

June 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the school year ends, I wish to thank you, on behalf of the staff, for your continued support over the past year.

We can look back to this time last year and think "What a difference a year makes!" Last year we stood in the midst of the pandemic and watched while the world tried to find a vaccine. We returned to school in Sept to many new routines and protocols, we engaged with online platforms, had a period of remote learning, held virtual events, and missed time with friends and family, sports and clubs.

As the school year comes to end we remember the wonderful things that happened during that time, and we look forward with hope. It was a year filled with reuniting, new learning experiences, diligence and motivation, learning to be more responsible, empathetic and safe. The pupils showed such enthusiasm and resilience. We are very proud of all they achieved this year and we are sure their families are too.

We would like to express our gratitude to parents and families, for helping to keep our school safe throughout the year by adhering to school protocols and Public Health guidelines, and for balancing parenting, working, and doing your best in the challenging period of remote learning earlier this year.

Thank you also to the PA for all the events and fundraising they organised during the year, to add to the pupils already rich social experience. The much appreciated funds raised by the parents have contributed to the Smartboard project, new hall tiles in the junior school hall, repadding of the senior school, live streaming of the sacraments, the recent ice-cream van, Christmas panto and online Reading Eggs.

June 2021



A special note of gratitude must go to the staff of the school for their commitment to ensuring continued teaching and learning, and safety, during an extraordinary year. Their continued vigilance has contributed hugely in keeping our school community safe. Online platforms were set up and used for the first time, and a remote learning plan was quickly put into action during the period of of remote learning. They fully supported pupils to resettle when school reopened.

The Board of Management has worked extremely hard over the past year, overseeing the running of the school and providing the additional level of support required. Many thanks must go to the board members for giving their time and sharing their wealth of experience throughout the year.

We say "farewell" to pupils in our senior DLD class who are returning to their own schools, and to the pupils of 6th class who who are moving to various secondary schools in September. We are so incredibly proud of them and all they have accomplished in St Pat's. We wish them well on the next exciting stage of their educational journey and look forward to hearing from them in the future and learning about their progress.

We will be putting the finishing touches on the new classroom over the Summer, along with the installation of the new lift, a new universal access bathroom, and modifications to ramps and stairs. Thanks to all the people who have worked so hard to make the building work go so smoothly (and to staff and pupils who had to change routines during the year to facilitate that.)

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As with every year, we will have a few changes to staff in September.

I wish to express our deepest thanks to our temporary teachers who are leaving- Ms Burke, Mr. O' Riordan and Mr. Rogers. We wish them well with their future schools and classes. Long-serving members of staff who are leaving following periods of leave are: Ms. Meade, Ms. Hannelly, Ms. Prior and Ms. Mitchell. On behalf of the entire school community, I wish them all well and thank them most sincerely for all that they have contributed over the years.

We look forward to welcoming back Ms. Lavery, Ms. Brennan, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Collins and her fellow job-share teacher Ms. O' Keefe.

We look forward to seeing all our pupils after the Summer break. Current infection prevention and control measures will likely continue to be place in September. Up-to-date guidance for schools will be made available ahead of reopening. Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact details for parent communication ahead of reopening. For now, from all of us in St Pat's B.N.S, stay safe and stay well, and mind yourselves and family. Have a lovely Summer,
Slán sábháilte,
Natasha Bassett

Please read on, for some news from the final term

Well done to all the 2nd class boys who attended the Penitential ceremony earlier this week, in preparation for their Communion on the 4th of September. Thanks to the teachers for preparing them so well and to Fr Paul for a lovely prayerful ceremony.



Our 6th classes will celebrate their Confirmation Day on Saturday, 28th of August.



6th class Graduation takes place on Tuesday, 29th of June and will be streamed using Google Classroom.

Senior Infant Graduation takes place on Monday 28th of June. Photos and clips of recordings will be shared with parents.



Unfortunately, the 6th class versus Teachers competition cannot take place in the traditional manner. This year it involves a penalty shootout and a basketball free-throw competition this week. Hopefully the teachers hold onto their title!



5th class were fortunate to view the recent Blooms Day festivities, near the park and library. Interestingly, James Joyce lived on Millbourne Ave in 1894, the founding year of St Pat's school, and the year noted on our original school gate pillar.

Classes have been busy with outdoor learning, trips to the pitch, outdoor climbing area, Griffith Park, Botanic Gardens and Albert College Park.

GAA: Junior Infants to 2nd class received coaching sessions by Mark from Na Fianna. They worked on ABC skills (agility, balance and coordination) Thanks Mark! - and thanks to DCU for use of the 3G pitch.



Sports Day: Sports Days took place from 11-18 June. Every class was lucky with the weather! Everyone showed their skills and more importantly, true sportsmanship, fairness and team-play! Thanks to Mr. Skelly and Mr. Duffy for helping to coordinate, and all the teachers for devising fun and energetic schedules. Some photos are on our website and twitter pages.

We rounded off the last day of Sports Day with some well deserved ice-creams.

Book Rental : Many thanks to the Book Rental committee , Ms. Quinn and Sharon for their organising of the scheme this year, and extending it to all classes. The Book Rental committee is busy reviewing books, and organising the return of 6th class deposits.

Reports were released on Aladdin on Wednesday 16th of June. Please contact the school if you have difficulty accessing it.

Junior Infant Photos: Junior Infants photos were sent by the photographer this week. If you have not received photos, please contact Asta the photographer directly.



Traffic: Thank you for your continued support in driving and parking responsibly near the school. There should be no parking or stopping in the School Zone area. Please park at a safer place away from the school zone/gates, and walk the remaining way, to avoid any accidents.



Covid:

We are in the last few remaining days of the school year and I would ask everyone to remain cautious and take no risks regarding symptoms or close contacts.

Please remember:

No-one with Covid 19 symptoms should attend school: These include temperature, cough, change in sense of smell/taste. If your child is "off form", please stay at home.

There should be no congregating at the school. Please wear a mask while on the school grounds.

Smart Boards: Next year we plan to have all classes working with Smartboards. We have a 5 year plan to fund this. Money raised from this year's Sponsored Walk together with P.A fundraising forms part of the plan, and funding will continue next year.



Uniform: Reminder, next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are **no uniform days**.

Uniform Sale:

Details of the P.A's uniform sale will be sent on Aladdin.

Our **new Junior Infants** have received times to visit the school and meet their teacher. We look forward to seeing our new St Pat's boys on 31st of August! **New Junior Infants please note that school will have a 12 o' clock finish for the first two weeks, and then from Monday, 13th September, school will finish at 1:30pm.**

Book lists and Stationery lists: These are available on the school website. Note, those who are in the Book Rental Scheme must arrange the purchase of the items on the stationery ("requisite") list . This is from 1st -6th class.

School calendar is available on the school website and will soon be uploaded on Aladdin.
Pupils return to school on Tuesday 31st August.



Finishing times next Wednesday:

11:30 Senior Infants

11:40- Junior Infants

11:40- 1st class

11:50- 2nd class

11:55 3rd /4th class

12:00- 5th/6th class

Notice of next year's class teachers have been sent on Aladdin.

Thank you for your continued support.
Please stay safe and have a good Summer!

Natasha Bassett
(Principal)

