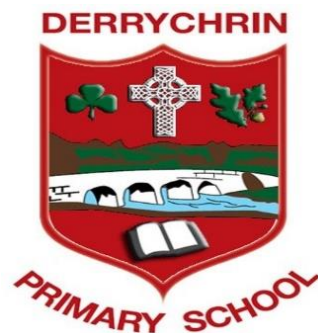


Derrychrin Primary School

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

Tel: (028) 8673 7456

Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Thursday 12th January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year Everyone! Welcome back to the new school term. We hope 2023 will be a healthy, happy and peaceful year for you all.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023

Catholic Schools will take place on 22nd-29th January 2023 on the theme 'Walking Together in Faith & Love'. The process of synodality, with three features of synodality being identified as helpful to exploring the theme: Communion, Participation and Mission. The annual celebration of Catholic education gives everyone the opportunity to be more aware of the unique contribution that our Catholic schools make to Irish life.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY ASSEMBLY

Grandparents' Day & St. Brigid's Day joint assembly will be held in school on **Wednesday 25th January at 10:00am**. Miss McVey and the P1-P4 pupils will lead the Grandparents' Day assembly and P5-P7 pupils with Mrs McGuckin will lead the St. Brigid's Day assembly. All Grandparents or a family member are invited to attend. We will also remember all Grandparents who are no longer with us, in our thoughts and prayer during both assemblies,

ST. BRIGID'S DAY MASS

Pupils will view St. Brigid's Day Mass at St. Patricks Church, Ballinderry, 1st February at 10:00am via webcam. St. Brigid's crosses will be made in school on Wednesday 25th January by the P7 pupils and will be blessed at the Feast Day Mass celebrations. If any family members would like to assist with St. Brigid's cross making, please contact the school office. We would very much appreciate your assistance.

REIM - ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOPS

REIM training solutions will provide our P4-P7 pupils with training that leads to a generation of resilient Digital Citizens who can navigate the online space with confidence and security. Internet Safety workshops educate and inform students about the risks online and imbue them with the digital literacy, digital etiquette and digital security skills that enable them to navigate confidently through the online world and reap the benefits of staying connected. REIM will provide an extensive range of Internet Safety workshops for our P4-P7 pupils on **Thursday 19th January**.

BEAM Creative Network will also provide our P7 pupils with an additional internet safety workshop on **Thursday 26th January**.

ONLINE SAFETY PARENT WORKSHOP

REIM training solutions will provide an online safety parent workshop on **Thursday 23rd February at 7pm**. The session will take place via ZOOM and will last for 1 ½ hours. The ZOOM link will be sent by Private Message a week prior to the online workshop. We would strongly encourage all parents to attend as many practical tips and resources will be provided. Topic areas will include social media, online gaming, online dangers and inappropriate content.



STAFF TRAINING & EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE

School will close at **1pm on Friday 10th February** to facilitate staff training **TAKE 5 – STEPS TO WELL-BEING** delivered by Chris Lindsay from the Education Authority. We aim to further develop the 5 steps to well-being by recognising stress and anxiety and strategies to overcome it. The whole staff training will be followed up with a pupil presentation and a parent's session later in the school year.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY – REACH PROGRAMME

The REACH programme is provided as part of the Department of Education's 'Emotional Health and Well-being Framework in Education'. REACH is a dedicated youth work programme which supports schools across Northern Ireland to improve emotional health and well-being outcomes for pupils, whilst also providing support for teachers and parents.

REACH is delivered within the school environment by a professionally qualified youth work team and provides programmes based on the needs of pupils and schools under the themes of; Wellbeing for All, Early Support and Enhanced Support. **The programme will be delivered to our P6 pupils for 5 weeks starting on Wednesday 18th January and ending on 22nd February.**

SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons for the P7 pupils commenced on Thursday 5th January for twelve weeks and will end on 30th March. The lessons take place at the Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt at a fee of £3.50 per child covering the cost of swimming lessons and transport. Lessons for P5 pupils will commence on Thursday 20th April 2023.

BALLINDERRY BRIDGE CREDIT UNION QUIZ

The annual Ballinderry Credit Union Quiz will return on Friday 27th January after a three-year absence. The quiz will take place in St. Patrick's PS, Loup and our P7 pupils will be attending this event. Other participating schools are Ballylifford PS & St. Patricks, Loup

MID-TERM BREAK

School will be closed for all pupils for Mid-Term break (**Monday 13th – Friday 17th February**) and will reopen on Monday 20th February.

SCHOOL CALENDAR / DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please continue to refer to the school calendar for all upcoming events and dates for your diary on the school website and the calendar tab on the Schools NI app on your mobile phone device.

Ceremony of Light - Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 10am
(St. Patrick's Chapel, Ballinderry -P7 pupils and parents only)

P7 Confirmation Retreat – Monday 6th February 2023.
(9am -2:45pm Ballinderry Community Hub)

Sacrament of Confirmation - Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 5pm
(St. Patrick's Chapel, Ballinderry)

Sacrament of Penance - Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 10am
(St. Patrick's Chapel, Ballinderry – P4 pupils and parents only)

First Holy Communion - Saturday 13th May 2023 at 12:30pm
(St. Patrick's Chapel, Ballinderry)

