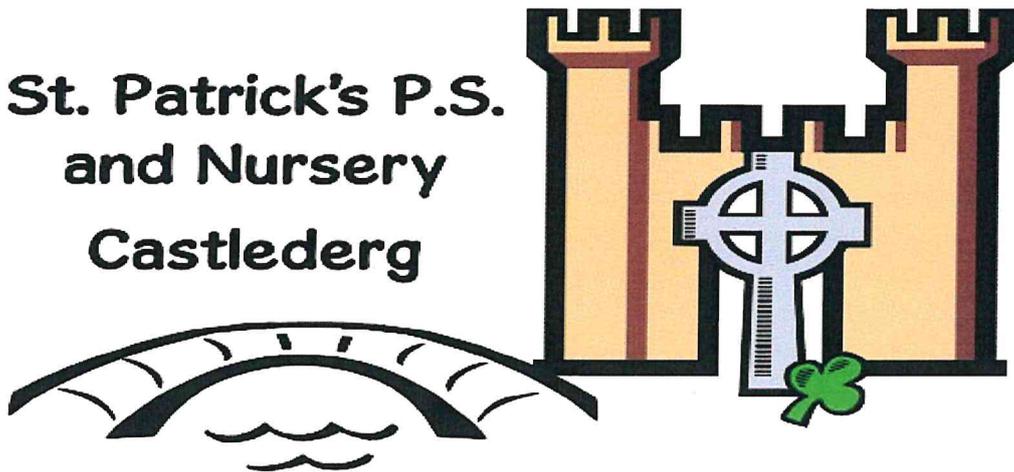
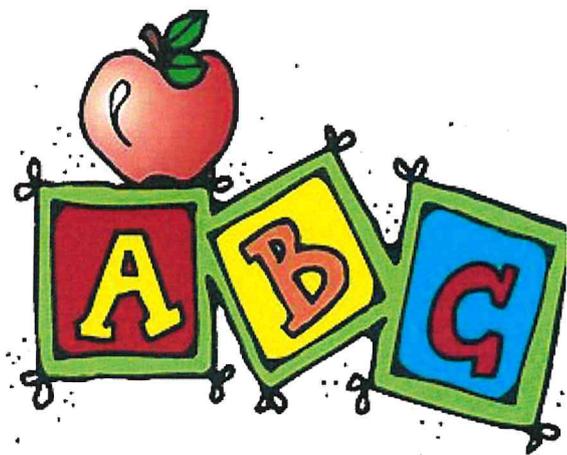


**St. Patrick's P.S.
and Nursery
Castleberg**



Nursery Induction Booklet September 2022

WELCOME TO YOUR NURSERY SCHOOL



We look forward to seeing you in September.

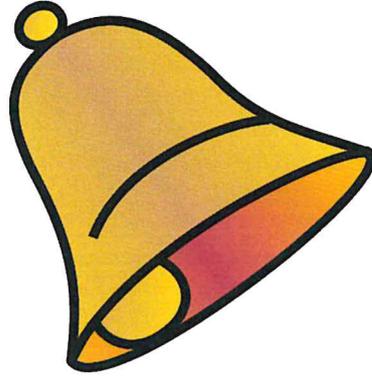
Your teacher's name is;
Mrs Shelley



And her teaching assistant is:
Miss Mackey (Mairead)



The Nursery Day

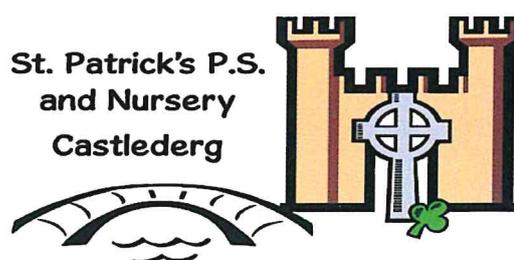


Morning Session: 9am – 11:30am

Afternoon Session: 12:30pm – 3pm

Monday – Friday

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



Tel: 028816 71458 Fax: 028816 79821

Email: info@stpatricks.castleberg.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.school-sites.org/stpatrickscastleberg

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 on our 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 at Key Stage 1 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 a 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 use of music, dance, and drama, and also through an extensive range of materials including paint, play 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 of 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 their 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 McGurk

PRINCIPAL



Information for parents

Nursery Uniforms:

Sweatshirt with the 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 you child requires

- Change of clothes to include – vest, pants, socks, jumper, and trouser/skirt. (Does not need to be uniform) This needs to be brought to nursery daily in a small draw string bag if possible as we have limited space.
- Coat, to be worn every day – due to outdoor play policy.
- A pair of wellies and a pair of waterproof trousers 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

Snack money = £5.00

All money should be put into an envelope clearly marked with the child's name and paid on Mondays.



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 cooperate, 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 realise 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 the opportunity to see first-hand the materials and equipment your child will use during the year and in doing so see the progression, in their learning, that the children will make from terms 1-3.

External professionals 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.

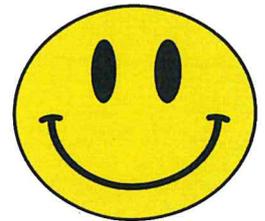
Admissions Procedure

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.



Setting in procedures

We are continuing with the settling in procedures implemented during Covid. The less adults coming into the nursery proved to be an easier settling experience for the children, we had less anxiousness as separation wasn't prolonged. Staff will be outside to welcome your children at the door and escort them into the setting. We will help them to hang their coats and bags. Please begin separation experiences with your child on the run up to the start of nursery, leaving them for short periods of time with other family or friends. Settling in will be carried out in small groups and may last for a number of weeks, please be patient with the process.

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.

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.