



# St. Patrick's Primary School

## Newsletter

Learn from Jesus, Love like Jesus, Live like Jesus

7th September 2018

Autumn 1

### From the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school following the warm summer holiday. They have started the new year with fantastic enthusiasm and motivation to learn! I hope you enjoyed a relaxing summer break with your family and managed to change the pace of family life for a short time!

Autumn can seem like the beginning of the year's grand finale but in schools it also feels like a fresh start. The first chilly mornings get our energy going; in Mediterranean countries the first Autumn rains after the summer bring the earth to life, like a second spring.

In the old Roman Catholic calendar the days following the feast of the Holy Cross (14th September) were known as "ember days," a week long fast in thanksgiving for the new season - a kind of new year, marking the arrival of autumn.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our parent information evenings next week.

With thanks for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,  
**Mrs Dix**

### School Diary

11/9/18	10.45am	Start of Term Mass
11/9/18	6pm	Parents Evening Years 4 & 5
11/9/18	7pm	Parents Evening Year 6
13/9/18	6pm	Parents Evening Years 1 & 2
13/9/18	7pm	Parents Evening Years 3
21/9/18	7.30pm	Year 6 performance at Farnborough Hill
24/9/18	All week	Year 6 in Isle of Wight
27/9/18	7pm	Year R Curriculum Meeting

### From the Head of School



Dear Parents,

I have been delighted to see how well your children have returned to school ready to learn. From the first morning there has been an air of purposeful calm in the school, getting down to the business of learning the new expectations of a new year group. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jo Bunkham into year 4 and Miss Helen Harrison into Pandas. Equally we are wishing Mrs Ashlyn Day well as she starts her maternity leave, with baby due to arrive early next week!

This week is also a busy week for the Year R team, who are out doing home visits. This is such a special opportunity for the children to meet their teacher personally and calm any starting school nerves. I look forward to welcoming our new children on Monday.

Our term will properly start on Tuesday with a whole school mass, celebrated by Fr Chris, parents are incredibly welcome to attend the Mass which will be at 10.45am in the school hall. Please note the time of your child's parents evening next week, as it is important that you attend so you receive all the information you need for the year directly from your child's teacher.

As a school we would like to express our thanks to **Merlin Estates Limited** who very kindly painted our school hall and fences over the holidays. It has made such a difference to our school environment and we are very grateful for their generosity.

Kind regards,  
**Mrs Mulholland**

### A note from St Patrick's PTA

Contact us—01252 542 511 / enquiries@st-patricks.hants.sch.uk

### Pupil data checking forms and Correspondence

You should have received a data checking form for you to update with details for 2018/2019. To safeguard your child, all forms, one for each of your children, must be returned to school no later than **Friday 28th September 2018**. It is vital that the school is in possession of the most current information. Please update this information, and also your Parentmail details immediately should any of the details you submit at this time change during the course of the academic year. **Please note that Parentmail details cannot be updated by the school and you should log in to your Parentmail account to amend your details yourself.** Please make sure you check your child's bag regularly for any letters which have been sent home via "pupil post", and remember to check your e-mails for letters sent via Parentmail. All letters to teachers, the office and payments for dinners, trips etc must be handed in by your child to their class teacher and will then be sent to the school office.

### Parents' Evening

Class teachers will present an overview of the curriculum and expectations for the year. Please go straight to the classroom at the appointed time. As it is not appropriate for children to attend these evenings, and there is no supervision available, please ensure they remain at home on this occasion.

Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September		Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	
Year Four	6pm	Year One	6pm
Year Five	6pm	Year Two	6pm
Year Six	7pm	Year Three	7pm

Individual appointments are scheduled for later in the Autumn Term. If you need an individual meeting with a class teacher before November please feel free to make an appointment.

### Start of the School Day

The school site is officially open at 8.40 a.m. for children not attending pre-school clubs. The side gate across the field and the back gate will be opened by a member of staff at 8.40 am. Please do not leave your child at the gate before this time as they will be unsupervised and are still your responsibility until 8.40 am. Children arriving between 8.40 and 8.50 am will be greeted at the classroom door (Key Stage 1) or the playground door (Key Stage 2) by the teacher on duty. At 8.50 am the playground door will be closed. School starts each day at 8.50 am. Children arriving after this time are late for school and should enter via the main front door. Registration closes at 9.00 a.m. It is extremely important that the children arrive on time, ensuring that they do not miss a vital part of the school day. We are required to monitor attendance and report regular lateness to the DFE. We would ask for your help in encouraging your child to come into school independently and take responsibility for their own belongings. If you do need to enter the school in the morning please do so via the front entrance only, before or after you have taken your child to the appropriate playground door.

### School Security

All school staff wear ID badges. It is important that all visitors/parents go directly to the school reception **via the front door only**. All visitors will be required to sign in and wear a visitor's ID badge. This system is in place to make the school a secure place for your children. If you have arranged to meet your child at the end of school in a place other than the playground, for example by the back gate, or wish for them to walk or cycle home please could you let the class teacher know of this arrangement **in writing** at the beginning of the year, or when your arrangement changes. Please remember that the back gate at the rear entrance to the school in Ashley Road will remain locked throughout the school day. Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

### Shamrocks Breakfast Club

The breakfast club is managed by Mrs Majewski and operates from 8.00am. Please drop off children at the classroom door, accessed via the pedestrian walkway at the front of the school. The cost per session is £2.50, however if your child is attending for several sessions during the week please aim to pay on Monday morning for the full week.

### Shamrocks After School Club

The After School Club is managed by Mrs J Ward and operates daily from 3.30 – 6.00 pm in the classroom at the front of the school. Please collect children promptly from the classroom door, accessed via the pedestrian walkway at the front of the school.

Spaces must be pre-booked, booking forms can be found on our website or obtained from the school office.

As per our attendance policy any children should be collected by 3.30pm unless attending an after school club. Any children not collected by 3.45pm will be sent to Shamrocks after school club and parents will be charged £5.00 per 15 minutes they attend.

## Uniform/PE Kit

Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform, all items of which should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Correct School uniform includes:

### Key Stage 1 girls

School cardigan or v necked jumper  
White blouse or polo shirt  
Green pinafore dress or skirt or  
Grey tailored trousers  
Grey shorts in summer  
Green tights in winter  
White knee or ankle socks (no trainer socks)  
Green/gold hair accessories  
Sensible black shoes (no boots or trainers)  
Green and white gingham dress in summer  
No open-toed sandals permitted for safety reasons

### Key Stage 1 boys

School v necked jumper  
White polo shirt  
Dark socks  
Black shoes (no trainers or boots)  
Grey trousers  
Grey shorts in summer

### Key Stage 2 girls

School cardigan or v necked jumper  
White blouse  
Green pinafore dress or skirt or  
Grey tailored trousers  
Grey shorts in summer  
Green tights in winter  
White knee or ankle socks (no trainer socks)  
Green/gold hair accessories  
Sensible black shoes (no boots or trainers)  
No open-toed sandals permitted for safety reasons

### Key Stage 2 boys

School v necked jumper  
White shirt  
School Tie  
Dark socks  
Grey trousers  
Grey shorts in summer  
White polo shirt in the summer (optional)  
Black shoes (no trainers or boots)

Please note that our uniform policy states that girls tights should be green in colour. It is acceptable for children to continue to wear summer uniform until the October half term, weather permitting. After half term all children must return to school in full winter uniform. Thank you for your support in maintaining high standards in this area.

If clothes are named we can usually reunite them with their owner. Searching for unnamed clothes causes a great deal of distress to the children and can waste valuable class time. As PE is timetabled regularly for each class, your child's PE kit should remain in school, again with all items clearly labelled. In order to protect school uniform during art lessons please provide an old shirt, labelled with your child's name.

## Absences

If your child is absent from school through illness, it is vital that you contact the school before 9.30 a.m. After this time, we will contact you to ascertain a reason for the absence.

Wherever possible please try and arrange medical or dental appointments after school or during holiday periods. If such an appointment is unavoidable during school time, please put your request in writing to the class teacher, who will forward the information to the school office.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure their children attend school. Term dates are provided well in advance; please make a note of them and do not book holidays or travel during term time.

Any application for a family holiday will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances such as bereavement or family trauma. Cheaper flights, family celebrations and routine visits to see family members are not exceptional circumstances.

Any application for leave of absence must be made using the leave of absence form which is available from the school office or on our website.

## School Meals / Dinner Money

HC3S provides a nutritionally balanced healthy meal. These are set meals and choice is limited to the main meal, a vegetarian option and a filled jacket potato.

All children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal.

For Key Stage 2 the correct dinner money must be paid in advance. (£11.50 per week, per child) and should be sent straight to the class teacher in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class on Monday mornings. (Cheques should be made payable to H.C.C.) The correct money is required as we are unable to provide change. If you would prefer to pay for the half term, up to and including October, this will be £73.60 per child. We are unable to extend credit for any school dinners. Should dinner money become outstanding for payment, you will be requested to provide packed lunches for your child. To avoid mutual embarrassment please do not let this situation arise.

Children who wish to have one or two meals per week on a regular basis may do so by prior arrangement and by payment in advance. We can no longer accommodate meals ordered on a daily basis. If you wish to change from packed lunches to school dinners or vice versa, the school will require one weeks notice.

## Free School Meals

You can now check online if you are entitled to Free School Meals and make an application. If you think you may qualify for Free School Meals please go to [www.hants.gov.uk/caterers](http://www.hants.gov.uk/caterers) and click Free School Meals. Alternatively you may collect a form from the school office. The school is able to access additional funding if you are successful in your application. Please check your entitlement even if you are taking advantage of the government's free Key Stage 1 meal provision.

## Hair

School is a working environment, therefore we wish to discourage elaborate hair styles and the over use of hair gel. Please ensure that long hair is tied back and any hair bands are of the soft variety in school colours.

## Jewellery

For health and safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn in school. The exceptions are watches and small, plain stud earrings. No decorative earrings are to be worn. All earrings and watches must be removed for PE and games by the child or taped over before coming to school. Staff are not permitted to remove earrings. It is wise to encourage your child to get into the habit of not wearing watches or earrings on PE days.

## Key Stage 2 Healthy Snack

If children bring their own snack for morning break please send fruit only. Alternatively the school kitchen will continue to run a healthy tuck shop with a variety of healthy snacks available for around 25 - 50p per day.

## Parent Helpers

We would be delighted to hear from any parents who would like to help regularly in school. We are looking for support with school visits, listening to children read and in the school library. It is usual for parents who help not to assist in classes in which their own child is a member. You will appreciate that all volunteers will be required to be DBS checked, prior to giving their support, in line with government guidelines. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

## Open Days

If you have a child who turns 4 between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 then it is almost time to start applying for a place in Reception. We are holding two open days for prospective parents, no need to book, just come along:

- Tuesday 16th October—9.30am
- Thursday 15th November—7pm