



DERRYCHRIN PS NEWSLETTER

Easter 2022



CEREMONY OF LIGHT

Congratulations to all the Primary 7 children who recently celebrated Ceremony of Light & Commitment in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The children were excellent, and Fr. Donnelly commented on how they were so attentive and prayerful throughout the ceremony.

It was great to have parents and family members in attendance to be involved in the 'handing on of faith'.

Thank you to Mr O'Neill and Maeve for preparing the children so well and also to Fr. Donnelly for celebrating the mass.



P7 CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Our P7 pupils will participate in the annual Confirmation Retreat workshop along with the pupils of Ballylifford PS in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It will take place this year in the Ballinderrry Community Hub on **Tuesday 12th April 9am - 2:45pm**. The retreat will be led by the Siolta Faith Development and Retreat Team of the Armagh Diocesan Youth Council.

EASTER RAFFLE & MARY'S MEALS FUNDRAISER

Our chosen Lenten Charity this year is 'Mary's Meals'.

The charity ensures that over two million children across twenty 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. £15.90 can feed one child for an entire school year.

In order to raise funds for Mary's Meals, we have been selling Easter Egg Raffle tickets. Prizes are two Easter Eggs for each class and an additional Easter Egg for each Key Stage. The draw will take place on **Wednesday 13th April**.

Tickets are 20p each or 6 for £1. We have raised over £600 to date which is absolutely fantastic. Many thanks for your continued generosity.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

Lafayette Photos will be in school on **Monday 25th April 2022** to take the following school photographs:

- Individual photos & Family group photos
- P1, P2 & P7 class photos

It will not be possible for the photographer to return at a later date should any pupils be absent.

Please ensure all children wear full school uniform. Shorts are NOT permitted

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY **STUDENT PLACEMENT**

Sincere thanks to our student teachers Miss O'Neill (P4), Mr. Purvis (P6) & Miss McElroy (P3) who have recently completed their teaching practice experience. They worked so hard throughout their placement ranging from six to ten weeks.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to Miss O'Kane (P5) and Miss McOscar (P2) who also completed their six-week placement. They made a fantastic contribution to school life in Derrychrin PS and we hope all students thoroughly enjoyed their time in Derrychrin. We wish them every success for the future, whether continuing their studies or moving on as qualified teachers.

CUMANN NA BUNSCOL CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to our P7 girls and boys who represented the school at the Cumann na Bunscol Cross Country Championships at St. Patrick's College Maghera. Fantastic effort by all the pupils, showing great determination on the 1200m course and representing Derrychrin PS with pride.

Thank you to St. Patrick's Maghera for organizing the course and facilitating the competition.

JEWELLERY

As part of the of the school uniform policy, earrings are restricted to ear studs due to health and safety regulations. We would ask that pupils refrain from wearing hooped or dangling earrings to school as they can catch all too easily during playtime.

TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone who purchased books at our recent Book Fair. We sold just over £1100 in books and the school received £635 in commission which will go towards purchasing new reading resources for the school. Thank you to Mr O'Neill organising the Book Fair and to the P7 children for assisting with the sales.

BOOK DONATION REQUEST

To inspire the children's reading, we are constantly updating the provision of books in our classrooms, school library and Accelerated Reader library. If any family have novels or reading books that they feel they don't need anymore, we would greatly appreciate them. You can either leave books with your child's teacher or the School Office. We are always very grateful for your generosity.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children as always look fantastic in their school uniform and a big thank you to all parents / guardians for supporting our uniform guidelines.

We expect the pupils to always wear full school uniform as it gives a sense of identity, reflects the individuality of the school and contributes to our school ethos.

School uniform can be purchased from O'Neill's Store Magherafelt. All items of clothing should be marked clearly with pupil's name

Our school uniform policy consists of school half zip top, school jersey and school tracksuit bottoms/plain navy bottoms/leggings. In the Spring and Summer months shorts can be worn as part of the school uniform.

With a variety of shorts been worn by pupils to school and feedback from parents and pupils highlighting that the current white shorts are very difficult to keep clean, we are in the process of reviewing the school shorts uniform. Contact has been made with O'Neill's to design a pair of leisure shorts with pockets similar to the school tracksuit bottoms. It is hoped that the new shorts will be available to purchase for September.

We are extremely mindful of school uniform costs and we would like to state that school shorts are optional. Parents/Guardians are not expected to purchase the current uniform shorts for term three and plain navy shorts are acceptable for the interim.

SCHOOL CAR PARK & ROAD SAFETY

For morning arrival/drop off parents/guardians/childminders are free to use school playground car park but must drive **slowly, carefully and responsibly**, showing regard at all times.

At home time collection we ask parents/family members/childminders to please collect their child/children safely from their class lines and move swiftly to their vehicle with awareness of other adults and children in the area.

The double entrance playground gates are closed each morning at 9am.

Gates will reopen again at 1:30pm for P1 and P2 pupil home collection.

Gates will close again from 2pm until 2:30pm to allow for outdoor learning and PE lessons.

We thank everyone for adhering to these times and guidelines as it ensures the safety of the children and staff throughout the day.

The small gate at the front of the school will remain accessible for late arrivals, visitors and deliveries to access the school front reception area.

We would also ask all parents/guardians/family members to please refrain from parking at the entrance gate or on the footpath in front of the school. This is a set down area **ONLY** and should be kept clear at all times.

This is particularly important with regard to the safety of the whole school community especially for the crossing patrol.



PUPIL COLLECTION ON WET DAYS

Reminder: Pupil home time collection is from the school hall when there are **wet/poor** weather conditions.

To assist in the management of this, P3-P7 children will line up in the school hall and will only be allowed to leave class line if a parent/guardian/family member is there to collect them.

We thank you for co-operation and support with this school procedure.

****The school bell will ring at 2:30pm daily to allow the P3-P7 children to tidy up and get ready for home time to ensure they are collected on time and to avoid any delays for parents/family members****

OUTDOOR CLIMBING FRAME

To ensure the Health and Safety of all pupils when using the Climbing Frame, the class teachers have discussed the rules with the pupils within their class. A copy of the rules for the safe and correct use of the Climbing Frame in school have been issued to all parents/guardians to discuss at home with their child/children.



PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

We pride ourselves in Derrychrin PS as having a high level of Pastoral Care and we always want our pupils to learn in an environment which is supportive, encouraging and structured. For learning to be effective, good discipline and positive behaviour is essential at whole school level.

As a Catholic school, we wish to help our pupils understand that we all make mistakes or make the wrong choices sometimes, but mistakes are forgiven and forgotten.

We also highlight to our children that saying sorry, trying to put mistakes right and accepting appropriate consequences with good grace are part of learning and growing up.

Going forward as a school we aim to have in place a number of positive mottos, whole school Golden Rules and an established system of rewards which promotes positive behaviour.

We want our pupils to maintain their excellent attitude and application to their learning.

However, in order to maintain these excellent standards, it is necessary to have effective rewards and sanctions in place. These are outlined in our revised Positive Behaviour Policy.

SCHOOL GOLDEN RULES



DERRYCHRIN SCHOOL VALUES

All staff will be involved in school values training planned as one of our Staff Development Days in August 2022.

On the consultation and selection of our school values, we will encourage our whole school community to embrace our current motto, 'Where We Always Believe, That We Will Achieve' along with our new school values to help shape future choices in everything we do.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARDS

At Derrychrin PS, we like to acknowledge and recognise the pupils' positive behaviour, application and attitude to school life with various rewards, positive feedback and praise.

At present rewards are presented by their class teachers to the pupils within their particular class. In conjunction with our revised Positive Behaviour Policy we aim to introduce various rewards to acknowledge pupil success and celebrate pupil achievement.



POLICY CONSULTATION

In Term One the following school policies which were approved by our Board of Governors following consultation with all stakeholders.

1. Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures
2. Fire Drill Procedures Policy
3. Religious Education Policy

The following school policies have recently been reviewed and updated.

1. Special Education Needs Policy
2. Positive Behaviour Policy
3. Handling Complaints Policy

As part of the consultation process, we would encourage parents to read recently updated policies and if necessary, there is an option to provide any comments or feedback for the school to consider in the decision making of each policy. You can view all policies in the 'Policies' section of the 'Our School' tab on our school website homepage.

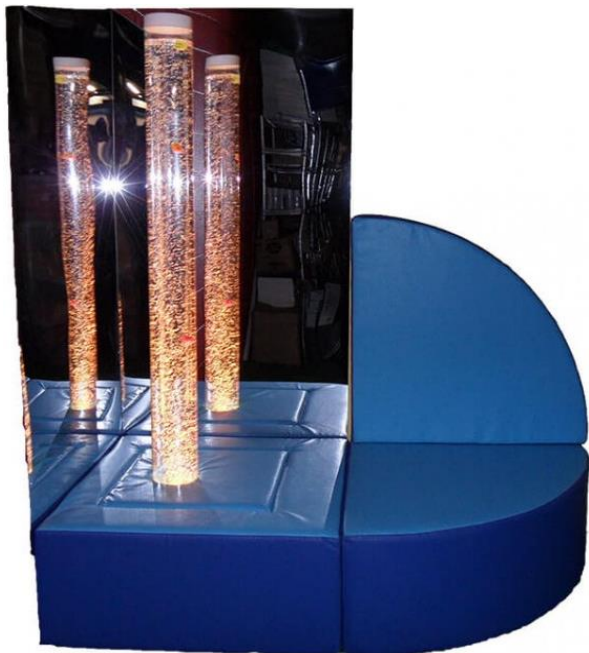
The closing date is Friday 15th April. The consultation process is also password protected. If you feel you would like to leave any comments or feedback, please use the password issued in a private message on the SCHOOLS NI App.

NEW SENSORY AREA

We are pleased to announce that we have recently installed a sensory environment in our reading room area.

The Multi-Sensory resource consists of:

- 2 Mirror Panels
- 1.75m Bubble Tube
- 2m 100 Strand Fibre Optics & Light Source
- 1 Square Podium
- 1 Quadrant Podium
- 1 Wall Pad
- Bubble Tube Bracket
- Deionised Water
- 8 Colour Wireless Control



In preparation for the unique Causeway Sensory modular design to be fitted, shelves, cupboard units and sink area had to be removed and a small area of the room refurbished.

We are currently in the process of painting the multi-sensory area and new carpet is to be fitted in term three.

The new multi-Sensory resource will be the perfect sensory environment to cater for all our pupils in a quiet, clam environment. Additional sensory equipment has also been acquired to stimulate and help children learn and develop in a safe and natural environment using play.

Further photos will be added to the school website when completed.

AARON DEVLIN MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

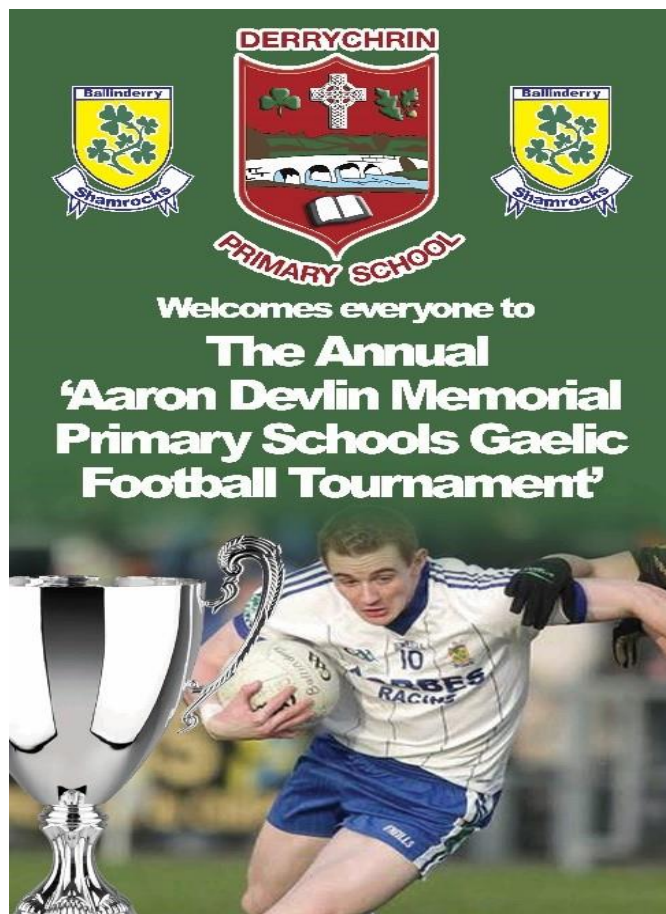
We are delighted to announce that our Annual Aaron Devlin Tournament has been confirmed again after a two-year absence due to COVID restrictions.

It will take place on **Friday 17th June 2022** at Ballinderry Shamrocks GAA starting at **10:00am sharp**.

It is hoped that there will be 16 schools involved this year in the tournament with a separate boys' and girls' competition. Each school may enter only **one** team, Derrychrin PS as hosts will be entering two teams in both competitions.

The tournament will have an initial group stage, followed by knockout in both the Cup and Shield sections. The boys' tournament will be **9 a-side** and the girls' tournament **7 a-side**.

We are looking forward to a very special occasion in memory of Aaron.



Action Targets

- Reseed grass areas
- Reuse flag stones in current raised beds.
- Sand and repaint Picnic benches
- Bird boxes –adopt a spot for each class.
- Bug hotel –link with St. Plus College
- Water butt from NI Water.
- Recycled plastic benches
- Power wash perimeter wall

DERRYCHRIN PRIMARY SCHOOL ECO GARDEN AREA



OUTDOOR GADREN AREA

The school along with our **ECO Council** have proposed plans in place to develop our outdoor garden area. This will also be part of our **ECO Council** action plan to maintain our 'Green Flag' status.

We have outlined a number of objectives in the aerial plan above that will be completed during term three.

These developments will provide the children with the opportunity to learn and play outside whatever the weather.

We are keen to avail of support from any parent or family members who would be willing to offer advice, and assistance with the following areas:

- sand and paint our current picnic benches
- make raised vegetable beds
- power wash perimeter wall next to the road.

As part of our School Development Plan for Year 2 and Year 3, we aim to further develop our ECO garden area and an outdoor learning area in the P1 and P2 playground area.



BIODIVERSITY & PLANTING

Thank you to Martin Wilson who has removed bushes, tree stumps and roots from various areas around the school grounds and planted a beech hedge in the climbing frame area.

Thank you also to members of our **ECO Council**, Mrs Hassan, Siobhan, our caretaker and Nikki who have planted shrubs and fruit plants behind the rockery area and flower bed areas at the back perimeter fence. With new plant species added to the school grounds, it will attract a greater variety of insects and wildlife to support the children's understanding and learning of the outdoor world.

DINNER MONEY PAYMENT

We would like to express our appreciation to all parents/carers who have followed our revised arrangements for the payment of dinner and other monies. It is now a more manageable process for our admin team. We would like to remind all parents/carers that the school will continue with cash payments, but the following arrangements **are to be strictly adhered to in order for the smooth and timely administration of dinner and other monies sent in to school.**

1. Dinner Money

- **All Dinner Money must be paid in advance.**
- Dinner money should be paid on a Monday morning for the week ahead or daily on the morning the dinner is to be taken.
- Dinner money must be brought in to the class teacher in an envelope/money bag (**containing only dinner money**) clearly labelled with child/children's name, class, dates and amount enclosed. Siblings can be included in the same envelope/moneybag but all details must be included. Thank you to all parents who already do this.
- Exact money would be appreciated but change will be given if required.
- If a dinner is paid for but not taken money will roll forward.

The Dinner Menu is available on the school website and is updated each month.

2. Other Monies

Music/Swimming Money must be paid on the day of the activity - as detailed above in a clearly labelled envelope/money bag.

Music money - Tuesday morning only

Swimming money - Wednesday morning only

P5 SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons for our P5 pupils commenced on Wednesday 5th April for eight weeks at the Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt. A fee of £3.50 per child covers the cost of swimming lessons and transport.

SHARED EDUCATION PROJECT

In Term One, we registered our interest in becoming involved in the Shared Education Project. We are now included in a list of schools and over the next 18 months the Education Authority will begin the process of forming partnerships.

The first introductory workshops were held across each locality at the end of March 2022. These sessions helped to raise the awareness of Shared Education, build an understanding of what Shared Education is, the benefits of Shared Education and provide a timeline for learning to all those involved in the programme.

This will be an exciting new chapter for ourselves as one of the participating schools.



Shared Education

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.



SAFER SCHOOLS NI

THE DAILY MILE'S 10th BIRTHDAY

The Daily Mile turns 10 on the 28th of April this year!

We will be joining primary schools across the world by getting moving on this day to celebrate all the positive benefits that daily activity has on physical and mental health.



TERM 3

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS OVERVIEW

TUESDAY

Multi-Activity Club (Activity NI)

P3 finish on 31st May

P6 finish on 3rd May

P7 10th May - 31st May

WEDNESDAY

P6/P7 GIRLS GAELIC FOOTBALL & CAMOGIE

(Mrs Hassan & Mrs Doyle)

Finish on 25th May

THURSDAY

P6/P7 BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL

(Mr O'Neill & Mr McElroy)

Finish on 26th May



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.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sacrament of Confirmation

Saturday 30th April 2022

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

First Holy Communion

Saturday 14th May 2022

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

Aaron Devlin Tournament - Friday 17th June

Term Three Dates

Monday 25th April-Tuesday 28th June 2022

School will finish at 11am on Tuesday 28th June 2022 for Summer Holidays

School Closures:

May Bank Holiday - Monday 2nd May 2022

June Bank Holiday -Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd June 2022

1 Staff Dev. Day - Monday 6th June 2022

