



St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School

Westbury Street, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6NE

Telephone: 01642 676724 • Fax: 01642 679454

E-mail: stpatricksrcpri@sbcschools.org.uk

Website: www.stpatricksthornaby.org.uk/stpatricks

Executive Head Teacher: Mr M Ryan BA (Hons) NPQH

Head of School: Mr J Conwell BA (Hons) NPQH



27th September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The summer is now well and truly a distant memory as Autumn quickly approaches. The children have settled in quickly and have adapted well to the changes to the school day - especially to shorter lunch time - so well done to everybody. Here are some reminders of things and up and coming events.

Fr .Michael

Fr. Michael will soon be departing for pastures new after 16 years with us here in Thornaby. The parishes will bid their farewell to him at this weekend's masses but there will be a special farewell mass celebrated on **Friday 29th September at 6.30pm** in St. Patrick's Church, followed by a celebration in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

As a school, we will say farewell and "Slainte" to him on **Wednesday 4th October at 10.00 am at St. Patrick's Church**. Again, all are welcome to this mass too. Also at this mass, we will be welcoming our new starters. May I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Michael for his dedication and service to both school and parish during his time with us. He is very much a loved priest and will be missed by all. Fr.Pat O'Neill will be the new parish priest for the Thornaby parishes and will join us early in October.

Packed Lunches

Thank you to those parents who are trying to provide children with a balanced and healthy packed lunch. May we ask parents who provide grapes with packed lunches to **slice grapes long ways in half** to reduce any risk of choking. Also please consider the foods which may contain nuts as we do have some children with allergies. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Parents Evenings

These are scheduled for **week beginning 6th November**. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's class teachers to see how your child has settled into their new classes. Details of times will follow. Also on these evenings, there will be a Jewellery stall in aid of the Sahara Project which helps orphanages in Kenya so you may be able to get the early Christmas Present in!

Uniform

All of our children continue to look smart so thank you for this and long may it continue. Our Year 6 pupils have been out and about recently: Middlesbrough Cathedral, St. Patrick's College, Crucial Crew Safety Event in Billingham, Healing Mass at Christ the King and everybody passed comment on how smart they looked! Well done Children. Remember that all items of clothing need to be clearly named to avoid uniform being misplaced.

Playground Requests

Parents and visitors are respectfully requested not to use their mobile phones on the playground and school premises. This is for obvious safeguarding reasons but more importantly your children would much rather be





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“greeted with a smile and not a mobile”. Please don't be offended if a member of staff asks you to make and receive calls away from the playground.

The playground is also a **no smoking zone** (including e-cigarettes and vape pens) and **strictly no dogs**. Please inform family members and friends who may pick children up of these rules - again because of obvious safeguarding.

It is also a temptation for children to ride scooters and bikes on the yard. This is not allowed as there are often very young children and elderly grandparents on the yard before and after school. Please remind your child of the safety rules.

Parking

A reminder to parents to park *safely* and *with regard* for our neighbours. Please do not park over driveways particularly on Lanehouse Road. Also, please do not mount pavements while dropping your children off. Parking Officers occasionally patrol at busy times and will issue tickets to cars parked illegally.

Harvest Day

Next Friday 6th October, we will have our Harvest Celebration in school. We ask for a small donation of tins or dried food for those in need in our local community. Donations will be given to local Food Banks. Our Mini Vinnies are leading on this - so thank you children!

European Languages Day and Continental Cafe

This ever popular event will take place on Friday 20th October. More details will follow nearer to the time.

Chicken Update

Finally, very soon, we will also be saying farewell to our chickens - all fondly named by the children (Nugget, Kiev, Drummer etc.). They will however be going into retirement on a farm not too far away from Thornaby so we will still receive chicken updates and possibly the odd postcard from them. We are so pleased they are not going to the alternative Mr. Matthew's Farm in Norfolk! The good news is that Mr. Ryan has agreed for us to look after some new ones which will be with after the half-term break. A Year 6 Entrepreneur group will begin to oversee the marketing and sales of eggs so watch this space - you can't beat fresh free range eggs!

God bless and Enjoy the rest of the half-term.

Mr. Conwell
Head of School

