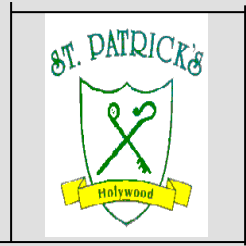


St. Patrick's School News

Living and Learning, Today and Tomorrow



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

WWW.STPATRICKSPSHOLYWOOD.COM



With our deepest sympathy.

As you may be aware, Mrs. Marie Tunney's beloved daughter Eve passed away on Monday 4th November after a short illness associated with her additional needs. Eve was just 19 years old. As close friends and colleagues of Marie, we have been deeply shocked and saddened by Eve's death. Marie and her family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Coupled with two other bereavements in the school community, it was a very difficult time for the staff, but they excelled in working together to support the school community and each other, in such trying circumstances.

The safeguarding - lead, Mrs. S O' Reilly worked closely with the EA Bereavement Support Team to support the entire staff in how to deal with this emotive subject and how we can explain this to the children, especially the younger pupils.

So, please be aware that you child may ask you questions about bereavement in the next few days and weeks.

If you have any questions about supporting your child at this time, please contact Mr. O'Neill or Mrs. O'Reilly.

There are some useful articles on this EANI site-

<https://healthwell.eani.org.uk/gethealthier/get-healthier/coping-bereavement>

Safeguarding Note

Please note that as a school, we have very clear rules about accessing the school building, this is to ensure our pupils and staff are safe in school.

Parents who wish to speak to a member of staff should only do this by speaking to Mrs Blaney or Mr O'Neill via the main reception door.

They should not enter the school via any other access door i.e. canopy door, new extension door, p1 door or doors at PE hall side.

Parents and visitors should not enter into the school building even if the main reception doors are open. They should always report to Mrs Blaney or Mr O'Neill.

Parents and visitors should never ask a child to open the main reception doors in any instance.

Parents who are running late for drop-off should bring their child to the main reception and as we are now in November, all pupils should be able to go to their classes to encourage their independence and resilience.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

LOOK SMART, THINK SMART and ACT SMART

There are a few points to be followed:

- P1-7 children should wear the school hoodie with plain black leggings with a white Polo Shirt for PE days only.
- The hoodie is NOT a substitute for a school jumper/cardigan and should be used accordingly.

Diary Dates -

Please log on to <https://www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/parents/calendar/?calyear=2019&calmonth=12>

- To access diary dates
- Sync your phone to the calendar.
- Receive day before reminder.

Healthy Eating Break

Please note that due to nut and seed allergies the children should not bring any break to school containing nuts /nut extract.



Anti-Bullying Campaign Week 11th - 15th November

The pupils have been engaging in a wide range of Anti Bullying Week activities including the very colourful odd socks day.

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## **Giving Tree working with our local SVP conference**

Christmas is just around the corner and St. Patrick's Christmas tree will brighten our entrance from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

This year in the spirit of Christmas we have decided to make our Christmas tree a giving tree. This means as well as decorations, there will be gift tags attached to our tree.

The idea is that our pupils and their family, who want to take part, provide a gift voucher from national multiples or local shops to be shared with families who need support through Christmas.

The vouchers collected by St. Patrick's will then be distributed locally by volunteers of St Vincent De Paul,

We are lucky to have such a lovely school and pupils, and we hope the St. Patrick's Giving Tree will help with the true spirit of Christmas.



### **P1 -P3 Christmas Concert**

**P1-P3 Christmas concert will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm.**

**Tickets will be available from the school from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

**Christmas Cinema Trip - Date -Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December -**

**P2 - P6 pupils will participate in the annual cinema trip to celebrate the Christmas season. (letters to follow - cost £10 per child)**

**P1 classes stay in school and celebrate with a Disney Day**

P7 Pupils will attend the Mac Christmas show - The Adventures of Little Red Riding Hood 'as a special treat after all their hard work in the past few months. The cost per child is £13.50.



### End of Term Closure dates

#### Please Note:

10:45 (P1-3) & 11am (P4-7) finish for all pupils Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

School reopens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for all pupils at 8:45 am.

### Hollywood Music Festival



Congratulations to the children from our school traditional group and soloists who performed in Hollywood Music Festival on 13<sup>th</sup> November. They did themselves and their school proud

## COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

As a school community, we are focusing on the use of effective communication strategies to update and inform parents about school events and diary dates. We are attempting to give as much information about school events as possible and to ensure that the dates and times are all synchronised to avoid confusion.

### **(1) School website - long term**

The school website is an excellent source of school information. It is regularly updated with diary dates via the calendar section. The calendar section can be uploaded to your phone by connecting to the google link on the diary page. School events are highlighted regularly throughout the year.

The website has been viewed as follows.

The school website also enables users to link into schoolsni app. **If you subscribe to the app, you will receive a reminder of a school event the day before. We now have 492 subscribers to the NI school app.**

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Total (Last 18 Months) | 58 421  |
| September 2024         | 4 011   |
| October 2024           | 4 418   |
| November 2024          | 2 045   |
| Total - All -time Hits | 224 517 |

**(2) Email via Teachers2parents** is the main source of short-term information from school to home.

**(3) Text message via Teachers2parents** is the secondary source and is also used for quick messages to individual and specific classes as reminders.

The information services are working very efficiently; the number of emails not being received has been reduced to less than 10 parents in the school. We can see from the system who is receiving the emails and those that are being held.

- If you are not receiving emails, please contact the office to update your details, this also applies to any mobile number changes.

**(4) See saw app** - is used throughout the school by teachers to communicate directly with parents.

**(5) Letters/Notes** - We try to minimise the need for letters and notes but when we need a permission slip signed this will be in the form of a note. Parents can give permission via see-saw.

**The effectiveness of our communication to you will only continue to improve if every parent reads the information that is available.**