St. Patrick's Boys' N.S.
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Scoil Phádraig Naofa Buachaillí,
Bóthar Átha Cliath,
Luimneach.
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September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Ar son foireann na scoile, ba mhaith liom céad míle fáilte a chur roimh gach éinne agus sinn ag teacht ar ais tar éis an tsamhraidh. Ag tús na bliana, ba mhaith liom fáilte speisialta a chur roimh na Naoináin shóisearacha agus na daltaí nua ar fud na scoile. I would like to welcome you all back to school after the break. I especially would like to welcome our new Junior Infants who started with us for the first time this month and to the children who have entered into other classes throughout the school. Could you please read the following information carefully.

Aladdin Connect: If you are not connected to the Aladdin Connect app, please contact the school immediately to install. The Aladdin App is used to message the school, update attendance data, update date contact details, receive school reports, grant permissions for school activities and much more. If you are not logged on properly, you risk missing out on important updates from the school about your child and school activities. It is also important that you update your contact details on the Aladdin app including addresses/phone numbers etc. if they change.

Permissions: Annual school permissions were released on the Aladdin last week. Thanks to everyone who completed them so promptly. Can anyone who hasn't, please do so immediately as it may exclude your children from certain school activities.

Parent's Association AGM: We will be holding a Parent's Association AGM next Wednesday night, October 5th, at 7.30pm. The Parent's Association has been a fantastic asset to our school for many years. Recently, it reduced its activity due to covid. Thankfully, we are now in a position to restart and hopefully renew. A lot of members have moved on due to their children leaving the school, therefore, we are looking for new members. We would be grateful if every family had one representative present on the night.

Healthy Eating policy: Can you please read our school's healthy eating which is available on our school website. It is important that you read it carefully to ensure that you are complying with school policy but more importantly that your child is eating a healthy and balanced diet. A small treat on a Friday is permitted but this should be a fun-sized treat only. No biscuits of any kind are permitted during the week. Attached is a summary sheet of what is and is not acceptable.

Free School Lunches: We are thrilled that we have been granted funding from the Department of Education to provide free school lunches across all classes. Hot meals will begin next month. In general, pupils need a small snack to supplement what they are receiving in school. Unfortunately, in some cases, the boys are bringing in a full lunch and are receiving a lunch in school, which is causing significant waste and potential for overconsumption. Thankfully, this seems to be improving as the weeks go on and we thank you for your cooperation.

Labelling of Belongings: It is important at this stage of the year that all pupil belongings are clearly labelled to ensure that none of their possessions are lost or mixed with other pupils. It can cause quite a lot of distress for children when they lose something, therefore please label and avoid this.

Home School Community Liaison: We are pleased to inform you that Antoinette McNamara has been appointed as our first Home School Community Liaison (HSCL). She will be shared between both the boys and girls school. Antoinette, who has been a member of St Patrick's Girls N.S. for many years, will work with and support parents/guardians and local community groups so we can positively improve educational outcomes for our pupils. Any parent who needs help or support can contact Antoinette at 0831482552 or email hsclstpatricks@gmail.com.

Football: Our U11 and U13 footballers are continuing their preparations for their respective competitions, training after school every Thursday. We played St Paul's and St Brigid's already and hope to play some more challenge games before the championship throws in. Thanks to Ms Ní Cheallaigh, Mr Murray and Mr Ryan for coaching. Keep it up boys!

After- school activities: Currently there are a number of activities that are taking place after school available to your children. Limerick Youth Service are here on a Monday and a Tuesday for 5th and 6th classes. There is football on a Thursday for 3rd to 6th. We encourage all our pupils to get involved in these. Also on our website, you will find contact details for some local sporting organisations, should your son be interested.

Anti-bullying Policy Review: We are currently reviewing our anti-bullying policy. The policy will be messaged to you separately. We would appreciate any feedback you may have on this. Remember that all school policies are available on our website www.stpatricksboysns.com

Child Protection Policy: It is important to be reminded of the school obligations to under the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017. The schools Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment also reflect our responsibilities under the procedures and these can be found on our website. The school takes its duty of care extremely seriously and we encourage you to make yourself familiar with all of these documents.

Parent/Teacher communication: A new year brings new challenges and opportunities. It can be overwhelming for pupils and parents alike. Your children have moved on to new classes, new classrooms and most have new teachers. I would like to assure you that all members of staff have the best interests of your children at heart and are available to discuss any worries you may have. **Please make an appointment to see your child's teacher should you have any concerns.** Formal Parent/Teacher meetings will take place at the end of November as usual. The Aladdin messaging service is a useful communication tool but should only be used during reasonable working hours.

Attendance: It is really important that once your child is well, he must attend school each and every day. As you may be aware, if a child is absent for more than 20 school days, we are obliged to forward their name to TUSLA's educational welfare board. You will be informed by letter from us that this has happened. Please ensure that you excuse your child from school via the Aladdin App. A reason can also be added to Aladdin to ensure that we are aware of why he is absent.

Homework Policy: Please note the following key features of our homework policy that will be important for you to support your child.

- Ideally homework should be done soon after school while it is still fresh in the mind, in a quiet area free from TV and other distractions etc.
- You must sign your son's journal every night
- The time spent on homework needs to be recorded on the diary beside your signature
- Learning off and reading are vital parts of homework and need to be given as much attention as written work

Arts and Craft/Allianz Money/Music: We are continuing to collect money this week. Many thanks to those who have paid**.** There will be a €5 reduction for your second child and a €10 reduction on your third child's payment should you have more than one child attending the school. These funds go towards the cost of purchasing classroom materials that will be required by your son during the year. If you haven't done so already, we would greatly appreciate your support.

School rules: If you have not done so already, could you please read the rules that are included in your child's homework journal and sign where appropriate. Among them include:

- **Please wear the correct school uniform neatly** (trousers, shirt, tie, jumper) apart from P.E. days when the school tracksuit is worn. Infant children wear the school tracksuit only.
- Haircuts are to be kept simple **without any symbols, lines, colour or decoration.**
- A note is to be provided to the class teacher **explaining all absences** on the day of return to school.

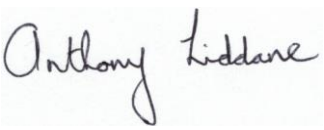
Back Gate: Please be aware that the back gate onto Kilmurry Road is closed at approximately 9.10am each day and is reopened again at 1.20pm. For security reasons, the gate is locked between these times. **If you need to access the school during this time, access will only be available via the Dublin Road entrance**.

Parking, drop-off and collection times: I ask all patrons of the school to observe the rights of local residents and not to block their driveways. **Also, for health and safety reasons, please do not park in front of the school gates at any time.** This area is marked with a very clear yellow box and we ask you to respect this at all time.

School starts at 8.50am each morning. The doors open at 8.35am. Will you please ensure your child is on time every morning. Equally, school finishes at 2.30pm (1.30pm for infants) each evening and it is your obligation to have your child collected on time.

We look forward to your cooperation throughout the year and wish you and your child the very best for 2022/2023.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Anthony Liddane,

Príomhoide

Parents' Association AGM

Wednesday October 5th

@7.30pm

in

St Patrick's Boys NS hall

All welcome!!

Healthy Eating Guidelines

Food permitted	Food/ Drinks not permitted
○ Scone ○ Pitta bread ○ Cream Crackers ○ Rice cakes ○ Pasta ○ Cheese(strings) ○ Sandwiches (Brown Bread preferably) with fillings such as: -Cheese -Ham -Tuna -Chicken -Salad -Egg ○ Wraps ○ Fresh fruit ○ Raw vegetables ○ Yoghurt (no chocolate) ○ Dried fruit -Raisins -Apricots ○ Drinks -Water -Milk -Unsweetened Fruit Juice -Smoothies -Yoghurt drinks -Soup (3rd – 6th) ○ Noodles ○ Liga ○ Unsweetened jam ○ Sugar free jelly ○ Yoghurt (size suitable to child)	○ **-Chocolate spread sandwiches** **-Cereal-bars (every kind)** -Biscuits -Sweets -Cakes -Buns -Fizzy drinks -Winders -Jelly -Desserts -Energy drinks (high caffeine content) ○ -Crisps -Salted Crackers -Pizza -Pre-packed processed lunch packs (ham/cheese/cracker dips) -**Sausage rolls** -Rashers -Crisps
Friday Snack (if desired) This will be in addition to a healthy lunch.	**Food not permitted for Health and Safety reasons**
One fun-size/small ○ Biscuit bar ○ Bun ○ Sweet ○ Queen cake ○ Popcorn **Anything deemed excessive or inappropriate will be sent home.**	○ Chewing Gum