced programme for our pupils. It enables body and mind to work together, and our pupils experience a wide variety of activities which develop many skills. We incorporate a sense of fun, enjoyment, challenge, and achievement in all activities. Through PE our pupils develop a sense of responsibility, determination, confidence, interaction, team spirit and fairness. The school consistently enjoys success in inter-school sports competitions such as Gaelic football, camogie, rugby, netball, handball, and soccer. We have a close association with our local G.A.A. club Eoghan Rua and Portrush F.C. We work closely with our post primary partners and avail of their resources and support.

P.5-7 Pupils enjoy weekly swimming lessons in Coleraine Leisure Centre.



Sport at St. Patrick's

We have several sports teams who represent the school throughout the year at various competitions. All pupils in P5-7 are given the opportunity to represent the school.





TRANSITION FROM PRE-SCHOOL SETTING TO PRIMARY 1

All children deserve the best possible start in life and to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and five have a major impact on their future life chances. Good parenting and high-quality learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow. Children transfer to St. Patrick's from our colleagues in Causeway Pre-School and from other Pre-School Settings.

Our Primary One teachers and Classroom Assistants work very closely with Causeway Pre School to make the transition smooth and rewarding. In the third school term prior to their entry, Mr Dinsmore and Mrs Turner meet our new Primary 1 pupils in the preschool setting. After this, there are induction visits. This helps the children become familiar with their new surroundings, staff, and routines of St. Patrick's. During this period, there are meetings for the parents in which we discuss our partnership with you.



FOUNDATION STAGE

The Foundation Stage is seen as providing a more appropriate curriculum for younger children by developing their confidence and skills and the introduction of formal learning when the children are ready.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is established to meet the needs of young children in the 4-6 age range. We know more now than previously about how the human brain develops and the importance for this age and stage to have specific types of learning experiences. Learning needs to be appropriate to each child's stage of development and recognises that children develop at different rates.

The Foundation Stage curriculum features a child-centred approach. This allows a flexible programme in which individual needs can be met more appropriately with emphasis on developing the children's confidence and independence.

The key teaching and learning tool is play – a child's work. It is through play that children learn best. This approach recognises the value of oral language. This helps the children communicate and express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Talking and listening are at the heart of the child's experiences.

Children can be helped think creatively if they are given experiences and have been growing up in a culture that nurtures and celebrates creativity. Children in the Foundation Stage need to be encouraged to explore, experiment, investigate and pose open-ended questions and problems that will support them in taking risks in their learning.

The importance of regular and structured physical activities at this stage is essential to ensure the development of children's physical skills in terms of balance, co-ordination, and motor skills.

PLAY IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE

Outdoor Play Area

The core means of learning and teaching in the Foundation Stage is through play – lots of research over many years highlights how children learn best through play.

Some of the benefits include:

- Activity keeps brain and body active.
- Builds confidence and positive attitudes to self, others, and environment.
- Social skills – helps children to get to know others, share, take turns.



- Children learn new skills including development of vocabulary.
- It is fun!

Play – What do children learn through play?

Through play the children are:

- Motivated to learn.
- Developing a sense of enquiry
- Developing and consolidating skills
- Communicating and co-operating
- Playing out real-life situations
- Problem-solving
- Investigating and exploring the environment
- Able to take risks in a secure environment.
- Active and absorbed.
- Able to make choices.
- Provided with access to the curriculum.
- Allowed to be self-motivated and independent in their learning.



How can I help my child learn through play?

- Have fun!
- Encourage all kinds of play.
- Read with your child every day.
- Talk to your child.
- Daily routines have lots of learning potential.
- Reinforce turn-taking / sharing etc.
- Enjoy spending time with your child.



ASSESSMENT & REPORTING PROCEDURES

In St. Patrick's Primary School, assessment is central to ensure effective learning. We use it to measure standards and enhance achievement. Assessment helps our pupils to see their own progress and potential and take informed action towards ongoing improvement.

Teachers will use a variety of assessment techniques as part of an integral approach to teaching, learning, planning and assessment. Children's skills, knowledge, understanding and approach to learning will be assessed in a range of contexts, for different purposes.

Children's views will be encouraged and always valued within our assessment framework.

A key element in the assessment arrangements at St Patrick's is the continuous monitoring of pupil progress. Teachers assess their pupils in a variety of contexts within the classroom, from observations of pupil's play to end of topic tests.

Children's progress will also be assessed with the use of weekly spelling and numeracy tests. This is recorded formally and informally and has proved very beneficial in providing formative and summative assessments of pupil progress.

Parents are invited to a parent/teacher consultation in October. They will be advised of their children's progress to date. Parents wishing to consult with teachers at any other time, should they feel their child's progress is of concern, should contact the school for an appointment with the teacher. Parents will also receive an annual written report on their child in June of each year.

Standardised tests are administered in May to P.4-7 in Literacy and Numeracy. We use the G.L PTE (Progress Test in English) and PTM (Progress Test in Maths).

We also use CAT (Cognitive Ability) tests in P.4 and P.6. These are used to inform planning for learning, to advise parents of their child's progress and to compare pupil and class attainment against Northern Ireland standards. Our ongoing assessments may identify pupils who are having difficulty in Literacy/Mathematics. The data is used to support early identification and intervention.

Levels of Progression across the Cross-Curricular Skills.

A portfolio is created for each pupil in St Patrick's, which contains samples of their work across the curriculum.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION

In St Patrick's P.S. we pride ourselves on the early diagnosis and remediation of any pupil experiencing learning difficulties. We feel that this is achieved through constant monitoring of pupil progress, both formally and informally, by the teacher in the classroom. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, if it is considered necessary, support will be sought from outside agencies.

We will actively access support and advice in Speech & Language, emotional /behavioural needs and motor sensory difficulties. Parents will be invited to consent and contribute to the process and will have access to all reports.

Children identified as having a learning need will be included on the Special Needs Register and the class teacher and SENCo (Mr Dinsmore) will draw up a programme of support for the child. This is known currently as an IEP (Individual Education Plan).

Advice from outside agencies used in drawing up an IEP will be shared with parents. We provide individual/small group withdrawal for those children who require support.

Initially the children's learning is planned for within their own class through differentiation of the work. The teacher will do this by matching the work to your child's level of ability.

If your child's difficulties continue, the school will contact, with your consent, the EA Educational Psychology Service to assess your child and advise on best provision. Before a child is seen by the psychologist, parents will be kept fully informed of all aspects of the referral and will have access to any subsequent reports and an opportunity to meet the psychologist.

If necessary, a Statement of Special Educational Needs may be drawn up and one-to-one classroom support sought from the Education Authority. Within budget constraints a member of staff may provide additional support and this support may involve your child being withdrawn from the class and given support in a small group situation. Your child's progress will be monitored closely, and you will be given regular updates. As parents your co-operation and home support will be invaluable.

CHILD PROTECTION

We in St. Patrick's Primary School have a responsibility for the safeguarding and child protection of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive, and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential. All staff, teaching, and non-teaching through their training are alert to the signs of possible abuse and should know the procedures to be followed. This policy sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or harm to a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school.

St Patrick's Safeguarding Team

Principal (Mr. Dinsmore)
Designated Teacher (Mr. Dinsmore)
Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs. Mc Ivar)
Chair of the Board of Governors (Mrs. O'Brien)



The school has a duty to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activities and functions. The child protection policy therefore complements and supports a range of other school policies including:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy

- Code of Conduct for all staff and Volunteers
- Complaints Policy
- Data protection Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- First Aid and Administration of Medicines Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
- Use of Mobile Phones Policy



These policies are available to parents and any parent wishing to have a copy should contact the school office or visit the school website at:

<https://www.stpatricksportrushps.com/>

All staff members, including non-teaching staff, have been subject to background checks through AccessNI. If there is an allegation of abuse, the staff member should explain that concerns will be passed on to Mr Dinsmore - designated teacher. In his absence your initial contact should be Mrs Mc Ilvar, deputy designated teacher.

Child abuse can occur in families from all social groups and cultures, and it also occurs in agencies and organisation. Abusers come from all walks of life and all occupations and professions. The abuse which may take several forms may be the result of a deliberate act or of a failure on the part of a parent or carer to act or to provide proper care or both.

The abuse may include:

Neglect:

The actual or likely persistent or significant neglect of a child or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant

impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical:

The actual or likely deliberate physical injury to a child, or wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering to a child.

Sexual abuse:

The actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child. The involvement of children and adolescents in sexual activities which they do not truly comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate the social taboos of family roles.

Emotional abuse:

The actual or likely persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejection resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child. All abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment. This is where it is the main or only form of abuse.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a very simple idea, but one that will help us to support and protect vulnerable children. When the Police attend an incident of domestic violence where one of our pupils is present, they will inform the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mr. Dinsmore) at the start of the next school day. This information is shared in strict confidence and other staff are only told on a need-to-know basis.

Online Safety

Online safety means acting and staying safe when using digital technologies. It is wider than simply internet technology and includes electronic communication via text messages, social environments, and apps, and using games consoles through any digital device. In all cases, in schools and elsewhere, it is a paramount concern.



In January 2014, the SBNI published its report 'An exploration of e-safety messages to young people, parents and practitioners in Northern Ireland' which identified the associated risks around online safety under four categories:

- **Content risks:** the child or young person is exposed to harmful material.
- **Contact risks:** the child or young person participates in adult initiated online activity.
- **Conduct risks:** the child or young person is a perpetrator or victim in peer-to-peer exchange.

- **Commercial risks:** the child or young person is exposed to inappropriate commercial advertising, marketing schemes or hidden costs.

We in St Patrick's have a responsibility to ensure that there is a reduced risk of pupils accessing harmful and inappropriate digital content and will be energetic in teaching pupils how to act responsibly and keep themselves safe. As a result, pupils should have a clear understanding of online safety issues and, individually, be able to demonstrate what a positive digital footprint might look like.

The school's actions and governance of online safety are reflected clearly in our safeguarding arrangements. Promoting pupils' welfare around digital technology is the responsibility of everyone in the school.



P.7 Enjoy their visit to Currys.

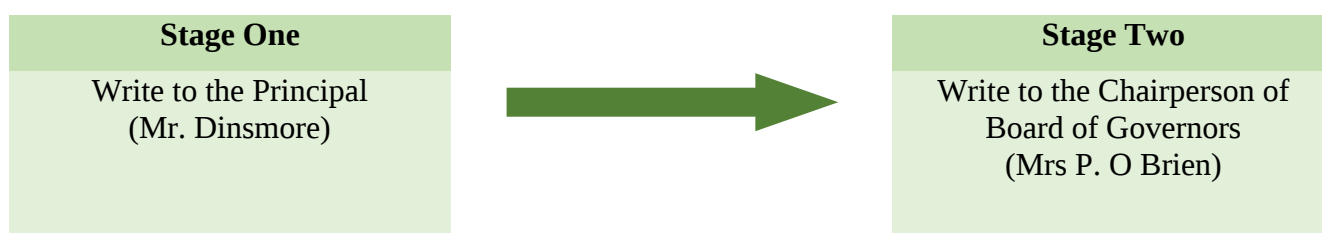


Mr Quinn awarded best teacher April 2024

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and all safeguarding policies are on the school website and free hard copies are available on request.

The Complaints procedure is made available to all parents on admission to the school.



Members of the Board of Governors attend child Protection training.

Occasionally a parent may feel aggrieved about an aspect of the child's education. It is important that the matter is resolved as soon as possible and as far as possible to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

The school wants to remove any barriers to raising your concerns. We would encourage you to follow these procedures and make your complaints in writing. However, if for any reason you do not wish to make a complaint in writing you may wish to talk informally to Mr. Dinsmore in the first instance or any other teacher.

Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO)

If following Stage Two you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you can refer the matter to the Office of the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO).

Anti-Bullying

Bullying is not tolerated in St. Patrick's Primary School, and if it does occur it is dealt with immediately and it is taken very seriously. All children are clear about procedures for reporting bullying.

The Anti-Bullying policy can be found on our website.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

At St. Patricks we aim:

- to promote a caring, happy, and disciplined environment throughout the school which is conducive to learning.
- to encourage the development of self-discipline, self-esteem and self-confidence in the children and the ability to work both independently and with others.
- to create and maintain an atmosphere in class in which pupils respond positively and take pride in their work.
- to build relationships of mutual trust and respect between pupils
- to build relationships of mutual trust and respect between staff and pupils.

Creating a happy school

To maintain a caring atmosphere throughout the school, it is important to teach positive behaviour and routines in a clear and defined way and, in doing so, to make the aims and rewards attainable by every child.

It is vital that both parents/carers and all staff are committed to the encouraging positive behaviour. School expectations of positive behaviour are agreed and reviewed between the pupils and their teacher throughout the school year.

Listening School initiative

The Governors meet regularly with pupils and staff to offer their support and find out more about the day to day working of St Patrick's. This has proven to be a useful exercise that complements our ongoing commitment to school improvement.

OUR AMAZING CLASS

In Primary 1

- We will be kind to our friends.
- We will put our hand up when we speak.
- We will do our best.
- We will listen to our teacher.
- We will walk in the line.
- We will keep our hands to ourselves.

In Primary 2/3

- We remember to walk, not run.
- We remember to listen carefully.
- We remember to help others.
- We remember to keep our hands and feet to ourselves.



- We remember to use our indoor voice.
- We remember to share and take turns.
- We remember to be polite.
- We remember to include everyone.

In Primary 4/5

- Put your hand up and don't shout out.
- Always be kind to people around you and treat everyone with respect.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, even if you are unsure.
- Always share your equipment and take care of class resources.
- Line up sensibly and quietly.
- Always ask for permission to move about the school or classroom.
- Always be polite and use kind manners.
- Believe in yourself and always try your best.



In Primary 6/7

- We are friendly, kind, and helpful.
- We try our best, come prepared and work hard.
- We listen when someone is talking.
- We have good manners.
- We respect everyone and everything.
- We wear our uniform with pride.
- We are honest and fair.



Positive behaviour choices are agreed with pupils and on display in each classroom. Teachers have a wide range of rewards that should be fair and effective, including:

- Non-verbal rewards such as a smile.
- Individual praise, or praise in front of a group or class
- Kindness award by peers
- 'Catchya' being good
- Star of the Week
- Positive written comments on children's work so that pupils feel supported and guided in their learning.

- Providing every pupil with the opportunity to assume responsible roles at class and whole school level. e.g. digital leaders, school council member, anti-bullying ambassadors
- Principal awards
- Golden Time
- Class Dojo rewards
- AR Reading awards

PARKING

If you bring your child to school by car, we will ask you to note and respect the parking restrictions around the school site. East Strand carpark is available for drop off and pick up. Children may enter and exit through the back playground gate. A member of staff is always present.



Please help us to keep our school community safe by driving slowly in the streets by the school and be aware that children and adults may be crossing the road.

Parents should not park within the school site, without permission, to allow for emergency access.

You are welcome to use the church car park behind Causeway Pre-School.

ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

There are different entrances to the school.

Breakfast club

All children attending the free breakfast club must use the side steps and enter through the assembly hall door. This door is open from 8.00am until 8.40am.

Back Playground

All children line up in the back playground at 8.55am. Supervision is in place from 8.45am. Children, depending on their drop off point, may use the small back gate or enter by the side of the church through the large gate. Both gates are locked at 9.00am.

Front entrance

Children arriving late must enter through the main front door entrance. Use the buzzer system and wait until access is given.

Parent Teacher Association `Friends of St Patricks`

St Patrick's has a very committed PTA who strive to enhance the opportunities for all our pupils. They organize and support school events throughout the year. All parents/ carers are welcome to join.

Pedestrians/ Cyclists

The pedestrian path leads to the main building. Mrs. Sarah Richardson is the school patrol crossing person. Causeway Street is a busy road and children must cross with Sarah at the designated crossing area.

Bicycles may be left securely at the front of the school. Children then proceed to the rear playground for lining up.



After school activities.

Afterschool activities run each day. This is free for P.1 and P.2 pupils. All other pupils who wish to attend from 3.00pm must pay £3.00 per hour. Payments can be made online. (Please contact the office for details)

Pupils enjoy a range of activities throughout the year including:
Music Club, Lego club, Stem Club, Gaelic Games, Sports Club,
Modern Languages (Irish, Spanish, Polish, German, French), Dance
Coding, Drama, and Art Club, Handball
Children attending after school activities must leave by the front door.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The uniform gives the children a sense of belonging and reflects the individuality of St. Patrick's. Pupils are encouraged to take care with their appearance and to take pride in wearing the uniform. Parents should ensure that their child is provided with, and wears, the uniform as detailed below.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CHILD'S NAME CLEARLY ON ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING.

Grants are available towards school uniforms.

Suppliers:

-Heart & Home 10 Captain St, Coleraine (02870320707)



-Couples 10 Railway Road, Coleraine (02870353184)

-S&T Moore Coleraine, 28 Railway Road, Coleraine (02870353300)

The uniform is:

Bottle green jumper or cardigan.

White polo shirt/formal shirt

Grey or black trousers, skirt, or pinafore dress

Black school shoes or trainers

The PTA provide P.7 with a free hoodie in the autumn term.

PE

Children are required to bring PE kit on certain days.

Children change for PE in school.

JEWELLERY

Children may only wear stud earrings if they have pierced ears. Children may also wear a watch. Wearing jewelry of any kind can be dangerous for your child because the jewelry may get caught or accidentally pulled which can cause a painful and unpleasant accident.

Children are also not allowed to wear any makeup or nail varnish.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

We are firmly committed to building a partnership between home and school with the aim of developing shared expectations, of enhancing the quality of education, and of achieving high standards. We would like the partnership to take a variety of forms including:

- Engaging with Class Dojo (communication app used by each class teacher), School website, and social media feeds.
- Attending consultation evenings.
- Attending meetings and workshops
- Attending class assemblies and performances
- Joining the PTA to support the school with fundraising and arranging fun events for children and their families.

`Nightmare on Scarymor` event hosted by Johanne in aid of St Patricks School Council raised £900.



Parents and Toddlers Group

Every Thursday morning from 9.15am until 10.30am in the assembly hall. Refreshments available and all welcome.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The children are taught about various aspects of safety on a regular basis and are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety.

The school seeks opportunities for children to learn about aspects of safety including safety online, water safety, cycling proficiency, personal hygiene, being safe in the sun/winter and talks by the fire service.

Fire Drills take place at least once a term, every term. This gives the children, staff, and community users the opportunity to practice leaving the school building in a safe, orderly way in the event of an emergency.

LITTLE EXPLORERS

St Patrick's Primary School, Portrush

Every Thursday Term Time Only 9.15-10.30

For ages birth - 4 years

Join us for physical play, mark making, activities, stories and singing

Suggested £2 donation

Free Tea and Coffee

Snacks provided for tots

The poster features a central shield logo with a Celtic knot design. The background is decorated with colorful paint splashes in pink, yellow, blue, green, and orange.

Mobile Phones

St Patrick's has a mobile phone use policy available on our website. We promote the safe and sensible use of all devices. P.7 pupils only are permitted to take a mobile phone to school. It must be given to the teacher before class and will be returned at the end of the school day. It is not accessible during the school day without permission. Parents are requested to sign a mobile phone agreement.

HOMEWORK

- Literacy and Numeracy Homework books.
- Reading
- Accelerated Reader Program
- Spellings and Phonics
- Additional tasks can be found through the learning links on our website, and may be sent through Class Dojo app.



We hope that parents/carers will encourage their child/ren to complete homework tasks and help and support when appropriate. Our teachers are always willing to discuss ways in which parents/carers might help their children.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

It is very important that your child is at school on time every day to make progress and reach their potential.

If we do not receive a reason for absence, it is counted as unauthorized. Schools are required to account for every child's absence and late arrival, so your co-operation is essential. Any child who is late for school must use the front door before proceeding to class. The Education Welfare Officer monitors pupil absence and punctuality and may contact parents if school attendance becomes a concern.

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please inform the school in advance. Your child may return to school following the appointment. Where possible please make appointments outside the school day. If your child is unwell or has an accident during the school day, we shall make immediate contact. It is essential that we have at least two emergency contact phone numbers.

FIRST AID AND ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

We have two members of staff fully trained in administering first aid at school.

Should your child need to have medicines or inhalers administered during the school day, please contact Mr. Dinsmore.

We will NOT administer any medication which has not been prescribed by the GP.



If your child is asthmatic and is likely to require any form of medication in school, please ensure that you complete the Medical Information section on our Data Collection form so that we have as much information as possible.

Period Dignity

All girls at St Patrick's have access to information, support, and resources to support their needs. Parental consent is required for all aspects of Period Dignity. We have a 'Girls' team' to support pupils., including the boys where appropriate.



CHARGING and REMISSIONS POLICY

Under the 1988 Education Act, all schools are required to produce a written statement outlining their policy for charging parents/carers for school-based and school organized activities.

While schools cannot charge parents/carers for visits taking place mainly in school hours, we appreciate voluntary contributions towards the cost of any outing in which their child is attending.

Families who may be experiencing financial difficulties should contact Mr. Dinsmore, in strictest confidence as no child will be excluded from a visit or outing.

However, if, by the given date, we have not received sufficient contributions, we may cancel the visit and refund all monies. This policy will be revised annually. We shall, of course, keep parents/carers informed of any changes.

HOMEWORK

Homework is seen and valued as an integral part of your child's schoolwork.

It informs parents about their child's work in the classroom and extends learning opportunities and helps your child get used to the discipline of home study. Homework allows teachers to assess the effectiveness of their teaching by providing evidence of the child's level of understanding of work. You are asked to find time to provide active support and a suitable environment to ensure the required work is done.

The homework activities given may involve oral preparation, written exercises, revision, and practical work.

It is important that written work is well presented. Learning homework should also be seen as equally important. If your child has no written homework, please make sure that the appropriate amount of time is spent on reading and revision or on independent learning for KS2 pupils.

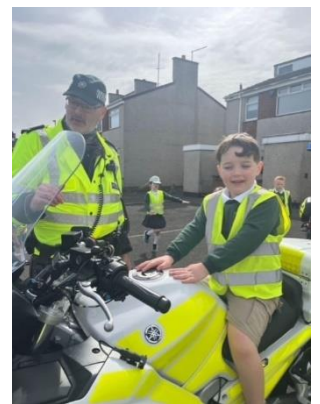
Suggested periods for homework:

Foundation Stage (P.1 1 & 2) 10 – 15 mins

Key Stage 1 (P.3 & 4) 20 – 30 mins

Key Stage 2 (P.5, 6 & 7) 30 – 50 mins

Please contact the teacher if difficulties regarding homework are experienced. It may also be necessary for the teacher to contact you should problems arise.



SCHOOL MEALS

PACKED LUNCH

Children may bring a packed lunch in a lunch box/bag. This needs to be clearly labelled with the child's name and class. As we are a Healthy School, we encourage fruit and other healthy snacks as part of a well-balanced meal. Nuts are not allowed. This includes using peanut butter and Nutella in sandwiches.



SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

St Patrick's has a kitchen on site which is used to distribute meals for the children. Our meals are prepared at the main kitchen in Portrush P.S. The school meals are very well balanced and nutritious. You can view the menu on our website and through the Class Dojo app.

Parents may also pay online, clearly stating your child's name and the payment purpose. Cash/cheque payments are accepted.

If you are receiving Income Support your child may be entitled to free School meals, please enquire at the school Office for further support.

The school receives extra funding for each child that takes up a free meal, so it is important that families eligible for free meals take up this entitlement.



We recognize that some children may have dietary requirements and others may wish to abstain as part of their religious observance. Please ensure the school is made aware.

DRINKS/FRUIT

All children are provided with milk and a piece of fruit each day as a morning playtime snack.

We do not allow sweets of any kind in school. This includes chewing gum.

Water is available throughout the school day in classrooms. Children are encouraged to bring in water bottles from home. Fizzy drinks are not permitted.

Community use of School:

North Coast Trad

Traditional Irish music song and dance are promoted in the school through North Coast Trad. Classes are available on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and can be booked through.

<https://northcoasttrad.com>

North Coast Dance

This highly successful school of Irish dance is based at St. Patrick's P.S. and is enjoyed by many of our pupils.

<https://www.facebook.com/northcoastdancecompany>

Surf lessons, workshops in Morellis and Friends of St Patricks events.





St. Patrick's Calendar 2024/25

August 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	28
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024 (21)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
							1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5	30						

October 2024 (18)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			

November 2024 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2	3
9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
12	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024 (15)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
							1
13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

January 2025 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4	5
16	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
19	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025 (15)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1	2
20	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
27	31						

April 2025 (15)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5	6
28	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
30	28	29	30				

May 2025 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3	4
31	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
33	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
33	26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2025 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
							1
34	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
35	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
36	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
37	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

July 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			

If there are still unanswered questions, if you would like any further information. please contact Mr. Dinsmore.

The office is open every school day from 8.30am am to 4.30 pm.



We wish to acknowledge the ongoing support we receive from the following local groups and businesses who have supported the St Patricks Primary this year.



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**



McLaughlin Contracts Geotechnical Environmental Services Springhill Bar Artisan Glass By Denise Loughrey Tesco Portstewart Kiwis Brew Bar Encore Drilling Marino's Off Sales Curran Gate Luxury Serviced Apartments, Portrush	Mastercraft Construction The Dolphin Takeaway C&D Electrical Ivan Murdock & Sons Funeral Directors Royal Court Hotel Causeway Sports Academy St. Patrick's PS PTA Chipmongers Portstewart Quays Bar & Gastro Pub Portrush	B & E Security Systems - Northern Ireland Portrush Surf School TK Causeway Boats Causeway Lass GolfLinks Hotel, Portrush MacAulay Wray Solicitors Morelli's Portrush Bearman Barbers Morelli's To Go Holley Optometrists Kerry Foods Halliday's of Bushmills
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