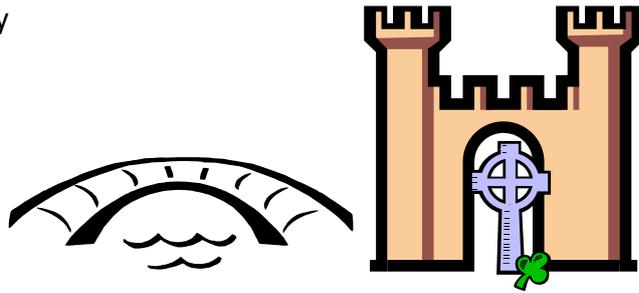


St Patrick's P.S.  
and Nursery  
Castleberg



**Nursery Induction Booklet September 2020**

**WELCOME TO YOUR NURSERY SCHOOL**



We look forward to seeing

September

you in

**Your teacher's name is**

**MRS SHELLEY**

**And our Nursery assistants are**

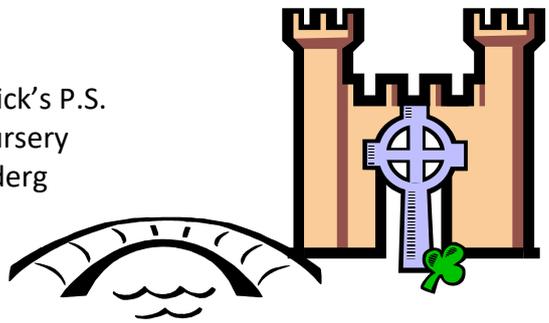
**MISS MACKEY (Mairead)  
Mrs McHugh (Sarah)**

**THE NURSERY DAY**



**Due to Covid restrictions. This is yet to be confirmed. Information on start date will be sent to you individually at the beginning of August.**

St Patrick's P.S.  
and Nursery  
Castledearg



**73 Castlefin Rd**  
**Castledearg**  
**Co Tyrone**  
**BT81 7EE**

**Tel 028816 71458 Fax 028816 79821 email:info@stpatricks.castledearg.ni.sch.uk**  
**Website:www.school-sites.org/stpatrickscastledearg**

June/July

Dear Parent(s)

On behalf of the staff I would like to welcome you to St Patrick's Nursery Unit. I hope that it will be a very enjoyable, learning year for both you and your child. Recent research has shown that the provision of good quality Nursery education will have a beneficial and long-lasting effect of your child's future development. We know how precious each child is to their parents; therefore, our highly qualified and experienced staff has developed a suitable yet challenging curriculum which will lay the foundations for the work your child will meet in early years in primary education.

To this end the teacher will give your child opportunities to:

- Develop in self-esteem not only through praise but also by encouraging independence and self control.
- Build relationships with their teachers, and other adults outside the family, enabling him/her to become increasingly caring and responsible member of our society.
- Experience that education is enjoyable, full of wonder and excitement. This in turn will lead to a positive attitude being formed towards learning.
- Investigate and explore natural materials and equipment, designed to develop early mathematical and scientific concepts
- Be creative and expressive through the use of music, dance, and drama, and also through an extensive range of materials including paint, clay dough, sand, water, wood, etc.
- Develop his/her language and speech through the use of books, rhymes, songs, conversation and, where needed, professional support.
- Grow in physical confidence by providing outdoor and indoor equipment, suitable to the child's level of development, in a safe and secure environment.

Although we provide many and varied experiences for your child, I also feel strongly that it is important to build a positive relationship with you, the parent. You have been your child's first teacher and you have information about him/her which only you know.

Hopefully the positive relationship you establish with your child's teacher in St Patrick's Nursery Unit will help you form stronger links and good communication with his/her future teachers, thus enabling you to play a more active role in his/her education. I would like to remind you that you can arrange to see your child's teacher and/or the Principal at any time but preferably outside teaching hours.

Finally, I hope that I have been able to make you aware that your child's play is just not an enjoyable activity. Rather, it is the tool through which they explore the world around them and learn. You and I can help in this learning process by giving some of our time generously.

The staff and I look forward to working with you and your child during the year.

Yours sincerely

Brian Mc Gurk  
PRINCIPAL



### **SCHOOL POLICY**

The policy of the school is that each child will have the opportunity to grow in self-confidence in a friendly, secure and caring environment, in which teachers and parents co-operate, and where challenging and stimulating play is provided to enable your child to progress in all areas of his/her development.

### **ABOUT OUR NURSERY**

The Nursery provides a secure and caring environment in which each child is respected as an individual. We strive to make the day interesting and stimulating, so that your child will meet new challenges and will learn to develop throughout their year with us.

We realize that children need to feel totally secure before any meaningful learning can take place, so we will be aiming to work closely together with you to ensure that this feeling is achieved as early as possible in September.



### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

One of our aims is to work closely with the parents involving them in the education of their child. To this end, the staff encourages the parents to become actively involved in the following ways.

1. Reinforcing school themes as suggested in monthly newsletters
2. Sharing your talents with the children in the classroom by becoming involved in Art/Music sessions.
3. Assisting staff on school trips.
4. Helping children to collect items to bring into school.
5. Sharing relevant information regarding your child, which may be useful to promote his/her development.
6. Share information about routines and habits that your child may be accustomed to.
7. Discuss any problems or concerns you may have regarding your child in the Nursery.

The Staff hope to organise a number of events during the school year. There will also be a parents meeting during the year. Then you will have an opportunity to see at first hand the materials and equipment your child will meet during the year and in doing so see the progression in their learning that the children will make from Terms 1-3.

External professional such as Speech Therapists, Dental Hygienists, Educational Psychologists, Health Visitors, etc, may also be invited to give talks to parents or to advise staff regarding children who appear to have a difficulty which will affect his/her learning.

**N.B. A child is never referred to an external professional without the parent's consent.**

## **ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

**This will change due to Covid restrictions. An update will be sent with start date.**

The settling in period is a very important time in the Nursery Unit for you and your child.

It is vital that we establish a good relationship with each individual child.

The settling – in period is very important for preparing the children for an enjoyable year in nursery and is a relatively short period.

Children who are unhappy cannot learn.



When you bring your child along on the first day, you will be expected to stay with him/her for the first hour. As this is a very important day for your child – one he/she needs to share with him/her – I would appreciate you leaving younger siblings at home.

Please do not worry if your child takes a long time to settle in. Each child is unique and reacts differently to their first experience of school. Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious or unhappy. Therefore we hope that our settling in procedures enable you and your child to feel comfortable and secure in our Nursery, and in turn he/she will be ready to benefit from all we have to offer.

### **BEFORE NURSERY**

*There is a lot you as a parent can help to do, even before your child starts to join us. Here are things you could do together with your child.*

- 1. Looking at books and listening to stories.**
- 2. Singing songs and saying rhymes.**
- 3. Help your child to recognise his/her symbol from page two.**

*It would also be helpful if you could encourage your child to practice these things by him/herself before they come to Nursery.*

- 1. Take off his/her own coat and hang it up on a peg.**
- 2. Use a handkerchief to wipe his/her own nose.**
- 3. Clean self and flush the toilet.**
- 4. Wash and dry his/her hands.**
- 5. Tidy away his/her own toys.**



### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

#### **Nursery Uniforms:**

Sweatshirt with the new Nursery logo can be bought at S&K's in Main Street Castlederg. Navy bottoms and navy polo shirt can be purchased at other shops locally.

Items your child requires - To be brought to school at the first day. This will remain in nursery for the duration of the year. Nothing else should be brought in to nursery.

- Runners, with Velcro tape
- Change of clothes to include – vest, pants, socks, jumper, and trousers/skirt. (Does not need to be uniform).
- Coat, to be worn every day – due to outdoor play policy.
- A pair of wellies to be left in the nursery, please label.

Please note: It is strongly advised to **clearly label** all the above items with your child's name.

#### **Snack Money - £5.00**

**We would be grateful if all money could be put into an envelope, clearly marked with the child's name and paid on Mondays.**

### **SECURITY**

We have access control in Nursery therefore a buzzer needs to be pressed to enter and leave the Nursery for security purposes.

Please do not let your child climb to open access door.



### A Reminder

- Have a responsible adult bring and collect your child to and from the Nursery.
- Make sure the child is brought into the building, handed over to the teacher/assistant. Do not leave the child to enter/leave the building by him/herself.
- Use the proper gate entrance to the Nursery Unit.
- Park on the lay by outside the Nursery Unit.
- Be aware of traffic dangers, the Castlefin Road is an extremely busy place. Do not leave young children unattended or allow them to run off on their own.
- Do not ask older brother/sister to escort your child to and from the Nursery Unit.
- Observe the starting and finishing time of each session and BE THERE FOR YOUR CHILD.
- Children must be collected promptly at the end of sessions.

Thank you

### Changing Policy

When drawing up this policy we referred to *DENI Pastoral Care in Schools CHILD PROTECTION* (code of conduct for physical contact with pupils appendix 9)

- The Nursery Staff has a very specific policy in the event of your child having a toilet accident. While we encourage children to be independent when going to the toilet in the event of a toilet accident we follow the procedure below
- When your child informs a member of staff that they need changing or a member of staff becomes aware that your child needs changed; they advise another member of staff that they have gone to change your child.
- Your child will be changed in the toilet area and whilst it is imperative that their privacy is respected, under Child Protection Guidelines, your child will be changed in a cubicle with an open door.
- Should your child have more than one toilet accident, the person responsible for changing your child will be rotated, so that the same person is not changing your son/daughter.
- We are aware that ideally it would be better if your child was changed in the presence of two adults, but, as this is not physically possible, we notify another member of staff before changing your child.

- If your child has been changed for any reason during the Nursery day, a slip informing you of this together with the reason will be in his/her change bag/pocket when they are collected. A record of this will also be kept in Nursery school, which the principal will sign also.

Mrs. Elizabeth Shelley Nursery Teacher.