

St. Patrick's National School

Edmonton, Killucan, Co. Westmeath Roll Number: 08100U Tel: 044 93 74411

November 2020 Newsletter

We are getting closer to Christmas and the "how many sleeps" talk can be heard in the school already!

P-T meetings

This year meetings will be held by phone. Appointments will be set up using the Aladdin app as per previous years. Once you have chosen your time the teacher will call you at this time. It will be a withheld/blocked number so please be ready to answer at the allotted time. Appointment slots will be released this Thursday with days and times (some morning appointments but most in the afternoon) ranging from the **30th November to 3rd December.**

Each call will last 10 minutes. After nine minutes the teacher will advise you that one minute remains as another parent will be expecting a call. Conversations should be held in private and sometimes headphones provide this. Your child should not hear this conversation. If you wish to give your child feedback do so after the call has ended in an age appropriate manner. Conversations must not be recorded but note taking is advised. Please do not change an appointment slot within 24 hours of the time. If you choose a slot and then need to change please let the teacher know of this time change

I will also be calling parents whose children are accessing Support Teaching in the school to discuss your child's progress.

Aladdin Communication

Over the past few weeks the school has been placing an increased number of calls home to parents if their child is unwell. I have decided that urgent issues (head injury, COVID-19 symptoms etc.) will still result in a phone call being made but non urgent issues (eg. lunches being left at home, no coat, dry clothes being required, sore leg/arm etc.) the class teacher will send a notification to the parent instead.

In some cases you may be asked to acknowledge receipt of the notification or the facility to reply directly to the teacher will be enabled.

PA website live

The PA have held many meetings since reopening and all have been held virtually using Google Meet. Thank you too everyone that has logged in. The PA will be launching a new website tomorrow. Since we cannot hold our annual Christmas Market the PA cleverly developed an online option instead to support the local businesses that have supported the

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school in the past number of years. This is not a fundraising site but a means to raise awareness and support for local entrepreneurs that have supported the school in the past. The link will be sent to you tomorrow and it will be announced on the PA Facebook page as well. Share this with as many people as possible.

The school is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents on the committee driving this initiative. Thank you to you all!

Build Update

On a recent site meeting the architect informed me that the project is due for completion in February. Therefore, the infant room and senior rooms will be moving into their new purpose built rooms that month. Clarification was sought whether part of the project (i.e. the extension on to the existing building) could be used prior to all works being completed. Unfortunately, the full project must be completed before any part of it may be used by staff and children. We'll have to wait a little longer before we have a staff room or before the two support rooms are ready. The prefabs have been sold and are due to be removed once the senior and infant rooms relocate.

Christmas Dress up on day of holidays

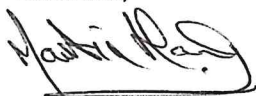
School will close at 12.30 p.m. on the 22nd December. That day the children may, if they wish to, dress up in some Christmas clothes/outfits/hats etc. or wear no uniform. Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas concert/choir or trip to the local nursing home this year.

Enrolment Fortnight

Enrolments for the 2020/2021 academic year will begin on **January 25th and end on 5th February**. At present an open evening will not be possible so please spread the word. Signs will be placed leading to the school and some new signs will also be erected this year. Notice will be placed on the parish newsletter, school Facebook page and in local papers. As usual enrolment will be via the school's eEnrolment Link on the website.

There will be one final newsletter of 2020 in December.

Buíochas,



Martin Hanly

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