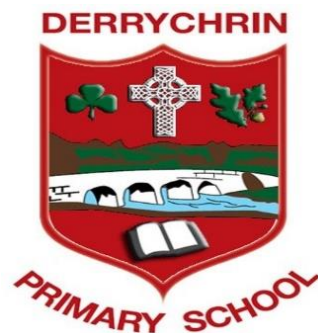


# Derrychrin Primary School

30 Drumenny Road, Coagh, Cookstown, Co Tyrone BT80 0BX

Tel: (028) 8673 7456

Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## Welcome

We would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year and we hope that 2022/23 is a happy and enjoyable year in Derrychrin PS. I wish all the pupils and the entire school community every blessing for the new school year and look forward to lots of happiness, laughter and learning in the months ahead.

A special welcome to our new P1 pupils, we hope they all have a happy and fulfilling time at Derrychrin Primary School. We would also like to welcome Paige who has re-joined our Primary 6 class.

## P1 Information

Our fantastic Primary 1 children have settled into school life at Derrychrin with ease. We would ask all parents/guardians to allow the children to enter the school building independently and walk to their classrooms where they will be greeted in their classroom by their class teacher and classroom assistant.

Can we remind all P1 parents, if your child is taking school dinners to please send in the correct money (£2.60) in a sealed envelope clearly labelled with child's name and payment details. If your child is taking a packed lunch can you, please send a note to inform the class teacher Mrs Tohill.

## Child Protection & Safeguarding

At the beginning of each new academic year, class teachers revise all Child Protection & Safeguarding and pastoral care arrangements within school with the pupils, as they are reminded of whom they can talk to if they have any concerns or worries. In school we talk to all the children about our school safeguarding team which is on display in all classrooms and reinforced at online assemblies throughout the school year. Please contact Mr O'Neill (designated teacher for child protection) or Miss McVey (deputy designated teacher for child protection) should you wish to raise a child protection issue. Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy summary & 'Parent's Awareness Leaflet' will be issued to all parents and made available on our school website.

## Pupil Absence

If a child is absent for any reason, parents/guardians should notify the school, explaining their absence by using the '**Report Pupil Absence**' button on our school website. We understand parents have contacted the school office by phone to inform the school of their child's absence but a pupil absence form still needs to be completed on the school website.

## P7 Transfer Test Information

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 at 2pm** is the closing date for registration should your child wish to complete the GL Transfer Test assessment which takes place on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. Registration packs and forms can be downloaded from St. Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt website [www.stmarysmagherafelt.com](http://www.stmarysmagherafelt.com) and Rainey Endowed website [www.raineyendowed.com](http://www.raineyendowed.com)



Email: [info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk) Website: [www.derrychrinps.org](http://www.derrychrinps.org) Twitter: @DerrychrinPS

### **Morning Drop Off**

#### **Pupil entrance doors:**

P1/P2/P4/P6 pupils will continue use the back door at the P1 and P2 playground.

P3/P5/P7 pupils will continue to use the main school entrance door.

In the morning Mr McElroy will monitor the main entrance door and Miss McVey will monitor the back door entrance as the pupils are welcomed into school.

### **Home Time Collection**

**P1 and P2** pupils can be collected from the back P1 and P2 playground.

**P3-P7** pupils can be collected from the staff car park. The pupils will line up in this area and dismissed by their class teacher.

Pupils who have permission to walk home, will be walked safely to the footpath outside the school grounds by Mr McElroy or a class teacher.

Adults should park safely in the school yard. We would kindly ask adults to leave their vehicle to collect their child/children from the cones area separating the staff car park and the school playground. This will ensure the safety of all pupils, staff and school community.

#### **In the event of inclement weather conditions, home time collection routine is as follows:**

**P1 & P2** pupils can be collected from the P1/P2 small playground.

**P3/P4/P6** pupils and children walking home will line up in school hall and exit via school hall doors next to staff car park.

**P5 and P7** pupils will line up on corridors outside their classrooms and exit via front reception door.

Teaching staff will be at all exit points to assist with home collection and dismiss their class when a parent/guardian/authorised adult is there to collect their child/children.

The staff car park at the front of school at the main entrance and dining hall exit doors will remain free to ensure pupils are collected safely. Parents/guardians are asked to collect their child/children and move swiftly to their vehicle with awareness of other adults and children in the playground area. Please inform all adults that collect your child/ children of these arrangements.

### **School Website**

We will continue to use our school website [www.derrychrinps.org](http://www.derrychrinps.org) as the main communication link with the whole school community. We would encourage everyone to visit the website as it will be updated regularly with key information, news, events, photos, videos, children's achievements and experiences.

In order to receive future notifications via the SCHOOLS NI app, please ensure you mobile device is updated by visiting the Help/Support section on the SCHOOLS NI app. If you experience any issues regarding the app, please contact the school office.

### **Daily Morning Prayer & Friday Assembly**

Every morning, Monday-Thursday, the whole school come together online using MS TEAMS for morning prayer led by Mr McElroy which involves a short reflection story from 'Blessings Every Day', daily prayers and pupil Birthday wishes for that particular day. Every Friday morning the whole school come together for a short weekly assembly which includes the pupils singing short hymns and acknowledgement of any pupil achievements.



### **Data Capture Collection Form**

It is important that we have the most up to date contact information for all our pupils and parents. In order to update all pupil records accordingly, a data collection form is required for all new P1 Admissions. All information collected will be used for the duration of your child's time at Derrychrin PS. The pupil data collection form can be accessed on the school website homepage. We would kindly ask for you to complete the form before Friday 16th September.

### **Parental Permission Agreement Form**

Parents/Guardians of Primary 1 pupils enrolled at Derrychrin PS are required to complete the multi-purpose Parental Permission and Agreement form covering consent in a number of areas such as on-site and off-site activities, photographs, video recordings, administering non-prescription and prescription medicines, walking home from school, the use of the climbing frame, School Policies/Procedures and Seesaw Guidelines for Parents.

An additional letter has been issued to Primary 1 parents/guardians detailing information on how to complete the online form.

### **COVID Information**

Schools have been advised to follow the operational advice published by EA. This reflects the current NI Direct guidance.

Adults with a positive test result will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days after the day of the test, or from the day symptoms started. For children (under 18 years of age) this period is reduced to three days. As a precautionary measure those who test positive should avoid contact with individuals who are at 'higher risk' from COVID for ten days.

COVID procedures and routines are in place for everyone and we will continue to follow guidelines outlined by the Public Health Agency, EA and DE.

### **Nut/Food Allergies**

We would like to remind parents/guardians of the seriousness of NUT / FOOD ALLERGY conditions and we would encourage that no foods containing nuts or that may contain traces of nuts / nut products, such as peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, etc be brought into school. Your co-operation supports the school in monitoring the situation and protects the well-being of all our pupils and staff.

### **'Split the Pot' Weekly Fundraiser**

In association with our PTA 'Friends of Derrychrin', the weekly fundraising initiative 'Split the Pot' will recommence this **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**.

Raffle envelopes will be issued to each family tomorrow. Please ensure all entries are in every Thursday. Remember to find out the winner by clicking on the 'Split the Pot' tab on our school website.

### **SVDP**

As part of '**Kindness Week**' 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> November, a collection of non-perishable food items for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank is being organised by the Derrychrin School Council. A collection point in the school hall will be made available for donations.



### **School Photographer**

School Photographer will visit the school **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September**. Individual Primary 1 and Primary 7 photographs. P1-P7 will have class group photo. For any other individual pupil or family photo, please contact the office.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming lessons have recommenced for our Primary 6 pupils. The lessons take place every Thursday for fourteen weeks up to and including Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at the Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt. A fee of £3.50 per child covers the cost of swimming lessons and transport.  
Lessons for P7 pupils will be in Term 2 and lessons for P5 pupils will be in Term 3.

### **Active Kids -PE lessons**

Weekly PE lessons for our P1-P7 pupils have recommenced with 'Active Kids' coach David Mulgrew. A super opportunity for the children to keep fit and healthy expressing themselves through exercise and multisport activities, gymnastics, dance and athletics.

### **Tin Whistle**

P4-P7 pupils have commenced their weekly tin whistle lessons which takes place every Tuesday afternoon under the expertise of Mr. Donal Canavan. The cost per session is £3. It is important that all pupils practice for at least 15-20 minutes daily, as Donal would like to involve the children in future upcoming events.

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR / DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Please continue to refer to the calendar on the school website and School NI app for all upcoming events and dates for your diary.

**Staff Development Day:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. School will be closed to facilitate staff training.

**Beginning of Year Prayer Service:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Fr. Donnelly will celebrate the beginning of the new school year at 10:45am in the school hall for all pupils and staff only.

**Cycle to School Week:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

**Halloween Mid-Term Break\_** School will be closed Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November inclusive. School will reopen again on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**Parent-Teacher Meetings:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November (Pupils will finish at 12noon both days)

**Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December (Pupils will finish at 1:00pm)

**Outdoor Christmas Carol Service:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm -Ballinderry Community Hub

**No Sacramental dates have been confirmed as yet but parents will be notified ASAP.**

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards  
Ciaran McElroy  
Principal

