

# Derrychrin Primary School

30 Drumenny Road, Coagh, Cookstown, Co Tyrone BT80 0BX

Tel: (028) 8673 7456

Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## St. Patrick's Day Non-Uniform Day

Pupils will have a non-uniform day on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear green clothing to celebrate our Irish history and culture. The pupils have been practising their songs and we look forward to a day of celebration. The P5 children and Mrs McGuckin will also lead a St. Patrick's Day assembly that week.

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Book viewing will take place for all pupils on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March and they will get an opportunity to record the names of any books that they would like to purchase.

The book fair will be open for pupils to purchase books at break time each day. We have allocated specific times if parents/carers would like to purchase books at home time with their child. The book fair will be supervised by Mr. O'Neill and the P7 pupils.

**We encourage all parents/carers to follow the times below.**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1:45pm -2:15pm	P1	P1	P2	P2	
2:45pm -3:15pm	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7

## Ceremony of Light and Commitment

The **Ceremony of Light and Commitment** for P7 pupils will be held in St. Patrick's Church on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 10am Mass**. This ceremony is in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If it is not possible for any parent to attend, may we ask for a family representative to accompany their child in order to carry out the 'handing on the faith' part of the ceremony.

P7 children are not expected to come to school before the Mass but we would ask for the parents of P7 pupils to bring their child to St. Patrick's Chapel Ballinderry for **9:45am**. Parents can then leave their child at school after the Mass.

## Sacrament of Confirmation for P7 Pupils

Sacrament of Confirmation will be held in St. Patrick's Church on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 10am and 11:30am**. Sacrament of Confirmation is always a special occasion for the whole school community and especially for our P7 children. We are looking forward to a wonderful occasion for everyone.



### **P7 Confirmation Retreat Workshop**

Our P7 pupils will participate in the annual Confirmation Retreat workshop along with the pupils of Ballylifford PS. It will take place this year in the Ballinderry Community Hub on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 9am – 2:45pm**. The retreat will be led by the Siolta Faith Development and Retreat Team of the Armagh Diocesan Youth Council. We would ask parents to please bring their child to the Ballinderry Community Hub for **8:45am** and collect them at **2:45pm**.

Children will need a snack and a packed lunch or can they can avail of a school dinner (£2.60) that will be transported from the school to the Community Hub.

### **Mary's Meals –Fundraising**

Thank you to Mrs. Pat McNeill and Sister Ita McKenna who visited Derrychrin PS last week to speak to the children about our chosen Lenten Charity – **'Mary's Meals'**.

The charity ensures that over 2 million children across 20 different countries can have at least one hot meal in school per day. Providing a nutritious meal will encourage the children to the classroom, where they can gain the education that could be their route out of poverty. Just £15.90 can feed one child for an entire school year. Pope Francis asks us to "give until it hurts" this Lent.... Let's see how many children we, as the family of Derrychrin Primary School, can feed over the next six weeks.

*Please check out [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) to learn more.*

### **Easter Raffle**

In order to raise funds for Mary's Meals, we have organised an Easter Egg Raffle during Lent. As prizes there will be two Easter Eggs for each class and an additional Easter Egg for each Key Stage. The draw will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets are 20p each or 6 for £1.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming lessons for the P7 pupils will finish on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. P5 pupils will commence their swimming lessons on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April for eight weeks at the Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt finishing on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June. A fee of £3.50 per child covers the cost of swimming lessons and transport. A permission slip will be issued via Private Messaging for all parents/guardians to confirm their child's participation.

### **ECO Schools - Battery Recycling**

Derrychrin PS are now a collection point for disposing of used batteries. When batteries are disposed of with general household waste they end up in landfill. As they begin to rot away the chemicals contained in these batteries can seep into the ground causing soil and water pollution which can have a detrimental effect on our environment.

Recycling batteries not only helps to conserve our environment, it also means the materials making up the batteries can be repurposed and reused to create new products.

Our recycling point is located at the front reception of the school. You can send batteries (sealed in a small bag) in with the children to recycle or you can drop them in at reception.

Our ECO School team will continue to monitor the recycling initiative as part of their action plan for this year.



### **Payment of Dinner Money**

After careful consideration, we will not be introducing an electronic payment method at this time. The Education Authority are in the process of piloting an electronic payment method for schools and would prefer that we wait until their system is available.

Therefore, we will continue with cash payments but payment arrangements are to be strictly adhered to in order for the smooth and timely administration of dinner and other monies sent in to school.

A separate letter has been issued to parents outlining updated payment arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support following these arrangements.

### **Safer Schools NI App**

A new safeguarding app, 'Safer Schools NI' is now available to parents and carers in Northern Ireland. The Safer Schools app has been offered to the Department of Education by the iNEQE Safeguarding Group', run by Jim Gamble. As a parent and carer, the Safer Schools NI App will help you to navigate the digital world that your children and young people live in every day. It will help by giving you the tools to protect the children and young people in your care online. We ask that all parents download the app to their smart device. A separate letter with more information / download instructions has been issued to all parents. Additional information is available in our 'Safeguarding' section on our school website.

### **Neuronimo**

The Neuronimo programme is a children and young person's mental and physical health programme.

It is delivered by a children's charity called Reverse The Trend Foundation in partnership with the Education Authority. Reverse The Trend Foundation uses evidence-based neuroscience to promote mental wellness in our children. It does not rely on short-term fixes such as limiting screen time.

Instead, the Neuronimo programme uses evidence supported by University partners to change behaviour and create healthy habits around mental and physical health.

Our pupils will complete short, fun, goal-orientated tasks over a period of 12 weeks with their teacher in school. During the programme they are supported online by Neuronimo Ambassadors who help create healthy habits. The tasks can be as short as 3-4 minutes for mental health tasks or 15 minutes for physical activity tasks.

The Neuronimo programme is also available for use at home with a home link for parents and P5-P7 pupils. This is an opportunity to supplement any Neuronimo learning in school. The Home Access is not compulsory but we do encourage it where possible. The link for Neuronimo at home is unique to Derrychrin Primary School. The link will take parents and P5-P7 pupils to the Learning Management System where they will be prompted to sign up and create a log-in. This will give them access to selected course material. Each parent and pupil will have an individual log-in so they can move through the course at their preferred pace allowing for inset days, holidays etc.

The link for Neuronimo at home will be issued in a private message to parents on the SCHOOLS NI App

Further information can be found at [www.reversethetrend.org.uk](http://www.reversethetrend.org.uk)



**"Where We Always Believe  
That We Will Achieve!!"**

### St. Mary's University Students

We currently have five students from St. Mary's University Belfast completing their student placement and teaching practice in Derrychrin PS for a duration ranging from six to ten weeks. Miss O'Neill (P4), Mr Purvis (P6), Miss McElroy (P3), Miss O'Kane (P5) and Miss McOscar (P2) are very welcome to the Derrychrin School Community and we hope they enjoy their time here.

### School Calendar

Please continue to refer to the school calendar for all upcoming events and dates for your diary on the school website and the calendar tab on the Schools NI app on your mobile phone device.

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please continue to refer to the calendar on the school website for all upcoming events and dates for your diary.

#### **St. Patrick's Day Green Day - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

#### **Ceremony of Light - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

(10am Mass at St. Patrick's Chapel Ballinderry -P7 pupils and parents only)

#### **P7 Confirmation Retreat - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

(9am -2:45pm Ballinderry Community Hub)

#### **Sacrament of Confirmation - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

(Ceremony One at 10am & Ceremony Two at 11:30am)

#### **First Communion - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

(Ceremony One at 10am & Ceremony Two at 11:30am)

### SCHOOL CLOSURES

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – St. Patrick's Day**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Staff Development Day**

School will finish on Holy Thursday (14<sup>th</sup> April) at **11am** for Easter Holidays.

**Easter Holidays -Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (Inclusive)**

School will reopen Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April

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