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June 2022

Dear Parent/s

I hope this letter finds you well.

Congratulations to our pupils in P7 who made their Confirmation this May. They were a credit to the school and to their teacher Mr. Doherty who always puts in such hard work with the P7 classes. They are looking forward to their new secondary school and will visit their schools at different times in June. We will have a leavers Mass at the end of June, and I hope to confirm a date this week. I will write to P7 pupils and post the letter on Google Classroom.

Congratulations to the P4 children who made their First Holy Communion also in May. The children were so well prepared and presented on the day and our thanks to their teachers Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Smith and their assistants, who put in such hard work to make the day a success. My thanks also to the children in the choir who sang so beautifully on the day.

As the summer term draws to a close it is a very busy time for all our pupils. Many of them will look forward to their school trips and details/letters will be posted on Google Classroom. I plan to run a whole school sports on Tuesday 14th June 2022. Unfortunately, we are still receiving cases of Covid within school so the only pupils can attend on the day. We have planned sports, fun activities and treats for the all the children in P1 to P7 and they can buy/receive a snack box on the day from the canteen. The pupils can wear their PE uniform to school on the day.

Our school teams returned to the sports fields this Spring /Summer Term. Congratulations to the boys and girls gaelic teams who won their league competitions and who will compete in County finals in Garvaghey on Wednesday 8th June. Good luck!

Well done to our team of 24 athletes who competed in the Finn Valley Championships and to the 8 athletes who competed on finals day – there are some pictures on our website.

Mrs. Shelley Nursery and Mrs. Mc Laughlin will be meeting our new Nursery pupils and P1 pupils this month. A reminder that children in their penultimate year for nursery – (underage pupils) will receive notification on the 16th June 2022 – sorry about the lateness of this but this is an EA procedure. They will be in contact before the end of term and also if necessary, in August. I will also post all letters and documents and starting dates etc. on the school website.

The children have been working hard this term and we plan to send school reports home with the pupils on the week beginning 20th June. The teachers have re-designed the school reports to give parents a more detailed account of how the pupils are performing in all curricular areas. There are

new reports for P1/P2 (Foundation) P3/P4 (Key Stage 1) and P5/P6 (Key Stage 2). We will change the P7 report in the next academic year.

I will be adding links to the school website this month on how to apply for free school meals and also school uniform allowance – please check your entitlement. S and K Castlederg will stock our school uniform but as it is generic these can also be sourced in other stores if parent/s prefer. All I ask is that the pupils have a school jumper with a crest on it, thank you. S and K also hope to stock a PE uniform which has been chosen with help from our pupil council. I have a small number of O Neill's school hoodies 9/10 and 10/11 selling at £10 if any parent still wants to buy one. They can check stock if they message the class teacher on Google Classroom.

We have had the school painted and new spouting and guttering fitted. New signs have also been added. New doors and windows into the courtyard have also been fitted. The Nursery soft play areas are being replaced and we have ordered new fixed play equipment for Nursery. We also plan to refurbish the Early Years Classrooms this summer.

I will add details of a summer scheme for P4, P5 and P6 to Google classroom this week for the last 2 weeks of July. There will be a small cost but please only book a space if your child is definitely attending as I have to plan staffing for this summer scheme.

Please only use the school email address at present for messages info@stpatricks.castlederg.ni.sch.uk I forward these on and try to check messages daily. You can also leave private messages to your teacher on Google Classroom again these are answered daily.

The school will close for the summer term on Thursday 30th June 2022 at 12.30pm and we all are looking forward to our summer break.

Many thanks

Brian Mc Gurk Principal