



St Patrick's RCVA Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers

I could not have imagined back in September what the school year had in store for us; after such a turbulent and worrying time, it is good to be able to say goodbye to this school year and to look forward to September with the hope that it will see us back together as a normal school community.

The pandemic has affected us in many ways and will, no doubt, continue to impact on our lives for the foreseeable future. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has experienced grief, illness or suffering during this time. The staff and I would like to express our gratitude to parents for their patience, cooperation and understanding in what has been a difficult time, especially while you are also juggling the demands of work, home schooling and caring for loved ones. Your engagement with home learning will, I am sure, help the children get back on track with their progress when we return in September.

I also wish to extend my thanks to the incredible staff of St Patrick's for their hard work and willingness to do whatever is asked of them during this time. Their positivity, support and determination makes my job as headteacher not only easier but a pleasure as well – I am proud to lead such an amazing team!

Well done and thank you to all of our pupils – throughout the year and into lockdown they have continued to do their best and it has been especially lovely to see the fantastic learning that has been going on at home posted on the class blogs. We are looking forward to welcoming them back to school in September – our school building is a sad and lonely place without the chatter and busy-ness that usually echoes round the corridors!

This week, we welcomed our new reception and nursery children into school for short visits; it has been wonderful to see them and we can't wait for them to join our school family in September.

We also managed to say farewell to our Year 6s who move on to new schools in September. It was definitely not the end of primary school that we had planned for them. I would like to thank them for the many positive ways that they have contributed to our school community during their time at St Patrick's. Although they have missed out on a proper end of school, we hope that they take with them many happy memories of their time here – we definitely have many fond and funny memories of their time in our school. We wish them every success in their new schools and for the future. When we return in September, we will be thinking of them and praying for them.

A final thank you to Mrs Askwith and Mrs Duffy who leave our staff this week – we wish them every success for the future and thank them for their contribution to our school during their time here. Mrs Murfet will also be leaving us, but only temporarily as she will return in November to cover for Mrs Clennell's maternity leave.

Whilst I hope that nothing changes during the summer holidays, that is not a certainty – should anything major happen in relation to CV-19 that will impact on school, you will be alerted by text message and information will be published on the school website. Please check from time to time for any further updates.

Uniform collection

The school office will be open on **Tuesday 1st September** from **10am – 2pm**, for parents to collect uniform. Please ensure that you socially distance and queue on the markings.



A huge **well done** to our Eco-council, whose work before the lockdown has managed to secure the eco-schools silver award for our school.

Thank you to, **the eco-school reps:**

R - Finley	1 - Joey and Millie	42 - Bijan and Jacob
43 - Dylan and Kate	44 - Harry, Phoebe and Aoife	
45 - Maggie, Joseph, Maisie and Mia	46 - Sonnie and Erin	

... and The School Ground Superheroes who did our litter picking twice a week:

44 - Erika, Layla, Luke, Charlie	45 - Lexi, Naomi, Ermita, Maisie	46 - Megan
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And to Mrs Benson and Miss Wilks who provided support and guidance to the children.

Additional information linked to Covid-19

When we return it will be quite strange with the new protective measures in place; please bear with us as we endeavour to make things run smoothly whilst staying safe. Our priority to begin with will be safely settling the children back into routines and getting used to the new rules. I am certain that the children will take on board all of the new changes and will adapt quickly. Please reassure them and, even if you are worried yourself, adopt a positive stance towards the return to school – it will make all the difference. Happy parents = happy children!

Childminders

I appreciate that some children are brought to school by childminders and that this has caused an additional concern for parents. The latest Government guidance states that schools should advise parents to limit, as far as possible, the numbers of providers that they access and to seek assurances from those providers that sufficient protective measures are put in place in their setting. With that in mind, I am happy that our children continue to be dropped off by their current childminder, as long as they adhere to our revised procedures and ask parents to keep us informed of any information that could impact on our school.

PE Kit

One of the additional changes that we will be introducing, which is a change from last week's letter (starting in week 2 – 7th September) is that children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days. This will save time and also reduce the amount of lost property. Children will need to wear black or navy joggers / leggings on top of their PE shorts, school PE t-shirt, navy sweatshirt and trainers. We are looking to introduce a school tracksuit to our uniform in the autumn term. You will be told which day your child will have PE on 4th September – they will not need to bring their kit during the first few days. **Please note that fashion sports kit or any other items will not be allowed – school uniform PE kit only.**

Attendance

As the Government have already stated, attendance at school will be compulsory again from September. Please support us to have good attendance from the start. I understand that it will be difficult for the children to return to routines and it will be hard for parents having to get children up and out again in the mornings but it is vitally important that you start as you mean to go on and only keep children off school when they are too ill to attend,

have coronavirus symptoms or are having to self-isolate. It is very tempting to be lenient and relaxed when your child is upset or refusing to get ready but giving in once will only make it harder the next time. There will be members of staff on hand should children be reluctant to come in; rest assured, they will take good care of the children and get them settled quickly so that you do not need to worry.

Equipment from home

Please remember that to reduce the infection risk, we are limiting what comes into school from home. Children must not be bringing anything other than their reading bag, packed lunch and water bottle. All items **must be clearly labelled**. You do not need to have a school branded reading bag but it must be a flat reading folder, roughly A4 sized not a rucksack or other type of bag. Anything else will be sent home.

Further closure/lockdown

In the event that groups of children need to be sent home or the whole school is subject to closure as a result of CV19 infections, we will continue to support learning online and with home learning packs, in line with our remote learning policy.

Face coverings

Although the Government is making the wearing of face coverings mandatory in shops, along with on public transport, they are not recommended for use in schools or offices as the groups within these environments are kept consistent.

Risk Assessment

Whilst we cannot ensure that the school environment is entirely risk free, we have carried out a comprehensive risk assessment covering the potential risks and the measures put in place to mitigate against them. You can access this document via the school website. It is important that all members of the school community play their part in reducing the risks posed by Covid-19 – how we behave can impact significantly on the lives of others.

I am sure that I don't need to remind you that coronavirus is still with us and we must all continue to take the simple steps that will keep us and our loved ones safe and healthy:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap or use hand sanitiser, if soap isn't available
- Stay socially distanced (2m where possible)
- Wear a face covering on public transport and in crowded places (e.g. shops)
- Try not to touch your face with your hands
- Use a tissue and follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!

Also, if you have symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, new and persistent cough, loss of taste or smell) **self-isolate** immediately and get tested within the first five days of having symptoms. You can book a test online at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or you can call 111 and book over the phone.

Thank you again for your support during the year and especially over the recent few months, I look forward to welcoming you all back in September; fingers crossed, to an uninterrupted year of learning and fun!

I wish all of our children and families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

With very best wishes



Mrs Jennifer M Gill
Head Teacher