 St Patrick’s P.S.

 and Nursery

 Castlederg



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**Castlederg**

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**Website –** [www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk](http://www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk)

**Winter Newsletter 2019**

**Sacramental Dates for your Diary**

* Mass for Parents/Pupils Receiving Sacraments – P4 and P7 Monday 2nd December 2019 7.30pm – St Patrick’s Church (A Mass for Families)
* P4 First Confession Monday 9th March 2020 6pm – St Patrick’s Church
* P7 Pupil Retreat– Thursday 19th March 2020 at 10am – St Patrick’s Parish Hall
* P7 Confirmation – Sunday 22nd March 2020 at 3.00pm – St Patrick’s Church
* P4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 30th May 2020 11am – St Patrick’s Church

**![C:\Users\bmcgurk435\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\V1706JLS\Valentines_Cupcake[1].jpg]()**

**Big Cake Sale Coffee Morning**

Many thanks once again for contributing to the success of the Coffee Morning/Halloween Hoolie. £1050 was raised on the day and thanks to the Parent Support Group, to their helpers and to parents in baking or sending in buns and supporting the Cake Sale.

Thank you to all the Parents who supported our Christmas Card Design Campaign.

**Nursery Sponsored Walk** - The Nursery Pupils have raised £759 to date with fundraising for their sponsored walk at the Castle Play Park. Thank you to all the parents for supporting our Nursery Unit.

**St Vincent de Paul**

Once again this Christmas we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas collection. This organisation does great work in our local community and every year the children bring in an enormous quantity of food. We will begin collections this week and your support is greatly appreciated. The closing date for donations is Friday 6th December 2019 to allow early delivery. However early donations are greatly appreciated. The P7 pupils will help organise these hampers and all donations can be left in the P7 classrooms.

This Advent the children can make a donation for the Children in Crossfire Christmas appeal by wearing their Christmas Jumper/outfit on Wednesday 18th December 2019.

**Parents can make a small donation to any of these charities in lieu of gifts for staff.**



**After schools club**

Afterschool club will finish on Thursday 12th December 2019 and recommence after the Christmas holidays with homework club. Transfer Club finished this week and good luck to the P7 pupils completing the entrance exam on Saturday. Music club for P5 to P7 with Mrs. Mc Crory and Gaelic Club for girls with Mr. Keenan are ongoing.

Breakfast club continues as normal.



**Christmas Events for Pupils.**

The Nursery Pupils will visit Sure Start Castlederg for Christmas Capers on Monday 16th December 2019 - Morning Group 9.30am and Afternoon Group 1pm.

P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 classes will visit the cinema in Lifford on Monday 16th December 2019. The cost will be £8 per pupil which will include popcorn and a drink.

Mrs. Mc Crory’s P5 class are visiting the Strule Art Centre in Omagh on Monday 18th November 2019 for a concert by the Ulster Orchestra.

P1 and P2 pupils will be having a Christmas Disco and Party on Wednesday 18th December 2019.

**Robotics Workshops**

Sentinus NI will be visiting the school this week to deliver Robotics Workshops to Mr Keenan and Mrs. Smith’s classes.

**PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS/PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS**

Parent Teacher meetings will take place on the week beginning 18th November 2019. Appointments will be issued this week and for any changes please contact dtraynor107@c2kni.net A copy of your child’s learning plan will be available online on our school website from this date.

Apologies about the delay in receiving PE uniform orders from O Neill’s – we hope to have everything delivered before the holidays.

**Open Invite - Applications for P1 and Nursery**

Application forms for P1 and for both nursery classes at St Patrick’s PS and Nursery Unit for the next academic year will be available online at the end of November at [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk). **This is an online application procedure so I will write to all Nursery Parents informing them of the steps to apply.** Details will also be available online on our school website. As we expect to be oversubscribed for both Nursery and P1 please complete online applications as soon as possible. Late applications cannot be considered until all other children are placed. Make sure all family members are informed.

Parents can speak with Mrs. Traynor school office, Mrs. Shelley Nursery teacher or with Mr. Mc Gurk Principal to ensure they have included all the correct information on application forms. Thank you.

Prospective parents new to the nursery or primary school are welcome to arrange a visit and tour of the school and to meet some of our staff with the Principal. Contact the school office to arrange a visit. Our updated prospectus for nursery and our primary will be available from our website at the end of November 2019.

**P7 – Open Days**.

Details of Open Days in the local second level schools will be distributed to P7 pupils later this month – it is advisable to attend a number of Open Nights before deciding on a placement for your child. Good luck to the pupils who are sitting an Entrance Exam on Saturday 16th November 2019.

**Parking at School Collection times.**

The Council Policing and Community Safety Partnership Manager has written to schools in the district to remind parents to show consideration when dropping off or collecting pupils from school. This is an ongoing area of concern. Remember not to double park, block or obscure pedestrian/vehicle exits or a Lollipop Person. Never park in bus bays or on keep clear boxes. Collect pupils safely making sure they never are asked to cross roads unsupervised outside school. Showing patience and consideration keeps our pupils safe. The safety posters will be available on our school website.

**Attendance**

If your child is unable to attend school could you please contact the school office by email dtraynor107@c2kni.net ,by telephone at 02881671458 or in writing. Missing marks or no reason provided for absence will now be followed up with a letter at the end of each term. Children with attendance below 85% are referred to the Education Welfare Officer. The average school attendance for pupils at this school is 96% but could be higher.

**Peanut /Nut Allergy**

Due to a number of children attending school who have a nut allergy, pupils are not permitted to bring nuts or foods containing nuts to school. This includes chocolate spreads – please be careful and check labels when packing lunchboxes or when providing breaks.

**School Closures due to weather**

If we need to close the school at short notice information will be on the school website at [www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk](http://www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk) , on the school answering machine (if possible) and also by text messaging service. If you have updated your mobile number or are not receiving these messages will you please contact Mrs Deirdre Traynor in the school office. Text messaging service is only available to parents at Primary School.

**Website and Newsletters for parents.**

The school website can be accessed at - [www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk](http://www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk) The site contains useful information, policies, curriculum and learning plans, a calendar of events and newsletters for parents. **In line with the Department of Education, newsletters will be available online only from January 2019 with parent/s receiving a text message informing them of publication online.** Paper copies can be requested from the school office.

Our online safety newsletter for November is available also on our website.

**CHRISTMAS MASS, NATIVITY SHOWS AND EVENTS**

* Friday 13th December 2019 – Christmas/Advent Mass P1 – P7 10am St Patrick’s Church.
* Monday 16th December 2019 – Nursery Christmas Capers – Sure Start
* Monday 16th December 2019 – Cinema Trip to Lifford P3 to P7.
* Monday 16th December 2019 P1 Nativity 10am.
* Tuesday 17th December 2019 Nursery Christmas Show 10am.
* Wednesday 18th December 2019 – School Christmas Dinner (Christmas Dress Up Day)
* Wednesday 18th December 2019 – Mrs. Mc Crory Music Club and Choir Christmas Show 4pm



**Holidays**

The primary school closes for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December 2019 at 12.00pm. There is no dinner served on this day.

The school will re-open for the Spring term on Tuesday 7th January 2020 as normal.

The Nursery Pupils finish on Wednesday 18th December 2019 as normal and return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Thank you

Brian Mc Gurk

Principal