



# September

Dear Parent/ Guardians,

We have settled back to school very well. Our new Junior Infants have adapted exceptionally well to their 1:20pm finish time, and our 1st classes to their later finish time. It's been great to welcome new pupils at different class levels, and lovely to see everyone learning and enjoying being back at school.

A reminder that **school starts at 8:40am**. The gate is open from 8:30am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.

Parents/ Guardians of Junior and Senior Infants wait with their son at morning time until the teacher collects the line. (Please wait at the footprint marks at the top of the lines, to allow space for the pupils to walk with teacher to their classroom doors.)

In the Senior School, Ms Bassett and Ms Rafter supervise the Junior and Senior yards. A reminder to 1st-3rd class parents to "Hug and Go" or remain behind the line, to avoid congestion in the yard and to encourage independence at the lines. On wet days, we gather in the halls.

School ends at 2:20pm. Please make arrangements to meet and greet older pupils away from the school gates, to avoid congestion at the gates.

Please check your details on Aladdin, and if the contact numbers have changed, including emergency contacts, please update them on Aladdin, or contact [secretary@saintoats.ie](mailto:secretary@saintoats.ie),

Please read ahead for some reminders and updates.

## Some general reminders

### Early Collection

There is a facility on Aladdin (under Attendance) to notify the teacher in advance if you need to collect your child early for an appointment or due to illness. You can also email [secretary@saintpats.ie](mailto:secretary@saintpats.ie). When you arrive at the front door you will be asked to sign the early sign-out book.

Children who need to leave early for an appointment MUST be collected by a parent/guardian. This includes senior pupils.



### Late arrivals

If your child is late, they must enter the school through the main door at the office. There is a facility on Aladdin to enter a late arrival, in advance.

### Absences

Reasons for absence need to be recorded on Aladdin. This can be done from 10:20 am on the morning of absence. It is imperative that the reason for absence is recorded for school records. Please contact [secretary@saintpats.ie](mailto:secretary@saintpats.ie) with any important additional documentation relating to absences. Aladdin will automatically notify you to advise when your son has missed 15 days, and 20 days. After 20 days of absence the school is obliged to report to the National Education Welfare Board

## Communications

Payments and Permissions can also be completed via Aladdin. Teachers will use Seesaw (Infants-1st class) to communicate homework. From 2nd-6th class, homework is communicated through the homework journal, and some items of homework may be through Google Classroom. Other general communication with the teacher or school should be emailed to ([ms.X@saintpats.ie](mailto:ms.X@saintpats.ie) /[mr.X@saintpats.ie](mailto:mr.X@saintpats.ie) or [secretary@saintpats.ie](mailto:secretary@saintpats.ie)).

If you need to discuss something with a member of staff, please contact us to make an appointment. **If you have an arranged appointment, please check in at the office.**

### Pets

Pets are welcome to wait outside near the school gate but should not be on the yards.



### Toys

Junior classes can bring in a pocket sized toy for yard time- nothing precious! Pokemon cards can be brought to the yard, but no trading is allowed on the Junior yards, due to regrets and upsets! On the senior yard, trades are allowed. Pokemon cards should be kept in the school-bag, apart from yard time.

## Uniforms

The school PE tracksuit should be worn on PE days. Full school uniform is to be worn on other days. Dark shoes should be worn with the main uniform. Please label jumpers and coats clearly.

## Homework

Our homework policy is available on the school website. Homework is a revision of work /skills already covered in school and is an opportunity for parents/ guardians to check in on their child's learning. Reading and learning homework such as tables or spellings is supplemented with some written work. A simple digital task is provided at the start of the week. Junior Infants- 2nd class use Seesaw as a digital platform; 3rd-6th classes use Google Classroom. Please ensure books/copies are returned for correction.



## TextBooks

A reminder that from 3rd class, pupils write in work books and copies, but not in any text books. The text books remain property of the School Book Scheme



## Road Safety and Bikes

A reminder, that outside the school is a "School Zone". Cars should not stop or park in the zone. Please be mindful of pupils' safety as they walk and cycle to and from school. Please show consideration for other parents and children at all times and remember the example we show in regard to road safety is seen by our children. Please also note that cars should not be parked in the yellow lined areas on the DCU grounds, and should not stop/park at the school car park gate on the DCU grounds. The school car park, having very limited space, is for staff parking only.

Please ensure your son is wearing a helmet when cycling or scooting to school. This is emphasised in school and we would appreciate it if you continue to reiterate this very important message at home. Pupils are asked not to mount bikes or scooters outside the gates on Millbourne Avenue, as the path and road are very narrow.



## School News

### Enrolment for 2024/25

Enrolment for **boys and girls** for Junior Infants 2024/25 opens on Monday, 2nd of October. It is imperative that all applications, including those for siblings, are made within the initial enrolment timeframe (Monday 2nd October-Friday, 3th November). Applications made after this date will be in category G, as per the Admissions Policy. Applications can be made online through the website ([www.saintpats.ie](http://www.saintpats.ie)), or by downloading and returning an application form (available on the website, or from the office.) Any previous correspondence or "expressions of interest" cannot be processed.

The admissions notice and policy are available on the website, or through the office.

### Secondary schools admissions

An information note about secondary schools was shared with 6th classes. Applications for secondary school can be made the year before entry. Some schools will share information which we will pass on to the 6th class parents, but please check with the post-primary schools for further information on admissions and open evenings. Generally, Applications open on 2nd October, but please check with individual schools.

### DLD DAY

DLD DAY takes place on Friday, 20th October.

We have two DLD classes in St Pat's. DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder. Research shows that 7.5 percent of the total population has DLD. That equates to 2 children in every class of 30 pupils or 70,000 school aged children in Ireland. It is a common but often unidentified communication disorder that affects a person's ability to understand and/or use language for no known reason. Those with DLD may have difficulty finding the correct words, making sentences and understanding instructions. The DLD colours are purple and yellow, and on Friday, 20th October we are inviting



**St Patrick's National School**

In 2024, our school is celebrating 130 years in the community.  
We are enrolling **boys and girls** for Junior Infants 2024-2025

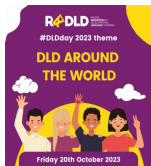
Email: [secretary@stpatpats.ie](mailto:secretary@stpatpats.ie) | Phone: 01-4372754 | Website: [www.saintpats.ie](http://www.saintpats.ie)

Application Forms accepted from 02/10/2023

www.saintpats.ie

www.saintpats.ie

pupils to wear something purple or yellow or both (e.g socks, hat, scarf, gloves) to promote an awareness of DLD.



### Autism Class

We are pleased to be opening a class for autism in St Pat's. Following discussion with the NCSE, a class has been sanctioned, and we will continue to work closely with the Department of Education and builders to help prepare the room over the current school year. Applications for September 2024 will be accepted in January. Application details can be found in our Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice on the school website.



### Autism. Parent Talks

We are a host school for the parent and professional training course, run by Middletown Centre for Autism. If you are interested in these talks please visit Middletown Centre for Autism's website to book a place.

<https://www.middletownautism.com/package/parents/autism-and-the-primary-school-programme-parent-st-patricks-national-school-drumcondra-co-dublin>

### Parents

#### Location:

St Patrick's Boys' National School,  
Millbourne Avenue, Drumcondra,  
Dublin 9, D09 H008

Time: 11am-1pm

- Monday, 6th November 2023  
Autism, Learning Styles and Visual Teaching Methods
- Monday, 4th December 2023  
Autism and Communication
- Monday, 29th January 2024  
Autism and Reframing Behaviour
- Monday, 19th February 2024  
Autism and Sensory Processing
- Monday, 15th April 2024  
Autism and Understanding Anxiety

## Anti-Bullying/Friendship Week

Friendship/Anti-Bullying Week took place this week to highlight the value of friendships, the importance of being a good friend and also how to Notice, Respond and Report bullying behaviour.

Classes engaged in various activities, stories, songs and art-work. Some boys spoke over the intercom and shared their thoughts on what makes a good friend.



## Tin whistle

This year, every pupil from 3rd-6th class will learn some simple tunes on the tin-whistle. They will take their tin-whistle home for practice each week. Please ensure tin whistles are in the school bags again for Tuesday's lesson with Jacqui. This is being subsidised through P.A fundraising money.



## 6th class French

Our school is once again taking part in the 'Say Yes to Languages' Primary Sampler Module. The module facilitates an introduction to a modern language. Ms.O 'Keeffe will work with the 6th classes, teaching French for an hour every Monday for eight weeks, within the normal timetable. The New Curriculum Framework will see modern foreign languages officially being introduced to the primary school curriculum on a staged basis from September 2025. We look forward to hearing more about how this will be introduced, but in the meantime, the 6th class

boys will receive this introduction thanks to Ms. O' Keeffe.



### **Bike Shelter**

The bike shelter came to fruition at the end of the Summer, thanks to the hard work and fundraising of the Student Council and Parents' Association. The outgoing Student Council can be proud of their legacy. Here are the "before and after" pictures. Also photographed is Eamonn, the BoM Treasurer, who discussed the finances with the boys. We received a 500 euro donation through the **Croke Park Community Fund** towards the Bike Shelter. Sincere thanks to the Croke Park fund for their contribution!



### **Creative Clusters**

This year we are participating in the Creative Clusters Project. This is an initiative of the Department of Education, in partnership with Education Support Centres Ireland (ESCI) and funded through the Schools Excellence Fund.

The initiative promotes collaboration between schools, and the arts and cultural sector, as they work on a bespoke creative learning project over a two year period,

We are in a cluster with four other schools, and each school will enjoy access to a specialist, creative facilitator to support us as we work on the chosen project. In addition, our school will receive **€3,000** over the two years to help bring our plans and ideas to life. Our two 4th classes will be working on the project this year, with Ms.Gallagher as the coordinator. We look forward to hearing more about our school project as the year goes on.



## Links with the Community

### Na Fianna

Our new Games Promotion Officer, Mark Cooper, will be helping the 4th-6th classes with Gaelic football skills this term. We are very fortunate to have the use of the DCU pitches every week for this.

### Homefarm football club

We are delighted to have Gary from Homefarm Football Club back again, working with the Junior and Senior Infant classes this term. Gary will be helping the boys to develop their soccer and agility skills!



## Clonliffe Harriers

Three teams from 4th, 5th and 6th class will soon be taking part in a one day track event in Santry Stadium. The teams will be participating in a long-distance race, and we all wish them well with this.

### DCU

The two 5th classes will be working with some of the final year students as part of P.E in the coming weeks. They will be taking part in some orienteering and outdoor challenges

## Sacraments

We look forward to celebrating Confirmation on 19th of April 2024, and First Holy Communion on Saturday, 25th of May, 2024. Fr. Seamus from DCU will be celebrating the occasions with us. Fr Seamus will also be celebrating Sunday Family Masses at 11:15am, in the church of St Pat's DCU, during the year. Details about the parent information evening have been shared with the 2nd and 6th class pupils.





## Committee News

### Student Council

Well done and thank you to the outgoing Student Council, and well done to all the pupils who put themselves forward for the election process for the new committee.

The new committee will be formed by pupils from 3rd-6th class. Those who will give speeches to their class, or made posters or slogans can be proud. It's great to see the democratic process in action in classes. Once all the classes have elected their representatives, the newly formed committee will be announced.

### Green School

This year, Ms Gallagher is our Green Schools coordinator. We thank the outgoing Green Schools Committee, and look forward to meeting the newly formed committee soon. We are continuing work on "Global Citizenship, Litter & Waste", and continuing other good environmental practices such as encouraging walking and cycling, minimising energy usage and promoting a clean and litter-free school environment.



### Active Committee

The pupils and teachers of the Active Committee will be continuing to promote Active School life, and will continue working on the application to receive the Active Flag. As an Active School, and as part of [#BeActive European Week of Sport](#) we participated in a Table Tennis Takeover on Friday, September 29th. Everyone enjoyed some table tennis in the hall, in the yard or in their classroom. As with all Active School initiatives, the focus of this event was on PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION and FUN.



### Parent Association

The Parents' Association AGM will take place on Thursday 26th October at 8pm. A new Board of Management takes up office on 01/12/2023. Two parents of children enrolled in the school (one being a mother and the other a father) must be elected by the general body of parents of children. A note will be sent to all parents via Aladdin with further details.

### Voluntary subscriptions

The P.A has sent out a message regarding annual voluntary subscriptions, to help towards the costs of much needed school resources and maintenance, which Department grants fall short of covering. Last year, for example, schools didn't receive the much anticipated IT grant; and schools in general are stretched to cover day to day expenses.

We are lucky, thanks to parent support, to be able to cover the essentials, and also the additional much needed extras.

This is a voluntary contribution, however all contributions, no matter how big or small, are greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made through the PA bank account using 'Voluntary Subs' as the receiver's reference:  
BIC: AIBKIE2D IBAN:  
IE13AIBK93210836523186 REF:  
Voluntary Subs

OR By using PayPal. The PA PayPal handle is @stpatspa (please use Friends and Family as the payment type) OR If you would like to make a cash or cheque donation, please drop them into the PA post-box located inside the senior school gate entrance.

### Halloween Fair

We are all looking forward to the return of the Halloween Fair on Sunday, 22nd of October! The P.A is busy preparing for the school's biggest fundraiser of the year. We hope you can support it through donations, offering your time or help, and coming along on the day! The day is always a great community event. If you can help by providing a hour or two in the preparation, or on the day itself, please let the P.A members know



## Matches

Thanks to our match reporters, Lochlann, Tom, Ollie and Matthew, from 6th class, for the following update on the Senior Team:

*The senior football team has played two matches so far in the group stages. The first match was played on Thursday the 14th of September against St Patrick's Diswellstown. It was a tight first half but we ended up winning the match by 16 points. The second game for the school team didn't go so well. We were hammered in the first half but then we started playing the best we could but it was just a little too late. Our final group games will take place on the 28 of September against St Bridgets Castleknock. We have had two captains so far, Conor Dunleavy and Cillian Moore. This is a must win game or we are most likely going to be knocked out.*

**MATCH UPDATE:** The boys won their match against St Brigid's and are now through to the quarter finals. Well done boys and coaches!



Thanks to the teachers, Mr. Carey and Mr. Tubridy, who volunteer their time to training and to matches. Also, to the boys who attended trials, but missed out, they can be proud of themselves too.



Our 5th classes have also been taking part in GAA Go Games, with all members of the panel having an opportunity to play matches over the past few weeks. Well done to all the boys for their participation, and thanks to the coaches Ms. Devlin and Ms. Walsh for volunteering their time.



## Junior Infant photos

Our Junior Infants recently had their photos taken by the professional photographer. Any queries regarding orders should be emailed directly to the name/number provided in the form.



## Social media:

Our twitter (X) account is

@saintpatsbns

Our website is [www.saintoats.ie](http://www.saintoats.ie).

## School Self Evaluation

We have started engaging in a three cycle of school self evaluation in the area of wellbeing promotion. Schools play a vital role in the promotion of wellbeing through a range of activities and approaches to support the academic, physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual development of all children. Our school will continue to develop wellbeing promotion and ways to equip children with the knowledge, skills and competencies to deal with challenges that impact on their wellbeing.

### BoM

- The Child Safeguarding Annual Review took place in September.
- The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment were reviewed and updated, and are now available on the school's website.
- The Board received an update on the consultative process regarding the status of the school, and approved the transition to co-education.
- An update on the new autism class was discussed.
- The Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice were reviewed to reflect coeducation from Junior Infants 2024, and the opening of an autism class.
- An update on the School's Ethos

Evaluation for year four was considered, and sacraments were discussed.

- The reviewed P.A Constitution was adopted, and correspondence was taken and discussed.
- The next Board meeting will take place on the 9th of October.
- A new Board of Management takes up office on 01/12/2023. Two parent nominees will be elected at the P.A's upcoming AGM, on 26th of October.

### Dates for the diary

- Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd of November. Further details will follow closer to the time.
- A full day school closure has been sanctioned by the Dept of Education to facilitate staff training in the New Primary Maths Curriculum. When we have details of when this will occur we will advise you of the date.
- Classes for sacraments have received a message on Aladdin regarding an upcoming Parent Information evening talks in October.

Many thanks for your continued support.  
Natasha Bassett (Principal)