

St Patrick's National School  
Return to School  
29th August 2024



Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais tar éis na laethanta saoire. Fáilte freisin roimh na daltaí nua i Naionáin Shóisireacha agus i na ranganna eile tríd na scoile. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh said go léir taitneamh agus tairbhe as a gcuid ama i Scoil Naomh Pádraig. We look forward to welcoming back pupils, parents and staff to a new academic year. A special warm welcome to our new Junior Infants, and to the new pupils joining other classes. The senior building is looking forward to welcoming the new 1st class boys. We look forward to settling back to routine and to a productive year ahead.

Labelled cones will be in the yards on Thursday morning, 29th August, to guide everyone with their line-up. (Junior and Senior Infants in the Junior School, 1st-3rd classes on the junior yard near the astro, and 4th-6th classes

on the senior yard.) Staff members will be available to help.

Over the Summer, the reconfiguration building work for the new autism class took place. We are delighted with our new classroom, which is a lovely welcoming space for our new pupils.

All of the bathrooms in the Junior Building have been fully upgraded over the Summer, and those in the Senior Building have also received some upgrades, including additional warm water, new ventilation, new lighting and painting. The Junior Building classrooms have also been freshly painted.

In the Senior Builder, new solar panels have been installed, which will help our energy bills and promote a greater awareness of renewable energy as we bring the energy from the sun into school!

Our secretary Sharon, and our caretakers, Tony and Tommy, have been busy around the school grounds over the past few weeks, making sure that school is ready for our return. Ms. Doyle has been busy ensuring that textbooks, workbooks and copies are in classrooms, ready for use.

### **Books**

A reminder that textbooks provided under the Free Book Scheme remain the property of the school, so please remind your child not to write in them. The textbooks will be collected back at the end of the school year. While textbooks have a plastic cover, we request that you please cover and label clearly all workbooks and copybooks when they are sent home. A list of stationery, to be purchased by parents/guardians, was shared through Aladdin in June, and is provided again on the next page.



### **Dress Code**

The school uniform is available from Lynchs and consists of:

1. New Junior Infants: School tracksuit with school polo shirt.
2. All other classes: School tracksuit and navy polo shirt for PE days.

For days other than P.E, blue school jumper, white polo shirt, grey trousers/skirt, and dark shoes.

For this, the first year of the new design tops, either the new design or old design top may be worn.

Junior Infant P.E is on Tuesday and Thursday. Senior infant P.E is on Monday and Wednesday. Class teachers of 1st-6th class will notify you, through Aladdin, of the P.E days.

Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for yard time, or on wet days.

Long hair should be neat.

In the interests of safety, minimal jewellery eg watch can be worn. (no smart watches!) Other items such as bracelets, necklaces, rings, long earrings can cause the child an injury or upset, when broken or lost. Please ensure that jumpers, jackets, hats and scarves are clearly labelled!

## Stationery list for 1st-2nd class

### Stationery list (not covered under Free Book Scheme)

Requisite list for 1st and 2nd class pupils, not covered under the Free Book Scheme.

i.e. to be purchased by parents/guardians for the return to school

The items in this list are to be supplied by parents, for September 2024

	1st class	2nd class
Plastic A4 folder	✓	✓
2 pencils	✓	✓
Colouring pencils/ Twistables	✓	✓
Pencil case	✓	✓
Pencil parer	✓	✓
Rubber	✓	✓
Large Pritt Stick	✓	✓
Small ruler	✓	✓
2 whiteboard markers	✓	✓

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## Stationery list for 3rd -6th class

### Stationery list (not covered under Free Book Scheme)

Requisite list for all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils, not covered under the Free Book Scheme, i.e. to be purchased by parents/ guardians for the return to school.

The items in this list are to be supplied by parents, for September 2024.

	3 <sup>rd</sup> class	4 <sup>th</sup> class	5 <sup>th</sup> class	6 <sup>th</sup> class
Plastic A4 folder	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 pencils	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colouring pencils	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pencil case	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pencil parer	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rubber	✓	✓	✓	✓
Large Pritt Stick	✓	✓	✓	✓
30cm ruler	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 red pens	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematical set			✓	✓
2 blue pens			✓	✓
2 blue Pilot Frixion erasable rollerball <b>blue</b> pens		✓		



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## **Communication**

The primary method of communication by the school is Aladdin. Please ensure you have notifications on your phone app turned on so you do not miss important messages.

Absences/late arrivals/early collections can be notified using the Aladdin app.

If you need to contact the office please email

[secretary@saintpats.ie](mailto:secretary@saintpats.ie).

If there is a need to contact the principal directly, please email [principal@saintpats.ie](mailto:principal@saintpats.ie).

If there is a need to contact the class teacher, please contact the office to make an appointment.

Seesaw and Google Classroom are not intended for general teacher-parent communication.

They are learning platforms, used as a digital portfolio and for sharing some homework activities which help pupils' enhance their digital skills and competencies.

You will receive details from the class teacher in September about accessing Seesaw (junior infants-2nd class) and Google Classroom (3rd-6th class).

## **Contact details Information**

If any of your details have changed since last year (mobile number, emergency contact, address, email, etc.) please update them on Aladdin. If you have any difficulties, please email the school office.

## **Aladdin payments**

Sundries and insurance payments were set up at the start of the Summer under the payments tab of Aladdin and remain open for payment. Many thanks for payments to date.

Details about tin-whistle classes for 3rd-6th class pupils were shared on Aladdin over the Summer break. The term of classes is being subsidised by P.A funding. A payment for the balance has been set up on Aladdin. We would appreciate payment at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.



## **Morning arrival**

School starts at 8:40am.  
(Please be punctual!)



The gates on Millbourne Avenue open at 8:30am.

Junior and Senior Infants are supervised by their parents/guardians until the classes are collected by teachers at 8:40am.

A staff member is present for supervision in the senior school yards from 8:30am.

**No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.**

We encourage parents/ guardians of senior school pupils to “hug and go” at the gate, (or on the astro, near the lines, for 1st class pupils). This helps to avoid congestion in the yard, and encourages independence.

Children, especially 3rd-6th class pupils are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school, or part of the way to school (with helmets if cycling or scooting.)

## **Hometime**

Pupils from infants to 2nd class should be collected by a parent/guardian. Older pupils who are not being collected, may

walk, cycle or scoot home, or meet a parent/guardian at an arranged collection point. If a 3rd class pupil is walking/cycling home independently for the first time during the year, please make the teacher aware by way of note.

## **Attendance**

Parental support in the following areas is much appreciated:

1. Ensure your child arrives in school between 8.30 and 8.40 a.m, for the bell ringing at 8:40am. Late arrivals cause disruption. In the senior building, if a child arrives late to school, they should arrive in through the door beside Ms. Bassett’s office. If arriving after 8:50am, they should arrive to the front door, at Sharon’s office

2. Try not to take holidays during school time. We are obliged to inform Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) of any child who misses 20 days or more during the school year. If a pupil is absent we require a note via Aladdin from the parent/guardian giving a reason for the absence.

The Aladdin system automatically texts parents/ guardians when your child misses 20 days. (It also sends

a 15 day reminder.) If you have been notifying the school of reasons for your child's absence there is no need to contact us after receiving the text. If you wish to discuss your child's attendance, please make an appointment through the school office.

4. If you need to collect your child for essential reasons during the course of the school day, please notify the office/teacher in advance by sending a message on Aladdin under the "attendance tab" or by phoning the office 01 8372714.

Pupils being collected during school hours for an appointment should be collected by an adult/guardian, and can not walk home alone. You will be asked to sign the Early Collection book at the office.

### **Illness**

Parents are asked to keep children at home if they have symptoms of an infectious illness. Please follow your G.P's advice as to the return date to school, and please record reasons for absences on Aladdin. Please

continue to remind and encourage your child in relation to good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.



### **Administration of Medicines**

Please inform the school if your child has been diagnosed with a new allergy/medical condition over the Summer.

If your child requires prescription/emergency medication during school hours, you are required to give written notification to the Board of Management. This written notification must be accompanied by a completed and signed copy of the 'Administration of Medicines' consent/ indemnity form. A current photograph of your child and a clear summary of how to administer his medication should be provided to the class teacher.

For those with pre-existing medical conditions, please notify us if there has been any change in medication. Please ensure medication is replenished for the new school year, and a current photograph provided. Please make an appointment with

the new class teacher to instruct and confirm the administration of emergency medication eg. EpiPen.

### **Healthy Eating/ Nut-free classes**

We have a healthy eating policy in St Pat's National School, available on our school website. The following items are not allowed in school due to high sugar content, dental health and allergies:  
Nuts (including nut butters, chocolate spreads and pesto containing nuts), fizzy drinks, sports drinks, juices and smoothies, chewing gum, crisps & popcorn, fruit winders and cereal bars.

### **Hot meal scheme**

It was recently announced by the Dept of Education that additional schools are eligible to apply for the School Meals Programme during this school year. Our school has been included in that list. We will soon be evaluating the feasibility of the scheme within our school context. For now, please continue to ensure to send in a healthy lunch and a fresh water bottle each day. Milk and fruit are also provided. A small treat is allowed on Friday. To avoid risk, please cut grapes and cherry tomatoes in half for younger children.

### **Acceptable Use Policy**

There are two parts to our Acceptable Use Policy  
a)The use of internet in school  
b)The sharing of photos on the school website and twitter page.  
Parents/ guardians have indicated consent previously. Our new pupils will soon be provided with further details and a consent option for this.

### **Mobile Phones**



We strongly discourage pupil access to smartphones. If there is a need for an older and responsible pupil to have a mobile phone for contact with their parent at hometime, it should remain in his bag, switched off throughout the day, and only turned on when needed to contact you outside the school gate. If a pupil is in possession of a mobile phone during the school day, it will be sent to the Principal's office, and can be collected by a parent /guardian at the end of the school day. We ask that these guidelines are strictly adhered to during the school year in order to avoid more serious issues which can occur around the use of mobile phones.

### **Child Safeguarding**

Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools notes that school staff are obliged to refer concerns, as outlined in the Guidance and Procedures, to the Child and Family Service of the HSE (Tusla). All teachers are mandated personnel. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Protection is Ms. Bassett. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is Mr. Duffy.

### **Wellbeing of the School Community**

We continue to support wellbeing through a sense of safety, a sense of calm, and a sense of belonging and connectedness to school. Following our School Self-Evaluation, we continue to focus on wellbeing as part of our school improvement plan, to address context-specific school priorities in this area.

### **Special Education Teachers (SETS)**

We implement the Continuum of Support Model for additional needs. Our SETs (Special Education Teachers) deliver an inclusive model of support to children in the school. Additional support is provided either as “Classroom Support to Many”, “School Support to Some” or “School Support Plus to a Few.” Additional support may be provided at times in the classroom by the S.E.T alongside the Class Teacher. SNAs are an integral part of the support model for some pupils, working closely with the S.E.Ts and class teachers.

You will be contacted by the S.E.T or Class Teacher if your child is identified as needing some additional support.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

Details of external after-school clubs (Science and Keyboard) have been shared through Aladdin. These are for Junior Infants-6th class. Details of other school clubs, from 1st class up (Homework, Chess and Table Tennis) will be made available when we return to school.

As we are a cashless school, our policy requests that payments be made electronically with the provider.

### **After school service**

The after school service by Little Learners will run this year between 1:20pm and 5:20pm. Please contact Nessa for more information  
[stavandplaystpats@gmail.com](mailto:stavandplaystpats@gmail.com).

### **Homework**

Homework for Junior Infants to 1st class is communicated to parents/guardians on Monday for the week, via **Seesaw**.

Homework from 2nd-6th class is communicated daily via the **homework journal**. (Google Classroom/Seesaw may be used as a reference also.)

An online learning activity in a subject area, using Seesaw or Google Classroom, will often form part of Monday night's homework, to be completed during the week.

Our homework policy provides a general guide for homework time

as follows; however please bear in mind that this can vary, from child to child.

Junior-Senior Infants:10-20 mins

1st-2nd class:15-30 minutes

3rd-4th class: 30-45 minutes

5th-6th class: 45-60 minutes

If you have any concerns about homework, please contact the class teacher. An reintroduction to homework will start the week of 9th September (A start date for Junior Infants will be notified later).

### **Calendar**

A copy of the school calendar is available on the Aladdin homepage and on the school website. Note the additional date that was notified in June (Tuesday 18th March, a Dept approved school closure to facilitate staff training in the new Maths Curriculum)

### **Junior Infant photos**

Professional photos of Junior Infants will be taken in school on Monday, 23rd of September. There is no obligation to purchase. We will update you closer the time.

### **Sacraments**

Our dates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are set each year in consultation with the parish of Corpus Christi. When we receive confirmation of the dates, we will share the details with you.

### **Traffic**

A reminder that Millbourne Ave, near the school gates, is a designated "School Zone". For pupil safety, and to consider the needs of the residents in the area, please refrain from stopping and/or parking in the marked areas outside the school gates.

### **Dogs on grounds**

A reminder that dogs should not be on the school grounds. They will need to wait at the gate when dropping off or collecting pupils.

### **The Board of Management**

The Board of Management manages the school on behalf of the patron and is accountable to the patron and the Minister. The Board meets regularly throughout the year. The next Board

Meeting takes place on Monday 16th September. Dates of meetings will be available on the school website.

### **Parent Association**

The Parent Association works with the principal, staff and the Board of Management, to build effective partnership between home and school. We have a very dedicated P.A in St Pat's which organises family events and guest speakers, and provides support with school activities and policy updates. The P.A always welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact [stspatpachairperson@gmail.com](mailto:stspatpachairperson@gmail.com)

### **Website/twitter**

The school website is [www.saintpats.ie](http://www.saintpats.ie) and the school twitter page is @saintpatsbns. They will be updated throughout the year.

### **Locks and Helmets**

Pupils cycling and scooting to school should wear a helmet and use a lock. There is no cycling on the yard in the morning and at hometime.

### Yard time

Pupils from Junior Infants to 3rd class may bring a small pocket sized toy for yard time if they wish- nothing too precious! (no weapons, no bouncy balls.)

Pupils from 4th-6th class can swap collector's cards if they wish. While younger pupils can bring in collector cards to show their friends there is no swapping permitted on the junior yards.



### Classroom numbers

#### Junior Building

Ms. Flanagan (J.Infants) Room 1

Ms. Kealy (J.Infants) Room 2

Ms. Power(J.Infants) Room 3

Ms. Doyle (S. Infants) Room 4

Ms. Kelly (S.Infants) Room 5

Ms.Missaoui (S. Infants) Room 6

Mr. Maguire (Room 7)

#### Senior Building:

1st class, Ms Quinn:Room 4

1st class, Ms Hogan: Room 5

2nd class,Mr. Moraghan: Room 2

2nd class,Ms. O'Sullivan:Room 3

3rd class, Mr Skelly: Room 15

3rd class, Mr. Ryan : Room 16

4th class, Mr. Doyle: Room 13

4th class, Ms. Walsh: Room 14

5th class, Mr. Carey: Room 17

5th class, Mr. Moore: Room 18

6th class: Mr. Tubridy, Room 6

6th class, Ms. Baxter:Extension classroom

Junior DLD class, Ms McCabe, Room 20

Senior DLD class, Ms O'Dwyer, Room 7

Special Education Team: Mr. Duffy,

Ms. Lavery, Ms. Duffy, Ms.

Gallagher, Ms. McGinty, Ms.

Horan, Ms. Casey

We look forward to welcoming the pupils back tomorrow, Thursday, 29th August. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we embark on another productive school-year in St Pat's.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Bassett (Principal)

