



Roan St Patrick's Primary School

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Principal: Mr S Mone, BA Hons, PGCE, PQH

Dear Parent

I am delighted to officially welcome you all back and hope that you all had a happy and restful summer break. I especially welcome our new families and our 21 Primary 1 children who embark on their exciting journey through primary school life. Can I also mention our previous Primary 7 children - we wish them well on their new beginning in post-primary education.

Over the coming days, you will receive a link to your phone via our text service / school app which will allow you to give consent / acknowledge receipt of important school policies. I would particularly like to draw your attention to our child protection leaflet which outlines the school's procedures for safeguarding children (this will be pinged-out via the school app this week).

Please ensure that all families provide us with updated contact details and addresses (if there have been changes to last year's details) that will enable us to get in contact with you in case of an emergency (data form will be pinged-out via the app) and nominate one mobile phone number to receive school text messages.

Please download the school app available on the school website to receive letters and messages instantly from the school. You can also subscribe to the site for free to receive letters and messages direct to your email inbox. It is important that you update and refresh the app regularly on your smart device.

Holiday List

The school Holiday List for 2023-24 is now available on the school website. We hope to hold the bulk of our Parent Teacher Meetings on Friday 27th October (meetings will be face-to-face but can be over the phone if you would prefer) and children will finish school at 11am on this date to facilitate the meetings.

Clothing

Can you please ensure that your children's clothes are clearly labelled. Children should not be wearing any jewellery in school for obvious health and safety reasons. Please note that the school uniform includes black shoes/runners which should be worn by all children. We will begin our annual House System in September. Children should wear their coloured house badge as part of their formal uniform (children will receive a new house badge for the year).

For PE, children can wear the school PE top/jersey or a plain white polo shirt along with navy/black shorts (tracksuit bottoms for P1/2) and runners. Children must wear their PE gear into school on their set days - there will be no changing at school. PE days will be updated on the school website calendar this week.



Healthy Breaks / School Dinners

Parents are reminded to send a healthy snack into school for break time. School dinners cost £2.60 and must be paid for on Monday mornings in the school money pouch or a clearly labelled, sealed envelope; indicating the days that your child will be taking dinner (pouches available at reception for a small cost). This also applies to other payments which may need to be made throughout the year. Mrs Vincent will collect these payments from each class. School menus are pinged out via the app at the start of the month and are available on the school website.

The Healthy Lunchboxes initiative will continue this year. The Department of Education has made it their policy to insist that all schools encourage children to develop healthy eating habits and parents have an essential role in this. Please ensure that your child's lunchbox includes only healthy options. Foods / drinks that contain chocolate, high levels of sugar, crisps and sweets are not to be included in lunch boxes. On Fridays, the children's lunch can include a small treat.

Drop-off and Pick-up

We ask that parents drop their child off at the drop-off/pick-up point (at the foot of the path leading to school) and leave the car park in a clockwise direction. If you are walking your child to their class (P1 parents), please park in a parking space before doing so. At collection times (see below), please make sure to park your car in a parking space and stand at your door so that staff can see you and send your child to your car via the footpaths. Please follow the clockwise direction for entering and leaving and be mindful of other traffic and children entering / exiting cars when driving. If the car park is very busy, you can also use the chapel car park and walk to the drop-off/pick-up point to collect your child.

Walkers will enter / exit via the roadside gate (please ensure to give permission for your child to walk home from school if you have not already done so - this can be done via the link which will be sent out over the coming days). Members of staff will be on duty at both gates when they open at 8.45am in the morning (gates will be closed at 9.05am). It is important that you reinforce road safety rules with your children before allowing them to walk to/from school.

I would ask parents who are collecting their child at either the early or late pick-up times to try to be punctual. Very often children are not collected on time which often causes the child to become anxious and prevents the teacher from carrying out other duties. We have staggered our times to ensure maximum safety for all car park users. We ask that parents refrain from bunching in groups in the car park. Parents must notify the school if their child is going home with another family or if there is a different adult collecting them on any given day.

School pick-up arrangements:

- Primary 1 children will be walked to the car park gate for collection at 12.15pm up to Friday 22nd September - 1.50pm thereafter.
- Primary 2 children will be walked to the car park gate at 2pm for collection.
- Primary 3 children will be walked to the car park gate at 2.50pm for collection (2pm on a Friday).
- Primary 4 children will be walked to the car park gate at 2.50pm for collection.
- Primary 5-7 children will be walked to the car park gate at 2.55pm for collection.

Please ensure that the person who is collecting your children is aware of these guidelines.

Pencil Case Items

We will be asking all children to have a fully stocked pencil case for the start of the year - 2 HB pencils (we will provide thick pencils for younger children) - rubber - sharpener - colouring pencils / crayons (twistables are great for younger children and require less sharpening) - glue stick - ruler - whiteboard pens - highlighter - blue / black / red ballpoint pens (P7 only) - individual hand sanitiser / tissues. Please ensure that other items from home (small toys / football stickers etc) are not taken into school.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming will begin for the Primary 7 class on Monday 11th September and will run for 6 weeks (no swimming on Monday 25th September). Children will need their swimming gear, a towel and goggles if required. The cost is £15.00 in total for all lessons which can be paid in advance. A permissions link will be sent out via the app.

Medical Issues

Any medical issues that your child has should be made clear to the school staff (if you have not already done so). Any child who suffers from conditions such as asthma should leave a spare inhaler in school in case of emergency (it is the responsibility of parents to keep the school provided with up-to-date inhalers / Epipens etc). If your child requires medicine during school hours, you must complete a medical form available from the school.

French / Music Lessons

French Lessons will begin for all P5-7 children next week at a cost of £6.00 per child. Music tuition will also begin next week for the P4-7 classes at a cost of £5.00 per child for the term (please purchase a whistle for your child in Stewart's Dungannon or online if required).

Clubs

Breakfast Club will begin as normal from 8.00-8.45am. The cost is £1.50 per child per day. Children attending will not be able to access the school grounds until 8.00am. We will be using the Parochial Hall for Breakfast Club this year. Children are to enter the school grounds via the normal car park entry and walk to the hall (rear door will be open for children to enter - front door leading onto hall car park will be locked at all times and children cannot enter via this entry).

Transfer Club will begin on Monday 4th September (within school hours 2.00 - 2.55pm Mon-Thurs). The first set of papers will go home on Friday 1st September. Non-transfer children will complete teacher led numeracy and literacy revision during the club.

Healthy Kidz updated details will be placed on the school website as soon as we receive the new programme for Healthy Kidz after-school provision. This will begin week beginning 11th September. Bookings and payment can be made directly with Healthy Kidz via their online link (more details to follow).

Credit Union

Aghaloo Credit Union normally sends a representative to the school on the first Friday of every month to provide an opportunity for parents to open a Credit Union account for their children. If you have not already opened an account and would like to do so, please let Mrs Vincent in the school office know and she will send the appropriate forms home.

PE Jerseys / Tops

Jerseys/tops ordered over the summer will be handed-out in school over the next few days. You can contact Rory directly should you have a late order or any sizing issues (07714161200).

House System

Our very successful school House System will begin on Friday 15th September with our first awards assembly. Children will receive a badge representing their house colour for free. There will be a cost of 50p for replacement badges.

School Website - www.roanstpatrickss.org

School news, photos and many of the school's policies are available on the school website. Please subscribe to the site for free to receive letters via your email. Also, download the school app from the website to your smart phone to receive updates on important school related news. You can also follow us on twitter @roanstpatrickss. We will update the website calendar over the next couple of weeks to show important information.

If you need to contact the school, please note that the school secretary is in the office until 1.30pm. As all other staff will be working with the children, the phone may not be answered in the afternoon until the children go home. All messages left on the answering machine will be followed up.

Visitors

If you would like to speak to your teacher about your child's progress, we can arrange a meeting over the phone or a face-to-face meeting if needed. For any smaller queries or questions, please email your teacher and they will respond to you as soon as possible. In line with our Child Protection protocols, we ask that parents do not enter the classrooms and report directly to reception should they need to speak Mrs Vincent or a member of staff.

Children who are unwell or become unwell in school

Please do not send a child who is unwell in any way to school. Please contact the school if your child is unwell or if you are unsure about an isolation period for a particular illness.

If a child presents as unwell during the school day, we will contact parents immediately and arrangements must be made to take the child home. Please bear this in mind and have arrangements in place for your child's collection in this situation.

Birthday Party Invites

It is school policy that birthday party invites cannot be handed out in school unless all children are invited (or either all boys or all girls).

GDPR

Please read the GDPR Privacy Notice for parents and pupils on the school website (Parent Area - School Policies section).

Homework / Seesaw

Homework will begin week beginning 11th September. We will continue to use the Seesaw platform for this and issue parents with guidance on how homework can be completed weekly. Currently, your child will be

unable to access their Seesaw account. New activation codes will be sent out shortly and a trial task set next week to ensure that all technical difficulties are solved before the role-out of formal homework.

Primary 7 Transfer Club members will complete learning/reading homework only until the completion of the tests in November.

Yours sincerely

S Mone

Principal