



Newsletter

Welcome back to school everyone! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday with your families. The children have settled in extremely well and the atmosphere around the school is outstanding. Parents are extremely supportive of our uniform policy and the children are smart and they take pride in their appearance. Our new starters have been amazing and have made an excellent start to St. Patrick's.

Welcome Mass

There will be a Welcome Mass (new starters) in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday, 28th September 2016 at 10 am.

Staffing

We welcome Miss Dowson to Class 9. I am sure she will be a great addition to our teaching staff. Please make her feel welcome, Mrs Ryan is now qualified as a teacher and is responsible for teaching in Year 6 and French across the school. Sadly, Mr Kendal and Mrs Staley remain quite unwell. Could I ask you to please keep them in your prayers?

Building work

I am sure you have all seen the fruits of our summer labour – it's almost complete now! We have been very busy over the holidays. Our outdoor classroom has almost been completed and it should be ready very soon. This will enable the children, especially our younger children, to be able to access the outdoors much more frequently and enable them to learn together in a fantastic environment.

We have built a new pathway around/through the nursery. This means that staff in the Early Years can set up activities in a morning and on an evening so everything is ready for the children every day. Our garden area is also controlled so we can be sure the children are accessing it safely.



The whole of the flat roofing on the school has been replaced.

Inside, classrooms have been redecorated and sky lights have been installed to allow more light into the building.

St. Patrick's is an old building, but it is one we should be very proud of as it has continually been developed so it offers the best facilities to the children. It is important that we teach the children to look after it. I also think we should realise that the school is very well supported by Governors, who give of their time, help manage the schools budget and to support the school in its work.

Sadly, we had a few incidents over the holidays of people trying to break into the school and our football goals were stolen. Fortunately, the police managed to recover them. The governors and staff take security and safeguarding extremely seriously and we will be exploring the possibility of installing CCTV in and around the school.

Behaviour

I make no apologies for the fact that the school has high expectations for the behaviour of the pupils in the school. We of course accept that at times things will go wrong and that children will make mistakes and we have to work together to put things right. We have a very clear behaviour policy and behaviour systems supported by sanctions and rewards which have been explained to the children.

It is vital that the school works together: the pupils, the parents and the staff and that we have the same expectations. I find parents extremely supportive and reasonable at St. Patrick's and they have a great deal of common sense. They know when they can talk to their child about something and they know when they need to come and talk to the school about it as well.

PLEASE TURN OVER



Twitter

It is wonderful that so many of you follow the School's Twitter account and each of the class pages. So we know who is following us you will simply have to request to follow us. All followers will be associated with St Patrick's Primary. To fully understand how St Patrick's intend to use Twitter, please read the following information:

If you are interested in following St Patrick's on Twitter please follow the instructions below:

Following St Patrick's Primary on Twitter

Set up a personal Twitter account

Search for @StPatricksRCTho on Twitter

Send a request to follow

In order to be accepted you must be one or more of the following:

- An adult associated with school as a parent/carer, or pupil relative
- A member of the St Patrick's School staff

All of the parents, and other schools, who follow us give really positive feedback.

Results

I know a lot of parents will be aware of the changes to the end of Key stage tests last academic year and some of the controversy they caused in the media. The schools results for the end of Key Stage 2 were:

At Expected Standard: Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar 88% (National Average is 72%)

At Expected Standard in Reading 82% (National Average is 66%)

At Expected Standard in Writing 88% (National Average is 74%)

At Expected Standard in Maths 92% (National Average is 70%)

At Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths 72% (National Average is 53%)

Quite simply put: these are excellent results and results the school and the community should be very proud of. I do know that the achievement of some of the children in achieving the higher grade in writing was exceptional and the standard of their work was commented upon by the moderators from the Local Authority. Some of the writing was possibly the best I have ever seen at the school.

On closer analysis of the results it is clear that the girls outperform some of the boys and this is something we need to address. This is not for all boys, as many performed exceptionally well. For children who were committed to learning, were organised, completed homework and who wanted to do well, their results were extremely impressive and second to none. What we have to do is work harder together to make sure all children make outstanding progress.

RE Inspection

Last term the school had an Interim Review Inspection visit for RE. The principal objective of this is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church school. I am delighted to say that it was an extremely positive visit in every single aspect and the school remains Outstanding in all areas. Our thanks must go to Mr Conwell, the school's leader in Religious Education.

House of Commons

The school have been invited to the House of Commons in recognition of the school's work in supporting Leeds Trinity University in Teacher Training as part of their 50th Anniversary. It is a great privilege to have been asked and Miss Hobson, our Assistant Head, will be visiting the House of Commons to represent the school as she leads on teacher training within the school supporting and leading all of the trainee teachers.

Mr Ryan

September 2016