

Our Lady's & St Mochua's Primary School



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Principal: Mr G Farrell, BEd, MEd, PQH.

Reaching for the future... A voice today...

Dear Parent/s

8th January 2019

Please note the following:

Many thanks: Many thanks to you all, for your support during our Christmas Activities. A total of £600.00 including Euro was raised for School Funds and School Aid Romania via our Christmas Raffle.

An additional £120 was raised via our Wear a Christmas Jumper Bucket Collection and this will be used by the Pupil Leadership Team when they have decided on their nominated charity.

A **complimentary DVD** of Whoops a Daisy is currently being prepared and will be sent home to all families when completed.

Reminder of Child Protection Measures:

- **Arrival to School:** any parent arriving to school after 9.15am with their children **MUST** come to the school office and sign their children in. **This will ensure your child gets safe access into the school building and that if they have missed an opportunity to attend an off-site activity you can arrange for them to attend.**
- **Parking:** I have received a number of complaints re parking at the school gates / roundabout during the drop off and collection times. I ask **EVERYONE** not to park at the roundabout or bus/taxi bays. Please park at the pavement and walk to the gate with your child when dropping off and again to collect.

In the interests of safety for all children we ask everyone to abide by the policy as above.

Accelerated Reading Block 2 for P5 and 7: The 2nd block of Accelerated Reading started on Monday 7th January 2019 and run for 6 weeks. This will be followed by a 6 week block for P4 and P6. Please encourage your child to reach their target.

Toy Day: Toy day will be held this Friday except for Primary 6 who will have their Toy Day this Wednesday. Children are allowed to bring in a maximum of two small toys to show and play with. Please note the school cannot accept any responsibility for any damage/accidents to toys. Please note that drones, pets etc. are not permitted.

After School's Clubs Term 2 will begin next week as follows:

Dance £10 for 8 weeks on Mondays for P2/3 between 2-3pm and for P4/5/6 between 3-4pm

Basketball £10 for 8 weeks on Thursdays for P2/3 between 2-3pm and for P5/6/7 between 3-4pm

Irish Culture Club £5 for 10 weeks on Thursdays for P5/6/7 between 3-4pm.

If you have registered but not paid please send in monies by this Friday clearly marked with your child's name and name of club.

There are still places left in the P4/5/6 Dance Club, P2/3 Basketball Club and P5/6/7 Irish Culture Club should you wish to register your child - send in monies by this Friday clearly marked with your child's name and name of club.

Swimming Lessons:

Swimming lessons for Primary Six will begin on Friday 11th January 2019 for eight weeks. The cost of each session (**Double Session**) is £4.00 per child including bus payable weekly in an envelope with child's name and marked swimming.

Swimming lessons for Primary Five will begin on Friday 15th March 2019 for eight weeks. The cost of each session (**Double Session**) is £4.00 per child including bus payable weekly in an envelope with child's name and marked swimming.

Maths Workshops: There will be a maths workshop on Wednesday 6th February 2019. The workshop on addition/subtraction will take place at 7.30pm and is designed for parents of children in P3 and P4. This will be followed at 8.15pm with a workshop on multiplication/division designed for parents of children in P4, P5 and P6. We would encourage all parents to attend. Please note the workshops are also open to all parents - if you feel they would help you assist your child with their maths work.

Primary 4 Visit to Palace Stables: The Primary 4 will visit the Palace Stables Armagh on Thursday 24th January 2019 as part of their World Around Us Study on WW2. Children will return in time for lunch. All costs will be met from school funds. **Children will need to bring a packed lunch.**

Do This In Memory Mass: The next Do This In Memory Mass is on Sunday 27th January 2019 for all P4 pupils and their families.

Traditional Group Members must also attend in full formal uniform.

School Text Service: Please do not reply or send a text to the text service. You should only do this if the text asks you to reply back.

Arrangements for Heavy Snowfalls: Please note that the school will endeavour to inform parents via the school text service by 8.30am on the morning of a heavy snowfall if there is to be a school closure. It is school policy to try and remain open at all times. However, we must take into consideration access roads and approaches to school for emergency services etc, staff pupil ratio and that heating and water systems are functioning.

Catholic Schools Week - Week Beginning 28th January 2019:

Catholic Schools Week Celebrations will include:

1. All children will attend Mass on Monday 28th January 2019
2. Each class will visit the Chapel throughout the week for quiet prayer
3. P2 Assembly - Thursday 31st January 2019 at 10.00am
4. Following the P2 Assembly The Pupil Leadership Team and Changemaker Prefects will host a Coffee/Tea morning for the Grandparents / parents of children in P2 - there will also be a little entertainment!!! A text will be sent for confirmation of those attending.

Coaching and Games Draw:

Each primary school in Armagh has been asked by the Armagh Coaching and Games Committee to take part in their Bi Annual Draw. This involves each family selling one book of tickets - half of the proceeds will go to the Coaching and Games Committee and half directly to our own school funds.

If you sell a full book £10 will go to Coaching and Games and £10 kept by the school **but deducted from your child's summer term** school trip cost or if you sell half a book the split would be £5.

The Coaching and Games Committee has provided our school with valuable coaches to coach all the children in fundamental movement skills P1-3 or hurling, camogie, football P4-7. Many boys and girls in our school also get the opportunity to represent our school at county and national level in the different GAA codes via half time games.

I ask that every family try and sell one book - the tickets will be sent home next week. Tickets will be sent home in due course.

Kevin Moran Band - A Date for your Diary

The Kevin Moran Traditional Irish Band will play (Concert) in Derrynoose Community Centre on Friday 15th February 2019 @ 9.00pm. Proceeds will be shared between our school and the Community Centre. Tickets cost £20.00 and are available from the school office. I ask you all to consider supporting this event - a nice treat for Valentine's Day!

Building Works - Flooring

A number of years ago we had a flood in school after a cold spell during the Christmas Holidays which resulted in new flooring in some classrooms and in our corridor. However, soon after the flooring was replaced it became apparent that a lot of water remained in the floor as the new flooring began to bubble. The EA came back and dug out the screed in the classrooms and replaced the flooring which thankfully was a success. However, they did not replace the corridor flooring due to funding. After a long battle they have now agreed to complete the work. We hope the work will be completed during planned school closures at Mid Term, St Patrick's Day and Easter. We may need to take an additional exceptional closure pending progress but I will endeavour to give parents the maximum notice possible should this be the case. I thank you in advance for your understanding in relation to the above.

First Confession: First Confession will take place on Wednesday 27th February 2019 @ 7.00pm in St Mochua's Church. All children must be in attendance in full formal uniform. They will also need their baptismal candle.

Choir Members must also attend in full formal uniform.

World Book Day - Thursday 7 March 2019:

World Book Day activities will include:

1. Visit to the school by Local Author Declan Carville on Tuesday 5th March 2019 - Declan will complete writing activities with each class.
2. On Thursday 7th March 2019 all children are asked to wear their Pyjamas to school and bring their favourite book - in class activities will be based around the childrens' books with hot chocolate being served.
3. A Creative Writing Competition will be held in school between now and World Book Day with prizes for top 3 being awarded in each class.
4. School Book Fair will be in school - details later.

School Photographer: The school photographer will visit on **Tuesday 9th April 2019**. Please complete the attached proforma and return by Friday 1st February 2019.

Holidays Term 2 and 3: Final Holidays

Mid Term	School closed on Friday 15 th February - Staff Development Day Monday 18 th and Tuesday 19 th February 2019
St P Day	School closed on Monday 18 th and Tuesday 19 th March 2019 School Closed on Wednesday 20 th March 2019 - Staff Development Day
Easter	Holy Thurs 18 th April 2019 - Half Day after Stations of the Cross @ 11.00am and reopens on Monday 29 th April 2019
May Bank Holiday	Mon 6 th 2019
May Bank Holiday	Friday 24 th , Mon 27 th & Tues 28 th May 2019
Summer Hols	Thursday 27 th June 2019 @ 2.00pm

Important Dates:

**St Patrick's High
School Open Night:**

**Thursday 31st January 2019 @
7.00pm**

First Confession:

**Wednesday 27th February @
7.00pm**

Confirmation:

Sunday 7th April 2019 @ 3.00pm

Annual School Photographer:

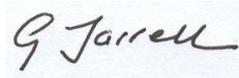
Tuesday 9th April 2019

First Holy Communion:

**Saturday 4th May 2019 @
11.00am**

**Please note that there will be a photographer in school on the day of
First Communion for Family Photographs - available after the
ceremony**

Yours sincerely



G Farrell (Principal)

Photograph Request Form

Oldest Child's Name _____

I would like my child to have the following photographs taken:

1. Class Photo P1/P7 Only

Name Class _____

2. Individual Photograph

(Name child whom you wish to have individual photo)

3. Family Photograph in uniform

Confirmation Class Only

1. Class Photo in Confirmation Outfit

2. Individual Confirmation Photograph

3. Family Photograph with P7 Child in Confirmation Outfit

Please note that there is no commitment to buy the photographs until you have viewed them.

If you have no printer please write on an A4 page what photos you would like as above.

Signed _____

