

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Our Lady's P.S.



June Newsletter

9th June 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to give you notice of some important information, dates and events that have and will be taking place during the final weeks of the term.

Holy Communion: On Saturday 21st May we celebrated Holy Communion. It was a very special day for all the P4 children, their families and our school community. The children performed their roles perfectly and concluded the celebration with a beautiful rendition of, '*God be with you as you go*'. I must acknowledge the excellent work of Mrs Mc Cloy (P 4 teacher) and Mrs Kearney (P 4 Assistant) in preparing the children for their Holy Communion with the valued support from parents and families. Thanks to our: Choir, staff, Fr. Emmanuel and everyone who assisted in making this a very special occasion. Special mention must go to the Primary 3 parents and school staff who: prepared food, set-up the hall, served refreshments for the after party and tidied up the community centre. Thanks to all and a special congratulations to the Primary 4 children.

Confirmation: On Sunday 5th June our Primary 7 children made their Confirmation in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. The children were confirmed by Archbishop Martin in a very spiritual celebration and the children were all excellent. Thanks to everyone who assisted with the preparation of the children for Confirmation and all of the families for their support.

Green Flag Award: Our school were recently awarded the prestigious Eco Schools Green flag award, for the third time. This is a tremendous achievement for our Eco Council and Ms Loughran who have completed excellent environmental work over the last two years, including: providing free reusable water bottles for every child, hosting a litter poster competition in conjunction with Tullysaran O'Connells GAC, ABC Council and Benburb Spar. We are delighted to receive this fantastic award as we aim to promote the importance of protecting our environment.

Parent Survey: Each year we review the progress made in the children's learning and the school's development, identifying areas of focus for continued development in the future. We feel it is very important that we seek your views as integral members of our school community as we aspire to facilitate high standards of learning for all our children in a safe, secure and welcoming environment. We would greatly appreciate if you would take 5 minutes to complete the survey on our school website. The code for the survey was sent out via text last week and we will text it out again, next week. Please remember to include your name when completing the survey as anonymous surveys cannot be included. Thanks. The survey will close on Friday 17th June.

Sports Day: Sports Day is on Friday 10th June. Showers are forecast but we are going to try to get some events completed in the morning as we are running out of days. Children should come into school in their sports

gear with a jacket. Please ensure that sun cream is applied before the children arrive to school. Thanks. You may also send sun cream into school with your child(ren). If we are unable to complete all of our activities we will finish them on Monday. A text message will be sent out to confirm our plans. Traditionally, Parents have not attended sports day which allows the children to participate freely in the activities and parents are not under pressure to attend. We feel it is in the best interests of everyone to continue with this tradition. We will post photographs from Sports Day on our school website. Hopefully the sun will shine on Friday!

Primary 7 Leavers' Events: Our Leavers' Mass for our Primary 7 children and parents is on Thursday 23rd June @10am in the Immaculate Conception Church, Tullysaran. Refreshments will be served in the school afterwards. The Primary 7 children's final day will be on Friday 24th June. This will be a fun party day for the children.

Tea/Coffee Afternoon: As I previously informed you our esteemed colleague Mrs Comiskey, Vice-Principal, is retiring at the end of the school year. We will host an informal coffee afternoon so parents, governors, past pupils, colleagues (past & present) friends and members of the community can call in for a cup of tea/coffee as we mark Mrs Comiskey's fabulous dedication and service to our school and community. Mrs Comiskey is a phenomenal person and a brilliant teacher who we will all miss. Personally, I have been indebted to Kate over the past few years and I hope that you are able to join us on Tuesday 28th June @1.30pm in our school hall to wish her the best of luck for the future.

I would like to remind you of the following important dates and events occurring in June:

-  **R/P1 Trip:** Thursday 9th June – Tannaghmore Gardens & Farm
-  **P3 Trip:** Thursday 9th June - Newcastle beach & Eddie Rockets, Newry
-  **Sports Day:** Friday 10th June.
-  **P6 Trip:** Tuesday 14th June - W5 Belfast, bowling & cinema
-  **P2 Trip:** Wednesday 15th June - Slieve Gullion & Cheeky Monkeys
-  **P7 Trip:** Thursday 16th June - Lisburn Leisureplex, bowling & cinema
-  **P4 & P5 Trip:** - Friday 17th June - Airtastic Bounce & Bowling
-  **P2 Assembly:** Tuesday 21st June @1.30pm
-  **Primary 7 Leavers' Mass:** Thursday 23rd June @10am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran
-  **Primary 7 Last Day:** Friday 24th June – Party Day.
-  **P2-P6 Class Transition Day:** Monday 27th June. Children will meet their teacher for next year.
-  **P1 Parents Induction Evening:** Monday 27th June @7pm via Zoom.
-  **Tea/Coffee Afternoon:** Tuesday 28th June. We will host an informal tea/coffee afternoon (@1.30pm) in our school hall to mark the end of the school year and bid farewell to Mrs Comiskey.
-  **Summer Holidays:** School closes for summer holidays on Thursday 30th June @11am.
-  **1st September 2022** – P2-P7 children return to school. P1 children will come into school on either 1st or 2nd September for their induction day (9am – 12noon) and commence school on Monday 5th or Tuesday 6th September (9am-2pm) (*Our 2022/23 provisional holidays are available on our website*).

Please keep up to date with our school events on our website: www.ourladyspstullysaran.com.
You can also download our school app. These dates are subject to change. Any changes will be sent out via text to Parents/Guardians registered. If you have changed your mobile number/address please inform the school in writing. Thanks.

Pupil Reports: Teachers are currently completing the children's reports and they will be sent home at the end of June. Please ensure that all school reading books and materials are returned to school before the end of June. Thanks.

Play Sand: We still have some bags of play sand available for parents to purchase at £5 per 20kg bag. Please contact the school office if you would like to purchase a bag of play sand.

Parent Pay: We continue to use Parent Pay to facilitate cashless payments however cash payments may be accepted on some occasions. Please ensure that you keep your payments up to date on Parent Pay to assist us in the smooth running of our school. Thank you.

Primary 6 Summer Transfer Camp: Unfortunately, the Department of Education has not provided funding for schools to offer Summer Schemes this year. However we would like to offer a one week Transfer Camp for Primary 6 children from Monday 25th until Friday 29th July. The camp will run from 9am-12noon but will be dependent on a minimum of ten children attending at a cost of £30 per child. A letter will be sent home to Primary 6 parents next week.

New Vice-Principal: I am delighted to inform you that Mr Aidan Forker has been offered the post of Vice-Principal in our school. Mr Forker, currently teaches in St. John's Primary School, Kings Island, and is a member of the Armagh Gaelic football team. Aidan is a highly regarded teacher with excellent experience and we look forward to welcoming him to our school community.

Proposed classes & teachers for 2022/23: We will have 36 Primary One children next year so we will have two P1 classes. Ms Loughran and Miss Holland will teach Primary One. Mr Mc Cann will continue to teach Primary Three, four days a week, and Mr Forker, our new VP, will teach Primary 7. There will be some changes to where classes will be taught to facilitate our two Primary One classes.

Our proposed classes and teachers for next year are as follows:

Primary 1: Ms Noreen Loughran

Primary 1: Miss Catherine Holland

Primary 2: Mrs Kerry Dillon

Primary 3: Mr Conor Mc Cann & Mrs Anne Maxwell

Primary 4: Mrs Aideen Mc Cloy

Primary 5: Mrs Karina O'Hara & Mrs Anne Maxwell

Primary 6: Mr Ryan Mc Cusker

Primary 7: Mr Aidan Forker

Application forms for free school meals and uniform grants for 2022/23 (families currently in receipt of Free School Meals must reapply for next year) are available on the Education Authority website: www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants

School transport applications can also be completed: www.eani.org.uk/home-to-school-transport-new/transport-online-applications/primary-school-transport-applications

I would just like to inform you that all staff have once again requested that parents/guardians do not purchase gifts for them at the end of the school year. We stress this without reservation. Staff appreciate the kindness shown to them however we feel, parents/guardians have enough expenses throughout the year and we appreciate all the support you give to the school. A thank you is more than enough.

Please remember to complete the parent survey on our website. Thank you for your continued support and please contact the school if you have any queries or concerns.

Take care and all the best

Tomás Mc Kee

Mr Tomás Mc Kee
Principal