



Dear Parent/ Guardians,

We have settled back to school very well. Our new Junior Infants boys and girls have adapted exceptionally well to their 1:20 pm 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 the children 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 Junior Infant pupils to walk with their teacher to their classroom doors. In the same way, it is helpful for parents/ guardians of Senior Infants to stay to the side near the gate, to allow the Senior Infants have a smooth transition to their classrooms.)

In the Senior School, Ms Bassett and Ms McCabe supervise the Junior and Senior yards. A reminder to 1st-3rd class parents to "Hug and Go" or remain behind the white 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@saintpats.ie.

Please read ahead for some reminders and news.

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. 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.



Late arrivals

If your child arrives late, they must enter by Ms Bassett's door. After 8:50am, they must enter the school through the main door at the office. Pupils arriving after 9am are marked "late" on Aladdin. There is a facility on Aladdin to enter a late arrival, in advance. At assembly, we remind everyone, "Don't be late, aim for half past eight" and to "be in your line for twenty to nine."

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 with any important additional documentation relating to absences. Aladdin will automatically notify you to advise

when your child has missed 15 days, and 20 days. After 20 days of absence and/or where there is a concern around attendance the school is obliged to report to Tusla Educational Support Service.

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 /mr.X@saintpats.ie or 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.**

Toys

Junior classes can bring in a pocket sized toy for yard time- nothing precious! Pokemon/ football cards can be brought to the senior school yards, but no trading is allowed on the 1st-3rd yard, due to regrets and upsets! Pokemon/Football cards should be kept in the school-bag, apart from when on yard.

Uniforms

The PE tracksuit and runners should be worn on P.E days. The school uniform and dark shoes should be worn on other days. Junior Infants wear the tracksuit each day. Later this school year, we will continue the review of the uniform in relation to the co-ed intake, for when the girls and boys transition to the senior building. Please label jumpers and coats clearly. A "lost property" rail of coats has been on view on the astro of the senior school in recent weeks, and is still available to view in the school this week.

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 child 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.

Pets

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



School News

Enrolment for 2025/26

Enrolment for boys and girls for Junior Infants 2025/26 opens on Tuesday, 2nd of October. It is imperative that all applications, including those for siblings, are made within the initial enrolment timeframe (Monday 2nd October- Friday, 8th November). Applications made after this date will be in the last category, as per the Admissions Policy. Applications can be made online through the website (www.saintpats.ie), or by downloading and returning an application form (available on the website, or from the office.) The admissions notice and policy are available on the website, or through the office.



St Patrick's National School

Enrolment for boys and girls

Junior Infants 2025

Applications open 01/10/2024

See Enrolment Policy and Enrolment Notice on www.saintpats.ie

- Applications can be made online
- www.saintpats.ie or by downloading and returning an application form to the secretary: secretary@saintpats.ie
- or by hand to: The Secretary, St Patrick's National School, Millbourne Ave, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

The poster features a sun icon, a photo of children in school uniforms, and a rainbow graphic.

Post Primary schools admissions

An information note about post-primary schools was shared with 6th classes. Applications for schools 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

D.L.D DAY takes place on Friday, 18th of October. We have two D..LD classes in St Pat's. D.L.D stands for Developmental Language Disorder, and research shows that 7.5 percent of the total population has D.L.D. 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 D.L.D may have difficulty finding the correct words, making sentences and understanding instructions. The D.L.D colours are purple and yellow, and on Friday, 18th October we are inviting pupils to wear something purple or yellow

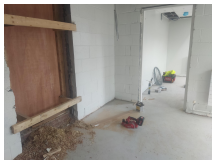
or both (e.g socks, hat, scarf, gloves) to promote an awareness of D.LD. We look forward to seeing some awareness-raising posters made by pupils of the DLD classes, and other ways of spreading the word in the school and wider community!



Autism Class

At our September assembly, we mentioned the welcome news that our school now has a new class for autism. We mentioned how having autism means having a different way of seeing and responding to things, that can sometimes make things tricky. We spoke about how we celebrate our differences, we recognise our strengths and talents, and we help each other when needed..

While we await a few small additions to our new classroom, we are thankful to the building team, and to the team from the Department of Education who worked with us over the Summer to ensure we had the classroom ready to open on the first day back to school. Some "before" and "after" pictures follow



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Co-education

Our new Junior Infant classes have also been settling into the routine of “big school”. It’s always a special, “big day”, but it was a special and historical day this year, as we welcomed our 21 Junior Infant girls, a momentous occasion after 130 years of boys only. Over the Summer the school had some refurbishment work done to reflect that we are now a coeducational school.





The following photos were taken on the first day of Junior Infants.





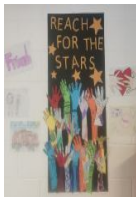
Junior Infants also had their first assembly with Ms Bassett and Fr. Ultan in attendance, and they will visit DCU in a couple of weeks time to meet Muireann Ní Chíobháin, DCU's Irish language writer, for a story workshop.



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. Thank to Ms Quinn for promoting our theme, "All Aboard for Friend Ship", and to all the classes for getting so involved.



SNA Appreciation Day

This special day took place this week, with many schools across Ireland participating, to

highlight the crucial role that SNAs play in supporting pupils with additional needs. The classes made beautiful cards for our SNAs, and presented them on

Thursday as a special celebration in each building.



Tin whistle

Again this year, every pupil from 3rd-6th class will learn some 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.

5th/ 6th class Spanish

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. Javier from Olé Language School will work with the 5th and 6th classes and their teachers to teach Spanish for an hour every Friday for eight weeks, within the normal timetable. The New Curriculum Framework will see modern foreign languages officially being introduced to the primary school curriculum from 3rd class, on a staged basis from September 2025. We look forward to hearing more about how this will be introduced and developed.



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 on the form.

Hot School Meals

Our school is eligible for the Hot School Meals Programme from this school year. Under this scheme, all pupils would be able to avail of a hot meal in school each day. The new Student Council gave their initial thoughts on this, which was positive. We will be engaging in a tendering process in line with public procurement guidelines, and an update will then be provided.

NCSE In-School Therapy Support

Our school was one of twenty-two schools who will receive in-school therapy support by an Occupational Therapist (O.T) and Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) provided by the NCSE (National Council for Special Education.) This does not replace community/HSE clinical support, but it should benefit all children as we work collaboratively with the O.T and SLT at times throughout the year.

Links with the Community

Na Fianna

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.

Clonliffe Harriers

The annual cross country schools event is happening again. Three teams from 4th, 5th and 6th class will soon be taking part in the one day track event in Santry Stadium. The teams will be participating in a middle-distance race, and we all wish them well with this.

DCU

The final year students of DCU Institute of Education will be working with the two 5th classes and their teachers, as part of P.E, over the coming weeks. They will be taking part in some orienteering and outdoor challenges on the campus.

Garda visit

The Community guards visited the 3rd and 4th classes this week for a talk about fire safety. It is especially relevant at this time of the year, as we approach Halloween

Sacraments

We look forward to celebrating Confirmation on 4th of April 2025, and First Holy Communion on Saturday, 17th of May, 2025. Fr. Ultan, our chaplain from DCU, will be celebrating the occasions with us. Parent information evenings for 2nd and 6th classes will take place in October, ahead of the Masses of Enrolment.

Fr. Seamus celebrates Sunday Family Masses, in the church of St Pat's DCU, throughout the year. It resumes this Sunday and all are welcome.



Ethos

As a Catholic School, we commence another year of the reflection process, "Understanding and Living the Ethos in a Catholic School" This is shared reflection on what the characteristic spirit of our school really is. This year, our targets are to:

1. review our mission statement
2. link in with our Green School theme to promote care of the natural environment and all people, drawing on parts of Pope Francis' "Laudato Si" which considers the relationship between God, humans, and the earth.
3. consolidate our habit of daily prayer time

Matches

The 6th class Senior GAA team played two matches and the 5th Junior Team has been taking part in the Go Games.

Thanks to the teachers, Mr. Carey and Ms. Hogan, who coach the senior team, and to Mr. Moore and Ms. Horan who coach the junior team. The teachers volunteer their time to attend the matches after school and it is very much appreciated

Update from the Junior Team:
There are thirty 5th class boys participating on the Junior Team, and we have played two matches so far. Even though the results didn't go our way, everyone got a chance to play and represented the school very well. Hopefully the sunny weather returns for our final two fixtures coming up soon!

Thanks to our match reporter, Nathan Tunney for the following report on the Senior Team:

The 6th class Gaelic Football team

The 6th class Football team were very unfortunate in their last couple of games. They were put in a very hard group with some amazing players and schools such as Scoil Mhuire in Marino, St Pat's of Castleknock and Scoil Thomais also of Castleknock. We played St Pat's in Castleknock

and it was a very tight game, sad to say but the local team came out on top. In the second match we played Scoil Mhuire they were a very good team throughout the whole game and in the end they came out with the win.

For all the lads it was a huge privilege to represent the school and we are also looking forward to representing the school in other sports. We really appreciate the time that Mr Carey and Ms Hogan gave up for so we could represent the school.



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 council is formed by pupils from 1st-6th class. Those who gave speeches to their class, or made posters or slogans can be proud. It's great to see the democratic process in action in classes. Members of the new committee are:

Alex and Donnacha from 1st class;
Eli, Daire and Hugo from 2nd class and Ms McCabe's class;
Ethan and Sean from 3rd class.
Ben and Liam from 4th class
Michael, Liam and Sarah from 5th class and Ms O'Dwyer's class; and
Senan, Samuel, Harry and Noah from 6th class. The Council met with Ms. Bassett last week. Ms Walsh and Mr. Ryan will also meet with them throughout the year. Pictured are some of our committee members. The full committee will gather for their official photo at the next assembly!



Active Committee

Mr. Skelly will soon be seeking new members for the Active Committee, to continue to promote Active School life with a focus on PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION and FUN. Thanks to our outgoing committee for all their hard work in helping the school to achieve the Active Flag last year.



Green School

Ms. Gallagher has invited new members on to the Green Schools Committee this year. They will help promote our work on "Global Citizenship, Litter & Waste", as we aim to renew our flag in this area. The new committee members are Idris, Hugh and Luke from 1st class and Ms. McCabe's class; Desmond and Andrew from 2nd class; Ben and Eli from 3rd class; Hugo and Dylan from 4th class, Lorcan and Kevin from 5th class, and Conor, Ryan, Mark, Hudson and Cole from 6th class and Ms O'Dwyer's class. Thanks also to Mr. Skelly, Ms. Kelly and Ms. McGinty who will join Ms Gallagher and the pupils on the Committee.



Parent Association

Our school community relies on the help and support of our Parents Association and the wider parent community.

The P.A helps the school:

- To advance the education of the pupils s by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities not normally provided by the Department of Education, and
- To foster more extended relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school.

A main focus of the P.A is the fundraising events and calendar, and we are all looking forward to the Halloween Fair on Sunday, 20th of October! The P.A and the Fair Committee are 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, or email:
stpatpachairperson@gmail.com



As it's a busy run-up to the Halloween Fair in October, the Parents' Association AGM will take place this year on Thursday, 28th of November at 8pm. More details will follow next month.

A special thanks to the officers who work extremely hard in their volunteer roles. Thanks to Audrey Buckley, our Chairperson; Aoife O'Leary, our Treasurer, Claire Timon our Public Relations Officer, and Úna Gately our secretary.

Niamh Joyeaux is our outgoing secretary- we want to extend a huge thanks to Niamh for all her dedication and help over the past few years, and we welcome Úna to the role.

School Library

Lorna, a parent volunteer who helped with the school library, is no longer available now that her two boys have moved on to second-level school. Lorna offered some time to help organise the library shelves and remove and restock books as needed. If another parent has an interest in helping with this, please let us know. We hope to organise a small committee and a schedule.



School Improvement Plan

We are now in year two of a three year cycle of school self evaluation. Last year we identified wellbeing promotion and inclusion as our areas of focus. We continue to look at a range of activities and approaches to support the academic, physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual development of all children. This year, our attention is also drawn to the introduction of the new Maths Curriculum

Board of Management

The Board met on 16/09/2024
The Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Oversight Reports were provided.
The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment were reviewed and approved. The Board considered the Review Checklist of

Child Safeguarding and will complete the review at the next meeting.

An update on capital projects, including the Autism Classroom, toilet upgrades, solar panels and heating pipes were provided. Particular thanks was afforded to The Principal and Clóna Kiernan from the BoM, for the timely delivery of the new Autism Classroom and the upgrading of toilet facilities in both buildings.

An update was provided on the installation of the Solar Panels in the Senior building

An update was provided on remedial works to heating pipes in the Junior building.

The Board reviewed and ratified the Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice for 2025; and the Work Experience Policy.

The Board discussed a review of the Mission Statement.

Correspondence was taken and discussed, including applications for additional after- school clubs.

A letter from a parent regarding the school uniform was considered and responded to.

The school is eligible for the Hot Meals programme and will progress to tender stage at the earliest opportunity, with a view to it

happening in the second school term. Feedback from all in the school community will be sought later in the process.

The Principal's Report and Teaching and Learning Report were shared.

The Treasurer updated the Board on school accounts and accounts were approved.

An update on recent P.A activities was shared. The Board discussed possible areas of expenditure, including further upgrading of pupil bathrooms in the senior building and the creation of a sensory garden at the Junior Building.

Dates for the next BoM meetings are on the school website. They are as follows:

16 Sept
14 Oct
18 Nov
9 Dec
13 Jan
10 Feb
10 March
7 April
19 May
16 June



Dates for the diary

Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st of November. Further details will follow closer to the time. Note- no clubs operate that day; however, the after-school service run by Little Learners will operate normal days/hours that week.

As advised, a half day school closure has been sanctioned by the Dept of Education to facilitate staff training in the BÍ Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour, from September 2025. This half day closure will be on Friday, 31/01/2025.

Classes for sacraments have received a message on Aladdin regarding an upcoming Parent Information evening talks in October.

Halloween Fair : 20/10/2024

Social media:

Our X account is @saintpatsns
Our website is www.saintpats.ie



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